

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

CONSTRUCTION OF MULTI-USE GAMES AREA AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING CAR PARK

EWYAS HAROLD RECREATION GROUND
Priorsfield, Ewyas Harold, Herefordshire HR2 0TX



Typical MUGA court

H E A L D P A R T N E R S H I P

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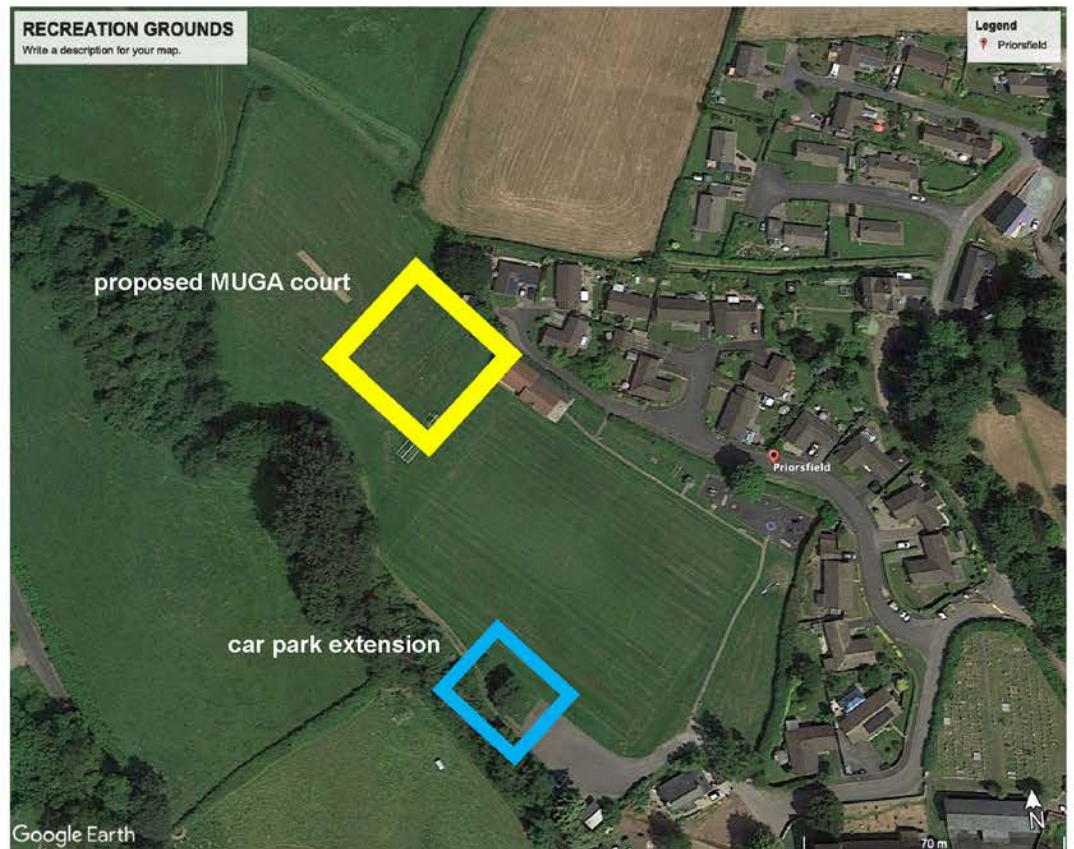
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1.0 SITE ANALYSIS

1.1 LOCATION

Easting 338715
Northing 228776

EWYAS HAROLD RECREATION GROUND is a 2.13 hectares site in Herefordshire serving the village of Ewyas Harold, approximately 10 miles south of Hereford. The recreation ground lies between Dulas Brook and Priorsfield housing estate.



Aerial view

Location of proposed MUGA court
Car Park extension

- YELLOW rectangle
- BLUE rectangle

1.2 EXISTING GROUNDS AND SITE DESCRIPTION

EWYAS HAROLD RECREATION GROUND is owned and administered by Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council. The grounds provide full-sized football pitches created in 1920 and refurbished in 2007. The Recreation Ground also has a children's play area and pavilion building and public toilet. The Pavilion was refurbished around 2015 following the award of a grant from the Premier League and FA Facilities Fund.

There is on-site parking for 30 cars.

1.3 TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

EWYAS HAROLD has good road links via the A465 Hereford/Abergavenny trunk road and local road networks. Public transport in the area is adequate but could be better. There is a regular bus route connecting nearby Pontrilas to Hereford to the north and Abergavenny to the south, however, east west routes are poorly served by public transport services.

2.0 JUSTIFICATION

Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council wish to construct a **Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)** within the curtilage of the existing Recreation Grounds. A **MUGA** court offers a cost-effective solution for sports areas that can be used for different sports activities making the most of an available space to create a vibrant play area. A **MUGA** court can be used for many different types of sports and activities and offers great cost savings because there is only one pitch. It's a simple way to open-up the possibilities of a single space and create maximum benefit from it.

A **MUGA** court is a single games area that can be adapted for many different types of activities. The pitch is marked with anything that is relevant to chosen activities, whether that's a football goal or floor markings for netball. Because all the markings remain in place on the **MUGA** court, it's very simple to switch from one activity to another on the same pitch without the need to invest in a different space for each sport. A **MUGA** court can accommodate many of the activities that children, teens and young adults are most interested in today, including football, netball, cricket, handball and basketball.

Having access to a **MUGA** court can help to give children somewhere to come together and play in a structured way outside, rather than spending hours in front of a screen. Many parents will know how challenging it is to get kids off social media, etc. and a **MUGA** court is a great incentive.

However, the same pitch could also be rented out to sports teams at the weekend.

The proposed **MUGA** court will be marked out for the following games;

Tennis
Netball
Basketball
Hockey
Soccer/Five-a-Side soccer

Like all sports courts the **MUGA** surface needs to be kept clear of debris and regularly maintained in order to prolong the life and playing performance of the surface. To ensure this a **3.0m** high rigid weld mesh fence will enclose the games area.

The location of the **MUGA** court has been carefully considered with regard to its' proximity to the existing on-site car park, Pavilion/toilet buildings and nearby residences.

In addition to the construction of a new **MUGA** court Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council wish to increase the existing car park area to provide 10no. further visitor parking spaces.

3.0 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

3.1 QUALITY OF DESIGN

The **MUGA** court will be designed and constructed in accordance with SPORT ENGLAND requirements and guidelines in partnership with the Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA).

A **MUGA** court is designed to be durable and hard-wearing so it's a great investment, not just for now but in the years to come too. Installation is simple and fast and the process of maintaining a **MUGA** court is minimal. There's little to no disruption and few ongoing responsibilities.

All necessary playing posts, fixings and anchorage points will be provided along with rigid weld mesh fencing, coloured porous Macadam surface, play-lines.

It is also intended to increase the existing public parking area by a further 10 car spaces extending the existing car park northwards towards the proposed MUGA court.

3.2 VISUAL IMPACT

The proposed **MUGA** court will be located close to the Pavilion building between existing grass cricket and football pitches. The Pavilion building 'screens' the **MUGA** court from properties in Priorsfield.

3.3 LAYOUT AND SCALE

The **MUGA** court is rectangular in form **34.75m x 31.7m** contained within a **3.0m** high rigid weld mesh fence.

3.4 ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

There are no known recognised habitats that will be affected by this proposal.

Surplus topsoil and excavated material resulting from the construction of the proposed **MUGA** court will be retained and used on site to improve existing earth bunds. Existing landscaped areas and site boundaries will not be unaffected by construction of the proposed MULTI-USE GAMES AREA.

No surplus materials will be taken off site.

All materials and labour involved with the construction of the new MULTI-USE GAMES AREA will be sourced locally as far as reasonably possible.

3.5 FLOOD RISK

The principal risk of flooding to the site is from fluvial flooding from adjacent Dulas Brook. The site is located within Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3 therefore the site has a 'low to high probability' of fluvial flooding.

The recreation ground is classified as 'water compatible' and the car park is classified as 'less vulnerable'. The proposed MUGA is classified as 'water compatible' and will be located within *Flood Zones 2 and 3*. The proposed car park extension is classified as 'less vulnerable' and will be located within *Flood Zone 2*.

3.6 *PROPOSED MATERIALS/SERVICES*

3.6.1 *GAMES SURFACE*

The court surface will be an open textured porous macadam colour coated light green, dark green with colour-coded play-lines. This surface will be suitable for wheelchair sports.

3.6.2 *PERIMETER FENCING*

3.0m high rigid weld mesh fence will enclose the games area.

3.6.3 *SURFACE DRAINAGE*

Perforated plastic land drainpipes connected to a small sump excavated at the lowest corner of the court.

3.6.4 *EXISTING GRASS AREAS*

Grass playing areas affected by the construction of the MUGA court will be reinstated and made good and re-seeded where necessary.

3.7 *COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL NEED*

Design of the **MUGA** court is intended to appeal to children and get them excited about the activity. There are lots of different game options which mean there will be ways to engage everyone. This can be an incredibly valuable asset in an environment where children need to let off some steam.

Many of the games a **MUGA** court is designed for involve team activities for adults as well as children, with or without disabilities, fostering improved socialisation, problem-solving abilities and collaboration and compromise. Valuable experiences can happen during these games, whether they relate to learning to compromise or how to cope with the process of defeat.

The hard wearing **MUGA** court surface combined with safe sport environment means that the facility could also be rented out to other local sports teams enabling a further income stream to Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council.

3.8 *COMMUNITY SAFETY*

The Recreation Ground is located near the centre of Ewyas Harold village, close to residences on two sides and has a 'short cut' footpath accessing a children's enclosed play area and on to the heart of the village.

The proposals have been discussed and supported by West Mercia Police, local councillors, and Herefordshire Council.

3.9 *INCLUSIVE ACCESS*

Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council have a policy of inclusive access.



VIEWS 1 and 2

Looking north eastwards from site of proposed MUGA pitch site towards Changing Rooms and Pavilion buildings.

NOTE

An existing footpath serves the Pavilion building and will also give access to the proposed MUGA Court.



VIEWS 3 and 4

Looking south eastwards across playing field towards existing car park area.

NOTE

Proposed MUGA court will be located between the existing Changing Rooms and Pavilion building.



VIEW 5
Looking south along existing car park towards vehicular access adjacent Brook House (black and white cottage centre left).



VIEW 6
Looking south from extent of existing car park towards car park area and vehicular barrier to recreation field

NOTE
Proposed additional parking for 10 cars to be within existing area defined by timber bollards and existing vehicle barrier.

FLOOD RISK

SEE **Flood Risk Assessment** dated November 2023 prepared by HYDROGEO LTD. and submitted separately to this Statement.

Their CONCLUSION states ...

This FRA demonstrates that the proposed development would be operated with minimal risk from flooding, would not increase flood risk elsewhere and is compliant with the requirements of the NPPF.

The development should not therefore be precluded on the grounds of flood risk.