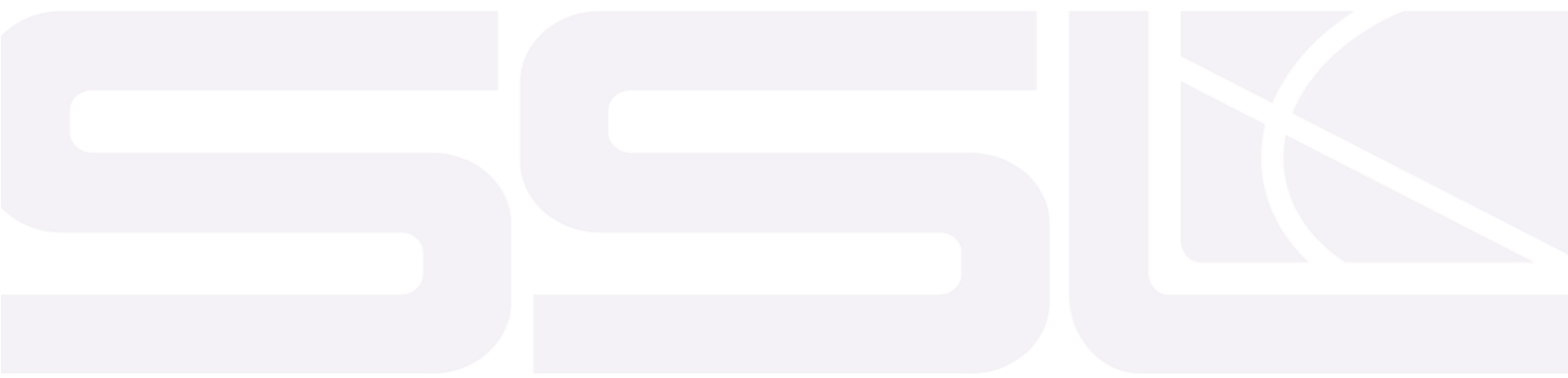


Design & Access Statement

Marple Hall School

Refurbishment of tarmac court area to create synthetic turf multi-use games area including new 3.0m high perimeter fence, LED floodlighting system and access pathways. And refurbishment of existing sand filled synthetic turf pitch to create a 3G synthetic turf facility.



Site Location	Marple Hall School Hill Top Drive Marple Stockport SK6 6LB			
Project	Refurbishment of tarmac court area to create synthetic turf multi-use games area including new 3.0m high perimeter fence, LED floodlighting system and access pathways. And refurbishment of existing sand filled synthetic turf pitch to create a 3G synthetic turf facility.			
SSL project code	ss2934			
Document title	Design & Access Statement			
Document control	Revision	By	Checked	Date
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Contents

Section	Title	Page No
1	Introduction	3
2	Design and Access Statement Principles	4
3	Design and Access Statement	6
4	Planning Statement	16
5	Photomontage	20

Drawings;

SSL2934 01 – Site Location
 SSL2934 02 – Existing Site Plan
 SSL2934 03 – Proposed AGP Layout
 SSL2934 04 – Court Area Existing Layout
 SSL2934 05 – Proposed MUGA Layout

Appendices:

Appendix A - Floodlight Performance Report
 Appendix B - LED Lamp Details – OptiVision LED GEN3
 Appendix C - ILP Guidance Notes For Reduction of Obtrusive Light – 2020
 Appendix D - Proposed Materials and Appearance
 Appendix E - Environment Agency Flood Map

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Surfacing Standards Limited have been appointed to consider and develop an application for full planning permission for the proposed refurbishment of an existing tarmac court area to create synthetic turf multi-use games area including new 3.0m high perimeter fence, LED floodlighting system & new access pathways. The application also includes the refurbishment of an existing sand filled synthetic turf pitch to create a 3G synthetic turf facility.

The site is at:

Marple Hall School
Hill Top Drive
Marple
Stockport
SK6 6LB

- 1.2 In order to assist the application for full planning permission and to facilitate the implementation and delivery of the project; this document describes the project aspirations and illustrates the process that has led to the development proposal, and to explain and justify the proposal in a structured way.

- 1.3 This statement discusses design and access issues regarding the use, amount, layout, scale, landscaping, appearance and context of the scheme. In addition, the wider access implications of the proposal are addressed.

- 1.4 The applicant is:

Marple Hall School
Hill Top Drive
Marple
Stockport
SK6 6LB

Helen Harris - Director of Finance and Operations

- 1.5 The planning agent is:

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Ayston Road,
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John Bennett - Consultant

2. Design & Access Statement Principles

- 2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

It sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system only to the extent that it is relevant, proportionate and necessary to do so.

It provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.

- 2.2 Guidance on information requirements and validation, published by the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 recommends that a design and access statement is a short report accompanying and supporting a planning application to illustrate the process that has led to the development proposal, and to explain the proposal in a structured way. The level of detail required in a design and access statement depends on the scale and complexity of the application, and the length of the statement varies accordingly. Statements must be proportionate to the complexity of the application, but need not be long. Further published recommendations are:

- Design and access statements help to ensure that development proposals are based on a thoughtful design process and a sustainable approach to access.
- Statements should improve the quality of proposals: in preparing the design and access statement, developers need to consider and subsequently explain the merit of the design and how it relates to the existing setting.
- Design and access statements enable local planning authorities to better understand the analysis which has underpinned the design and how it has led to the development of the scheme. This helps negotiations and decision-making and should lead to an improvement in the quality, sustainability and inclusiveness of the development.
- Design and access statements allow local communities, access groups, amenity groups and other stakeholders to involve themselves more directly in the planning process without needing to interpret plans that can be technical and confusing. This helps to increase certainty for people affected by development and improve trust between communities, developers and planners. It also enables the design rationale for the proposal to be more transparent to stakeholders and the local planning authority.

2.3 What Is Required: The Design Component

The design and access statement should cover both the design principles and concepts that have been applied to the proposed development and how issues relating to access to the development have been dealt with. Statements should evolve throughout the design and development process.

A design and access statement for a planning application should explain the design principles and concepts that have been applied to particular aspects of the proposal. These are:

- **Scale:** Scale is the height, width and length of a building or buildings in relation to its surroundings.
- **Amount:** The amount of development is how much development is proposed. For residential development, this means the number of proposed units for residential use and for all other development, this means the proposed floor space for each proposed use.
- **Layout:** The layout is the way in which buildings, routes and open spaces (both private and public) are provided, placed and orientated in relation to each other and buildings and spaces surrounding the development.
- **Landscaping:** Landscaping is the treatment of private and public spaces to enhance or protect the amenities of the site and the area in which it is situated through hard and soft landscaping measures. Statements should

also explain the function of the landscaping, for instance for sustainable drainage purposes, providing shading or other climate change adaptation purposes, and explain how it will be maintained.

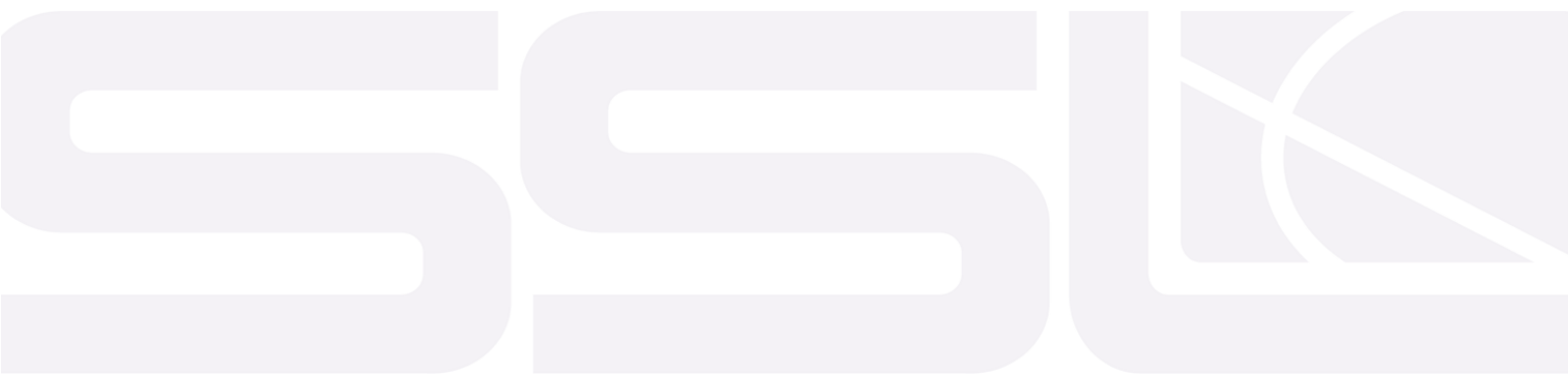
- Appearance: Appearance is the aspect of a place or building that determines the visual impression it makes, including the external built form of the development, its architecture, materials, decoration, lighting, colour and texture.

2.4 What Is Required: The Access Component

It is important to note that the requirement for the access component of the statement relates only to 'access to the development' and therefore does not extend to internal aspects of individual buildings.

Statements should explain how access arrangements will ensure that all users will have equal and convenient access to buildings and spaces and the public transport network.

The statement should address the need for flexibility of the development and how it may adapt to changing needs.



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3. Design & Access Statement

3.1 Site Description

The site is located within the grounds of Marple Hall School, a co-educational secondary school in Marple. The original school, then Marple Hall County Grammar School, was constructed on this site in 1960.

This application relates to the proposed redevelopment of two existing external sports facilities within the school grounds.

1. Firstly, the redevelopment of a dis-used macadam court area (outlined in yellow in below image).
2. Secondly, the refurbishment of the existing sand filled synthetic turf pitch located to the north of the main school buildings.



The dis-used macadam court area is surrounded by;

- a strip of natural turf school land to the west, beyond which is agricultural land
- a strip of natural turf school and to the east, beyond which is a service road within the school and the main school buildings including the sports centre.
- a brick retaining wall to the north, beyond which are tarmac tennis/netball courts at a higher level
- school playing fields to the south

The existing synthetic pitch is surrounded by;

- school buildings to the south and west
- school playing fields to the north and east

Please note this application does not seek to extend the overall footprint of either the existing dis-used macadam court area the existing synthetic turf pitch area.

Refer to the photomontage that can be found at the end of this document.

3.2 Flood Risk – Initial Stage Review

Following a search on the Environment Agency website, we have established the precise development area is **not located** within a fluvial flood plain

The subject site located within a **Category 1** flood zone. This zone comprises land assessed as having a less than 1-in-1000 annual probability of river or sea flooding (<0.1%).

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Given that the proposed development area is less than 1 hectare, this means that a flood risk assessment is not deemed to be necessary for the proposed development.

Please refer to **Appendix E** for an Environment Agency Flood Map for the proposed site.

3.3 Purpose and Scope of Works

This proposal seeks permission to refurbish the external sports facilities to the benefit of Marple Hall School, the local community and other partner organisations. It is to enable continued physical wellbeing and sporting enjoyment.

The scope of works involved refurbishing the existing sports facilities. This briefly comprises as follows;

The dis-used macadam court area would be re-kerbed and the old deteriorating macadam overlaid with a new porous macadam layer to achieve recommended Sport England tolerances. A multi-use synthetic turf surface would then be installed complete with shockpad underlay to provide the necessary shock absorption for hockey practice and multi-sports usage. A new 3m high fence would be installed to the 3 sides of the area that are currently 'open'. A new energy efficient LED floodlight system would also be installed and new access pathways created.

The existing synthetic pitch, circa 18 years of age, would be resurfaced. This requires removal of the old sand-filled synthetic turf surface and shockpad. Base remedial works would be carried out as necessary to ensure the recommended sporting tolerances are achieved, before the installation of a modern 3G type synthetic turf. No works are proposed to the existing fencing or floodlighting system.

3.4 Amount

MUGA Court

The existing macadam court area to be refurbished is sized 35.9m x 30.3m at its maximum. At the south side the area reduces to 34.7m x 30.3m due to the 600mm wide retaining wall sections which extend part way along each end.

Synthetic Pitch

The existing synthetic turf pitch area to be refurbished is sized 97.4m x 61.0m.

The proposed amount of development (rounded up to nearest whole m²) is as follows:

MUGA Court 35.9m x 30.3m = 1088m²
Synthetic Pitch 97.4m x 61.0m = 5942m²
New MUGA access path #1 = 16m x 2m = 32m²
New MUGA access path #2 = 36m x 2m = 72m²
Total Area = 7,134m²

3.5 Layout

MUGA Court

The existing macadam court area is to become an informal multi-use games area ('MUGA') to provide for a variety of sport and exercise usage. In previous years the court area has supporting lines for 2 tennis courts and 1 netball court. These line markings will be replicated with court sizes to meet the relevant sporting governing body standards. The area will also cater for hockey practice to ensure the school maintains hockey provision.

Synthetic Pitch

In accordance with The Football Association's (FA) current technical guidance, it is advisable to introduce multiple pitch markings to gain the maximum developmental outcomes and benefit from the synthetic turf footprint.

The refurbished synthetic pitch could be capable of supporting the following formal pitch arrangements (refer to enclosed proposed layout drawing):

Potential line markings:

- 1 Nr main football pitch - 91m x 55m (white), allowing for recommended 3m safety run offs.
- 1 Nr 9v9 pitch – 73m x 46m (blue)
- 2 Nr 7v7 pitches – 55m x 37m (yellow)
- Nr 5v5 football pitches (one to each quarter) - 37m x 25.5m* (red)

* smaller than FA recommended size but acceptable for matchplay use

This proposal seeks to maximise the usage of the existing foundations by refurbishing without extending the current footprint of the dis-used macadam court area or the synthetic pitch. The proposed redevelopment will make efficient usage of both areas for modern sporting purposes.

The proposed facilities are located so that a hard surfaced access point is close enough to ease access for the emergency services (ambulance staff) in the event this is ever required.

Following the proposed refurbishment of these facilities, the traffic and transport links coming to and from the school site shall remain the same.

3.6 Scale

No extension works would be required to extend the plateau on which the existing facilities are currently located.

To the synthetic turf pitch, there are no proposals to amend the existing 3m high weldmesh fence which is to remain in place. Similarly there are no proposals to amend the existing 8-mast floodlight system which is to remain in place,

New perimeter fencing is proposed around 3 sides of the MUGA court. This is required in order to provide an adequate ball-stop to retain balls within the area of play and also to offer increased security given the investment being made into the facility. Retaining balls within the playing area is particularly key in order to avoid contamination of the MUGA surface from footwear that has walked over the adjacent natural turf playing fields to retrieve balls.

The overall height of the new open steel mesh fencing to the MUGA court is proposed be 3.0m high.

It should be noted that there is already an open steel mesh fence to the south side of the MUGA court, and this sits on top of a 1.8m high brick retaining wall. The visual impact of the proposed new 3.0m fence to the north, east and west sides of the MUGA in the overall context of the site will be less than the brick retaining wall/fencing system that is already in place.

The new fence mesh type will be a rigid panel design, its robustness will help to improve the security of the site.

A new LED floodlighting system will be installed to the MUGA This will include the installation of 4 Nr 10m high masts.

3.7 Landscaping

During the course of the works, should any areas be disturbed around the perimeter of either facility, these shall be reinstated to grass (soft landscaping) or their previous surface type.

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All soft landscaping reinstatement works shall be implemented in accordance with BS 4428 Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations.

3.8 Appearance

3.8.1 Replacement Surfaces to MUGA Court and to Synthetic Pitch

The replacement surface to the MUGA court area will be a sand dressed synthetic turf, colour green, including coloured line markings to delineate the sports courts.



EXISTING – Old Macadam Surface



PROPOSED - Sand dressed synthetic turf

The replacement surface to the synthetic pitch will be a 3G synthetic turf, coloured grass green & including coloured line markings. 3G synthetic turf is designed to look similar to a well maintained natural turf surface. Aesthetically this will create a more pleasing surface appearance than the current older sand filled type of synthetic turf.



EXISTING – Sand Filled Synthetic Turf



PROPOSED – 3G synthetic turf

3.8.2 New Fencing to MUGA Court

The installed appearance of the new ball-stop fencing to the MUGA court will be steel open mesh fencing galvanized and polyester powder coated blue. The proposed blue colour finish will match the fencing that is already installed onsite the adjacent sports courts.

Perimeter fencing is necessary to ensure the adequate long term protection of the MUGA court facility for a variety of vital reasons as follows:

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- To contain balls within the playing enclosure
- To protect the MUGA playing surface from contamination that will severely compromise the longevity of the artificial grass playing surface.
- To help prevent unauthorised use and vandalism

In terms of the visual impact of the new fencing, the elevation will consist of a weld mesh design comprising see-through mesh (i.e. no 'solid' boards or panels). This type is commonly installed around artificial sports pitches and permits light and views throughout, reducing the visual impact of the fencing.

Given the location of this facility, and it being immediately adjacent to another facility with fencing installed to a higher level in overall landscape terms, the ball stop fencing proposed would not give rise to unacceptable visual impacts to warrant refusal of the application.



New fence finish to be blue, to match the existing

Synthetic rubber inserts shall be installed to all new fencing mesh panels and all post fixings; to reduce noise, rattle and vibration from ball impacts.

Panels are fixed onto posts with 8mm galvanised security bolts to U shape brackets containing threaded inserts and neoprene washers (inserts) to reduce panel rattle and vibration from ball impacts.

Panel connectors are applied at horizontal panel joins to increase the overall rigidity of the product.

The acoustic value of neoprene washers (inserts) provides 8.31db improvement to standard sports perimeter fencing (without inserts). The results table below illustrates that after running 10 tests the average decibel reading to fencing incorporating rubber inserts (neoprene washers) was 98.92db and without 107.23db.

Run No	No rubber inserts (LCpk)	rubber inserts (LCpk)
1	111.20	97.70
2	108.60	101.30
3	104.80	96.60
4	110.30	96.50
5	103.90	100.70
6	105.90	99.20
7	105.40	96.50
8	111.20	100.20
9	103.00	97.60
10	108.00	102.90
Average	107.23	98.92



Neoprene washer within U shape fixing bracket

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3.8.3 New LED Floodlighting System to MUGA Court

The installed appearance of the new artificial lighting system to the MUGA court will include four (4 Nr) slimline 10m high sectional hinged steel masts finished galvanised (Z275) self-coloured, mounted with fourteen (8 no.) LED luminaires and fittings finished raw aluminium.

The new masts to the MUGA court would be of a slim profile tubular steel masts with galvanised (Z275) self-coloured finish.

A galvanised only finish of the columns has been selected as the preferred solution in terms of being more discreet against the background of the (often) grey UK skies.

It is accepted that whilst the new masts to the MUGA court would result in features which are prominent within the site itself, they are vital to provide artificial lighting for the planned use of the MUGA court after dusk. It should be noted that the proposed masts being installed to the MUGA court would be slimline masts of a lower height than those installed to the nearby synthetic pitch. They would be less obtrusive than these existing masts.

As such it is not felt the installation of 4 Nr lower height new masts to the MUGA court will provide an unacceptable visual impact.

The artificial (flood) lighting proposal for the MUGA court includes the following details:

Requirement	Detail provided
The precise location of the pitch, which should take account of the light spill given its proximity to, for example, any highway and any nearby residential properties.	Please refer to Appendix A - Floodlight Performance Report. Key Point of Note: Referring to pages 11 and 12 of Appendix A, light spillage does not adversely impact on any local residential properties (or even school buildings) as the light level reduces to less than 2 LUX before it reaches any properties. This is comfortably below the guidance for an environmental zone E3 which refers to maximum value of illuminance on any property as being no greater than 10 LUX.
The types of sport to be played on the MUGA and the standard of play - both of which will have an influence on the amount of illumination required.	The standard of activities on the MUGA court will be school curriculum level lessons and informal community usage
Details of columns – number, height and finish.	The proposed new floodlight system comprises 4 Nr slimline 10m high steel masts, hinged, finished galvanised (Z275) self-coloured.
Details of luminaires – number, types, dimensions, finish and output of lamps fitted, to include manufacturer's technical information.	Philips Optivision LED gen3.5 luminaires BVP518. The luminaires, manufactured by Philips Lighting, have been selected as they provide a complete lighting system even for the most complex of areas. They are a high efficiency luminaire with low energy consumption and meet the highest performance standards providing outstanding uniformity. They enable highly precise light distribution with minimum spill light. The design of the luminaire allows for a slimline fitting, much less obtrusive than other fittings, less obtrusive than the existing old metal halide type lamps. Refer to Appendix B - LED Lamp Details for technical

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	information and images
Details of any cowls/hoods/shades/baffles that maybe needed to control light spill and glare – number, dimensions and finish.	<p>The specific type of luminaire proposed has a <u>zero</u> upward light ratio. The spill limiting technology provided by the Philips Optivision LED gen3.5 BVP518 luminaire offered the significant light control required, and complete with its internal louvres, will ensure that we can achieve the controlled spillage levels indicated on the lighting scheme design submitted as part of this application.</p> <p>The lighting system design will comply with recommendations published within ILP Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light 2020 (attached as Appendix C).</p> <p>On completion of the installation, the system will be tested and commissioned to ensure the LUX levels submitted as part of this application are achieved and not exceeded.</p>
Plan showing pitch with the location/position of lighting columns and luminaires.	Refer to 'Appendix A - Floodlight Performance Report'. showing results of horizontal and vertical illuminance over the performance areas and the low level of light spillage to the facility perimeters.
Details of lighting set up – horizontal (rotation) and vertical (tilt) alignment of the luminaires	Refer to 'Appendix A - Floodlight Performance Report'.
Details of lighting output, including levels of surface luminance on the pitch and overspill, i.e. off the pitch (manufacturers/supplier's calculations and diagrams should be provided separately and also to be overlaid on an OS base so that the impact on the surrounding area can be assessed).	Refer to 'Appendix A - Floodlight Performance Report'.

LED lamps will reduce running costs and provide a more environmentally solution as they will last much longer before requiring replacement.

The proposed modern floodlight system to the MUGA court will demonstrate improving control of light spillage in comparison to older systems as the LED lamps will be directed down on to the playing surface thereby significantly reducing overspill to the immediate surrounding areas.

Control switches and time clocks will be installed to the floodlights to ensure they do not remain on any later than the permitted curfew hour and therefore mitigate impact to the surrounding environment.

The lighting system to the macadam courts is designed to provide a maintained average illuminance of 400 LUX in accordance with Sport England design guidance for a multi-use games area.

(Lux level is the intensity of light as measured on a given surface taking into account the area over which the luminous flux is spread. For example, 1000 lumens which is the output of a given light source concentrated into an area of one square metre, would illuminate that square metre to 1000 Lux. If spread over an area of ten square metres, the same 1000 lumens light source would produce a dimmer illuminance of only 100Lux.)

The system will comply to ILP Guidance Notes For Reduction of Obtrusive Light – 2020 (refer to Appendix C)

In addition, the lighting system design seeks to comply with complimentary recommendations published within BS EN 12193:2007 Light and lighting. Sports lighting.

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BS EN 12193 is the European standard that deals with sports lighting. Its objective is to provide recommendations and specify requirements for good quality sports lighting by:

- Maintaining the level of visual performance
- Providing acceptable visual comfort
- Restricting obtrusive light

BS EN 12193 specifies lighting for indoor and outdoor sports events most practiced in Europe. It provides lighting values for the design and control of sports lighting installations in terms of illuminances, uniformity, glare restriction and colour properties of the light sources.

All the above requirements are meant to be as minimum requirements. It also gives methods by which these values are measured. For the limitation of glare, it also points out restrictions on the location of the luminaires for specific sporting activities.

On completion of the installation, the floodlight system will be tested and commissioned to ensure design levels are achieved and not exceeded.

The testing will include:

- Lighting Levels to the playing areas
- Overspill levels to surrounding areas

The proposed lighting scheme to the MUGA court has been designed to minimise the impact on surrounding areas outside of the sports facility. Given the location within the school site and the size of this MUGA court facility in comparison to the footprint of other lit areas, we do not consider that the proposed lighting system would result an unacceptable impact by way of artificial lighting on residential amenity or the surrounding landscape.

3.9 Pedestrian And Vehicular Access

The refurbished facilities will be located within the school grounds and are segregated by perimeter ballstop fencing and lockable access gates to maintain site security when not in use.

Emergency vehicular access will be gained from existing tarmacadam surfaced access route through the school grounds.

The existing site has significant parking capacity for the following:

Type	Quantity
Cars	105 Nr spaces
Light Goods Vehicles/Public Carrier	10 Nr spaces
Motorcycles	20 Nr spaces
Disability Spaces	5 Nr spaces
Cycle Spaces	40 Nr spaces
Bus Spaces	13 Nr bus lane spaces

Usage of the refurbished facilities is not expected to place any excessive demands on the current parking situation because;

- Parking demand will be during the main community usage periods, i.e. at evenings and weekends. During these periods the school site has plenty of free parking spaces
- Green travel opportunities, i.e. walking or cycling, will be encouraged for users of the refurbished facilities.

3.10 Operation and Maintenance Arrangements

The refurbished MUGA court and synthetic pitch will be operated and managed by Marple Hall School under existing arrangements already in place. The school has a site team of 4 full time and one part time members of staff. They also have a team of 2 part time Sports Hall Attendants who currently work the following timetable for existing Sports Hall bookings:

Monday 5.45 – 9.30pm	SHA1
Tuesday 5.45 – 9.30pm	SHA1
Wednesday 5.45 – 9.30pm	SHA2
Thursday 5.45 – 9.30pm	SHA1
Friday 6.45 – 9.30pm	SHA2
Sunday 8.30 – 1.30pm	SHA2

The opening and closing of the MUGA court and synthetic pitch and will be managed by the Sports Hall Attendants as the pitch will be located in the secure grounds of the school. The floodlights and the access to the school will be monitored by this team with the added assurance of the CCTV system the school has in place. Whilst any of the school's facilities are in use, there is always at least one of the Sports Hall team on site to coordinate the use and to deal with any enquiries/emergencies.

The school has a significant amount of parking, clear signposting with a 5 mph speed limit and a traffic management plan in place. The proposed location of the proposed development means the parking facilities are within easy access.

The general maintenance of the facilities will be carried out by the above site team along with the addition of specialist maintenance throughout the year.

A sinking fund will be established to cover the costs of long-term facility maintenance and refurbishment such as future replacement of the artificial turf surface or floodlights.

3.11 Community Use Management Plan

The school will establish a Management Committee with representation from the Council, Cheshire FA and other key partners are deemed appropriate. The Management Committee will develop a Community Use Agreement (CUA) and meet quarterly to ensure the effective operation of the pitches. Using Sport England best practice, the CUA will be drafted to ensure equitable access to the pitches and will provide a management structure for the facility as outlined below:

- Overall responsibilities
- Direct reporting systems
- Day to day management
- Training, staffing and staff development
- Maintenance and security
- Community use of facilities
- Support for priority groups as recognised by the Stockport Active Communities Strategy
- Community booking procedures
- Community operational procedures
- Local resident communication
- Onsite car parking for community users
- Onsite car parking for community users

3.12 Noise Management

To manage noise generated by use of the refurbished facilities, Marple Hall School will introduce a noise management plan with procedures to minimise any potential noise impact.

The plan is considered to be a live document which may be revised during the operational stages in order to create an acceptable balance between the requirements for a successful sports facility and the protection of local residents' amenity.

The plan will ensure that:

- The nominated noise monitoring supervisor regularly monitors activity on the facility.
- The maximum user capacity of the facility is not exceeded.
- Only pre-booked lettings under a signed lettings agreement will be permitted to use the facilities. All clients as part of the lettings agreement will sign up to a Code of Conduct which includes arriving and leaving the site plus expectations whilst on site.
- The supervisor liaises with clients to ensure noise management policies and the Code of Conduct are adhered to.
- A clear and reliable mechanism is provided whereby noise complaints can be made and logged and acted upon by way of a formal complaints procedure.
- Liaison with stake holders and interested parties is undertaken to ensure the noise management plan remains effective and revisions are applied accordingly.

3.13 Hours of Use

The permitted hour of hours of use of the refurbished facilities will be determined through the planning application process and the applicant wishes to accommodate hours of use in order to maximise developmental outcomes; both during the day and during evenings and at weekends via structured community access.

The following hours are proposed for usage of the refurbished facilities:

Monday to Friday:	0900 to 2100 hrs
Saturday & Sunday:	0900 to 2100 hrs

It is noted that the current synthetic turf pitch planning permission notice (March 2002) grants usage between these same hours. With the hours proposed, the applicant does not request anything beyond what is already permitted for external sports facility usage on this site.

4 Planning Statement

4.1 Identifying the Need

Existing Inadequate Facilities

The dis-used macadam court area is unsafe to use with the old surface having deteriorated well beyond the point of offering a safe area for any kind of meaningful sporting activity.

The existing sand filled synthetic pitch surface is now approximately 18 years of age, is regularly unfit for usage and has had to be closed to all external community booking due to condition of the surface.

The school grounds includes several natural turf sports pitches, but as is commonly a problem in the UK climate, these often suffer from waterlogging and hence the school does genuinely need a safe, synthetic turf area that can be used all-year round.

The lack of an accessible and safe floodlit synthetic turf pitch impacts on physical education lessons and regular safe physical activity being possible on the school site. This in turn also prevents community use and any progress in engaging the community.

The school is committed to ensuring their students and the wider community have access to a range of sporting and recreational facilities. Community usage of the refurbished facilities will be vital to ensure the sustainability of the facilities over their life span. Revenue will be needed for the general usage costs, maintenance along with a sinking fund to replace the surface and other components.

Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)

The boroughs Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has identified a current shortfall of six full size 11v11 3G AGP's. There is also disproportionate provision across the borough, with the East being particularly low. As such, developing a community accessible full size 3G AGP in the Marple area is one of the highest priorities in the Stockport Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP). Consultation with local sports clubs supports this further, with many clubs now unable to grow due to lack of training and playing facilities. This compelling evidence base has prompted the Councils Cabinet Member for Sustainable Stockport, to direct significant commuted sums to this project.

Demand

The school caters for over 1300 students and the demand for refurbishing these facilities from the school's perspective is outlined above. In addition to this, there is a clear demand within the local area – as noted above, the Stockport Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) notes the development of a community accessible full size 3G synthetic pitch in the Marple area is one of the highest priorities.

Physical Activity

The Sport England Active Lives Survey measures overall engagement with Sport and Physical Activity. It measures the number of people aged 16 and over who take part in sport and physical activity. The most recent results from May 2017 - May 2018 found that 23.1% of individuals in the Stockport area are classed as 'inactive' (meaning they participate in sport or some form of physical activity for less than 30 minutes a week).

This proposal seeks to provide sporting facilities to increase the number taking part in sport and physical activity.

Key Drivers

The key drivers for the refurbishment of these facilities are as follows:

- (I) Provide Marple Hall School with a first-class outdoor facility to enable full delivery of their sports curriculum and enhance extra-curricular opportunities to develop the students, providing both physical and mental well-being benefits.
- (II) Provide a base for the local football clubs to grow their participation.
- (III) Provide accessible and equitable community use opportunities for priority groups as identified in the Stockport Active Community Strategy.

4.2 Planning Policy and Guidance Review

Planning Considerations - National Planning Policy

We understand that development management decisions must be taken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as updated in February 2019.

We believe this proposal is in accordance with the NPPF given that this proposal seeks to:

- Implement social, recreational and cultural facilities and services for community needs to enhance the sustainability of Marple Hall School and the surrounding areas.
- Provide access to a high quality open space for sport and recreation - the proposed new 3G surface, MUGA court surface, MUGA fence and MUGA floodlighting design are all designed in accordance with the appropriate Sport England and FA Guidelines. This is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (Feb 2019) Section 12 – Achieving well designed places.
- Provide a clean, safe and modern facility to inspire sporting participation.
- Provide a genuine asset for Marple Hall School and local community sporting groups and organisations.
- Encourage and inspire more people of all ages to participate in sport.
- Encourage health and wellbeing - in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (Feb 2019) Section 8 – Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities
- Represent a development that is appropriate for its location, bearing in mind the visual impact considerations referred to in section 3.8 of this document as well as the 'impact mitigation' features that have been incorporated as part of this proposal (see section 4.3 below). This is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (Feb 2019) Section 15 – Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment
- Will not result in increasing flood risk elsewhere – in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (Feb 2019) Section 14 – Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change

The National Planning Policy Framework introduced a presumption in favour of sustainable development and this can be set out as three dimensions – Economic Role, Social Role and Environmental Role.

This proposal aims to contribute to each of these roles as follows.

- Economic Role – providing self-funding facilities for use by Marple Hall School and the local community.
- Social Role – providing modern facilities that will encourage recreational activity for students and the wider community, with the benefits to health, physical wellbeing and mental wellbeing associated with this.

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- Environmental Role – ensuring that the existing natural environment is not harmed and that the facility is designed to conserve and reduce energy wastage wherever possible. This is relevant as the proposed works at Marple Hall School involves the refurbishment of existing external sports facilities and the re-use of the existing foundations. This ensures construction traffic movements are significantly reduced in comparison to a full new-build construction. It also ensures no greenfield area is being disturbed/constructed upon. Other environmental benefits included the installation of a floodlighting system to the MUGA court which utilises energy efficient LED floodlights.

Planning Considerations – Local Planning Policy

We appreciate that development management decisions when reviewing this proposed development must be taken in consideration with the Local Plan. The policies which are used to manage development in Stockport are those set out in the:

- Core Strategy DPD
- Greater Manchester Joint Waste DPD
- Greater Manchester Joint Minerals DPD
- saved policies of the Stockport Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Review (May 2006) which are not superseded by the Core Strategy, Joint Waste or Joint Minerals DPDs. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) informs the public about the current planning policies for Stockport and sets out the programme for preparation of the Local Plan.

From the Local Development Plan Map, it is noted that the site is designated as Greenbelt (policy GBA1.7) and a Landscape Character Area – ‘Landscape, Countryside and River Valleys’.

Policy LCR1.1 Landscape Character Area

We believe this proposal meets the requirements of this policy, in particular in terms of:

- Being sensitively sited, designed and constructed of materials appropriate to the landscape character area in which it is located – *the works involve refurbishing existing external sports facilities, and do not require the constructing of new facilities over greenfield areas of the greenbelt.*
- Being accommodated without adverse effect on the landscape quality of the particular character area.
- Protecting or improving existing recreational land, so as to maintain or enhance the predominantly informal recreational role of the countryside around Stockport;

Policy GBA1.2 Control of Development in Green Belt

We believe this proposal represents the refurbishment of essential facilities for outdoor sport and recreation. The proposal preserves the openness of the Green Belt and is in accordance with what would be expected within a school site.

Policy L1.2 Children’s Play

The policy acknowledges that to play is the indisputable right of every child. This proposal will provide modern safe facilities for usage not only by students of Marple Hall School, but also for usage by other children in the local community during community usage hours. The policy seeks to contribute positively to childrens healthy lifestyles.

Policy CTF1.1 – Development of Community Services and Facilities

This proposal seeks to refurbish and enhance existing outdated and unsafe sports facilities which will help to secure the long term usage of these areas for recreation. Furthermore this proposal seeks to re-introduce the synthetic pitch back into the community (it is currently closed to community usage due to it’s unsafe condition).

The project will enhance, maintain and protect what are existing open space/sports and leisure assets.

4.3 Impact Mitigation

The design process for the refurbished facilities has considered and incorporated a variety of features to assist in reducing the impact of this development to immediate neighbours and the local environment including:

Controlled hours of use	The MUGA court floodlighting system will incorporate a timer clock to ensure that it is not possible for the system to be left turned on beyond the hours of usage permitted by planners.
Sympathetic appearance	The finish of the new 3G synthetic turf playing surface will offer a similar appearance to natural turf. This will be an aesthetic improvement to the older sand filled type of synthetic turf that it will replace. The finish of the new MUGA court perimeter fence will be powder coated blue to blend in against the adjacent blue fence already present on the site. The new MUGA court LED floodlight columns and lamps will be of a slimline design and will consist of less lamps than currently installed on the site.
Acoustic attenuation	Panels of the new MUGA court fence will be insulated from the posts using neoprene rubber gaskets fitted to every fence post / mesh fixing. These are proven to aid noise reduction by reducing rattle and vibration from ball impacts.
Construction Traffic	The refurbishment proposes to re-use the existing sub-base material to both facilities which will significantly reduce the volume of construction traffic/material deliveries required during the construction phase. This is a refurbishment of the existing construction, rather than a new build development.

5. Photomontage

Photographic Presentation of the Subject Site

1) MUGA Court to be Refurbished



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2) Synthetic Pitch to be Refurbished



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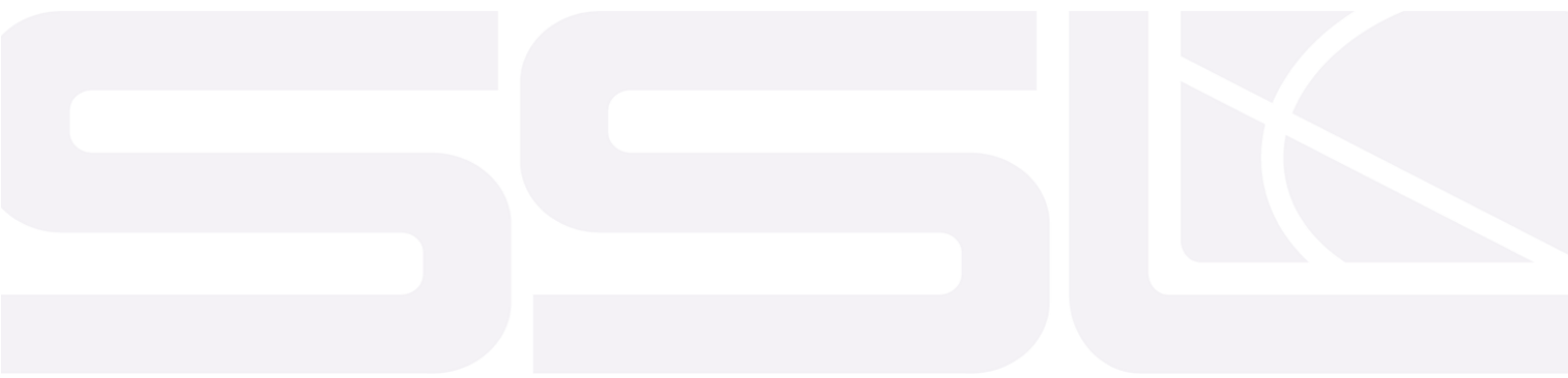
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