

Design & Access Statement



Proposal: Creation of a covered wooden walkway to link changing rooms to the shower container.

Applicant: Wortley RUFC **Site:** Finkle Street Lane, Wortley, Sheffield S35 7DH

1. Introduction

This Design & Access Statement accompanies an application for the creation of a covered wooden walkway linking the existing changing rooms to the shower container at Wortley RUFC. The purpose of the development is to improve privacy, dignity, and shelter for users accessing the shower facilities, particularly women and junior members, following concerns raised in a recent club-wide survey.

Wortley Rugby Union Football Club is a UK Registered Charity (1153827) its objectives are

Promoting community participation in healthy recreation.

Providing facilities for sport recreation, particularly for groups disadvantaged by age, infirmity, poverty or social and economic circumstances with the object of improving their conditions

Advancing the education of children and young people.

Barnsley Metropolitan area and northern areas of Sheffield city.

The Club ethos is '**Everyone Plays**'

2. Site Context

Wortley RUFC is in an isolated rural setting on Finkle Street Lane. The club's facilities include changing rooms, a shower container, and associated outdoor areas. The site is surrounded by open land and is not within a conservation area. The rural nature of the site means exposure to weather and improving connectivity between facilities is a practical issue for users.

The project provides a direct contribution to Barnsley MBC's current sports and active lifestyle strategy through:

- To increase the number of people being physically active year on year.
- To target under active and underrepresented groups to increase sports and physical activity participation.
- Provide pathways to personal success
- Improve access to the opportunities to being active.

The proposal also supports the Playing Pitches Strategy through improving and maintaining a valued local facility. The Wortley site is key to expanding Rugby Union in the west of the Borough and is identified in the play pitch strategy as such.



Wortley RUFC Changing Rooms, Shower container and Toilets. Looking north.

3. The Proposal

The proposal is for a **covered wooden walkway** connecting the changing rooms to the shower container.



Area of proposed walkway. Shower container on left and Changing Rooms on the right



Rear of Changing rooms and area proposed for linkway

Key dimensions:

- Width: **1.5 metres**
- Height: **3 metres**
- Total covered ground area: **9.75 square metres**

The structure will consist of timber posts and a timber-framed roof, designed to be visually unobtrusive and sympathetic to the rural character of the site.



Proposed Walkway location shown in Block Green

4. Design Principles

4.1 Appearance & Materials

- The walkway will be constructed from timber, consistent with other structures on the site.
- The design is simple, functional, and appropriate for a rural sports facility.
- The covered roof will provide shelter while maintaining an open feel.

4.2 Scale & Massing

- The walkway is modest in size and height.
- At 3 metres high, it remains subordinate to the existing changing room building.
- The footprint is small (9.75m²) and does not alter the overall layout of the site.

4.3 Impact on Surroundings

- The structure will not affect neighbouring properties due to the isolated location.
- Visual impact is minimal and consistent with the existing utilitarian sports facilities.

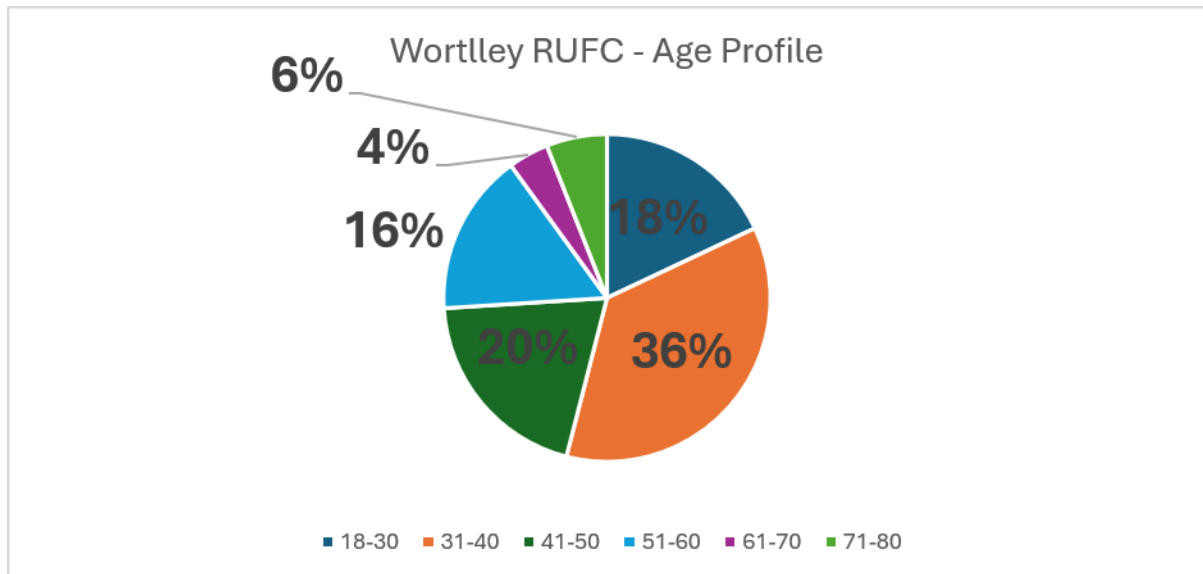
5. Access Considerations

Inclusivity and Equalities

Wortley RUFC is committed to providing a welcoming and accessible environment for all members of the community. This aligns with our Club ethos '**Everyone Plays**'.

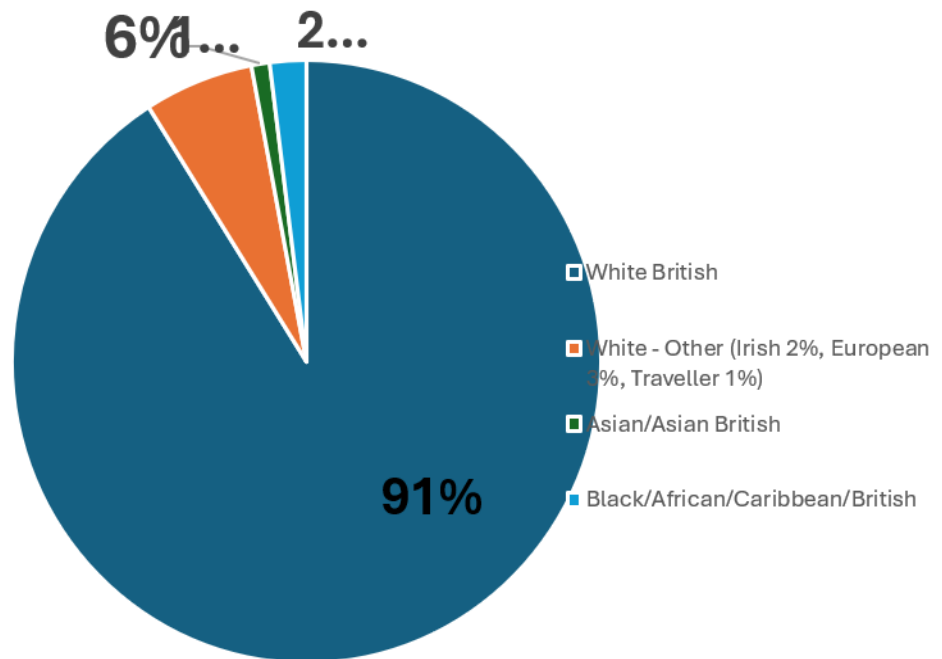
Current membership reflects a broad cross-section of ages, genders, abilities, and cultural backgrounds, and we actively encourage participation from underrepresented groups. Our members come from across a wide area of Barnsley as the club is recognised for its entry level and providing Women's and Juniors rugby. We do however recognise the limitations of the existing facilities. We have ambitious development plans to create fully accessible facilities. This will require considerable investment and at this stage we are making incremental improvements that are vital if the Club is to remain sustainable.

WORTLEY RUFC - AGE PROFILE (as at 1st July 2026)

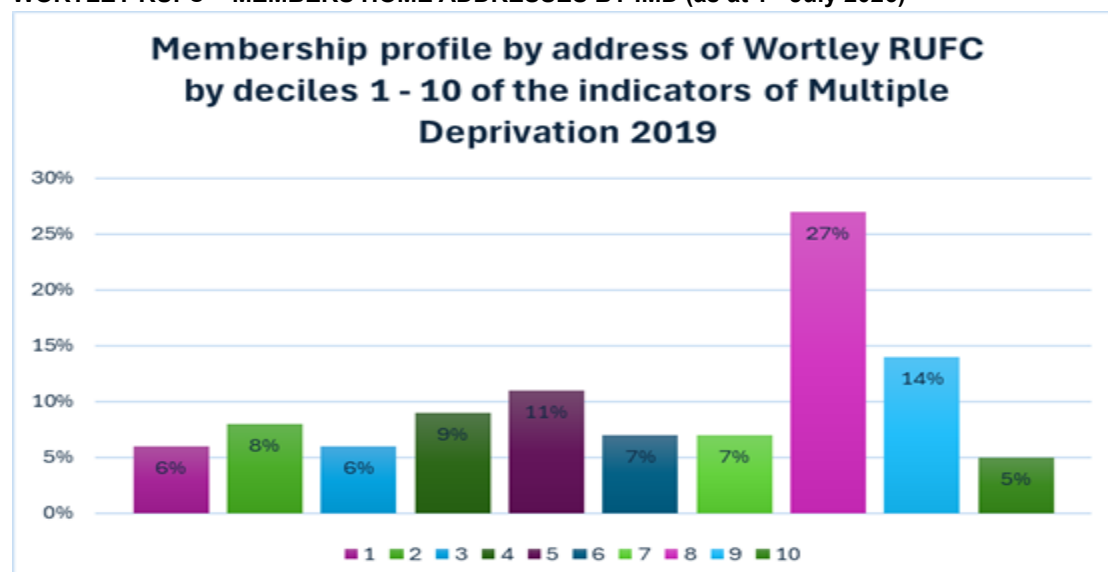


WORTLEY RUFC- ETHNICITY PROFILE (as at 1st July 2026)

Wortley RUFC - Ethnicity Profile



WORTLEY RUFC – MEMBERS HOME ADDRESSES BY IMD (as at 1st July 2026)



5.1 Movement & Circulation

The walkway provides a clear, direct, and sheltered route between the changing rooms and the shower container. It improves:

- Safety
- Comfort
- Accessibility in poor weather
- Privacy for users transitioning between facilities

5.2 Inclusivity

A recent survey of club members — particularly women and junior players — identified privacy concerns when accessing the showers. The walkway directly addresses these issues by:

- Reducing exposure between buildings
- Supporting dignity for all users
- Improving the attractiveness of the club to new members
- Enhancing retention of existing players

This aligns with the club's commitment to inclusive participation in sport.

6. Justification & Need

The development is essential for:

- **Privacy and dignity**, especially for women and junior members
- **Recruitment and retention**, as identified in member feedback
- **Shelter in inclement weather**, due to the rural and exposed nature of the site
- **Improved user experience**, supporting the club's long-term sustainability

The walkway is a small-scale, low-impact improvement that delivers significant social and practical benefits.

7. Conclusion

The proposed covered wooden walkway is a modest, well-designed addition that enhances the functionality, accessibility, and inclusivity of Wortley RUFC's facilities. It has minimal visual or environmental impact and directly responds to identified user needs. The proposal is appropriate for the rural setting and supports the continued development of community sport at the club.

