

Your ref: HA 65/2/134  
Our ref: REG/PLAN/ES/15

25 June 2008

Secretary of State for Transport  
c/o Highways Agency  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Manton Industrial Estate  
Bedford  
MK41 7LW

For the attention of Anna Smyth

Dear Madam,

**THE M11 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 8B AND AIRPORT ACCESS) CONNECTING ROADS SCHEME –  
REFERENCE HA 65/2/134**

I refer to the consultation on the above draft scheme. You will be aware that Sport England has a statutory role in relation to the protection of playing fields (as set out in Statutory Instrument 1817 (1996)). In this context, I would like to make comments on the draft scheme in relation to its impact on Mountfitchet High School's playing fields.

I understand from the Environmental Statement that the current proposals involve the temporary loss of a 160x10 metre strip of the eastern end of the school playing field to create a construction access and temporary haul road during the construction period. The proposals would also involve the permanent loss of a 160x5 metre strip of the playing field in the same part of the playing field to accommodate a realigned bridleway (Bridleway 60).

As the strip of playing field required for both the temporary and permanent proposals is relatively narrow, it is hoped that the proposals can be implemented without having a detrimental impact on the school's (and if applicable, the community's) use of the playing field. To ensure that the use of the playing field is not adversely affected it will be important that the scheme avoids any existing summer or winter playing pitches on the playing field. If it is not possible to avoid any existing pitches, it will be important for the pitches to be relocated elsewhere on the playing field without reducing their dimensions. If the draft scheme is implemented as currently proposed, I would be willing to provide further advice on this issue. At the appropriate time, if existing (and if applicable proposed) summer and winter playing pitch layouts of Mountfitchet High School's playing field could be provided, I would be able to provide informed advice on the impact of the proposals. If the scheme would have an impact on existing playing pitches which could not be mitigated through relocating the pitches, I would urge that this aspect of the scheme is reviewed with a view to reducing the land take on the playing field.

In relation to the proposals for the temporary construction access and haul road, I would expect the scheme to make provision for the area that is not required for the bridleway realignment to be restored to playing field use at the end of the construction period.

I hope this advice can be given full consideration before the scheme is finalised. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



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