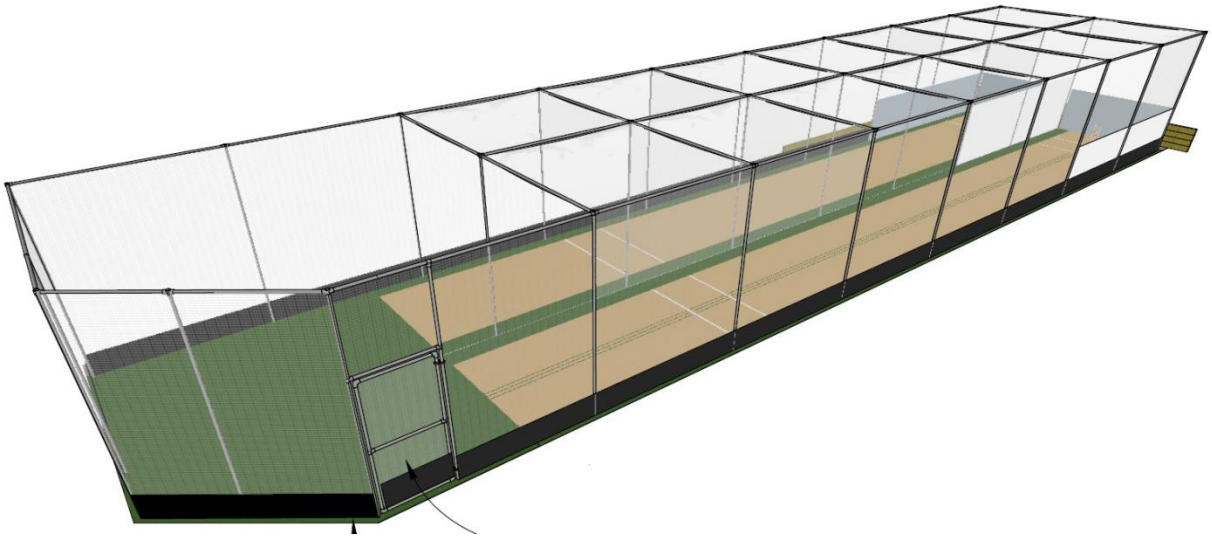

Artificial nets project

2023

Design & Access Statement

Version 2

21/10/2023

Culver Close, Pound Land, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1LF

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DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

PROJECT SUMMARY

The club has become a victim of its own success. Youth numbers are soaring since starting the youth section in 2013, there is a healthy competition for places in both adult teams, we have sufficient numbers to develop the cricket provision for female players but the small ground is congested and if there is a game on, none of the other teams can practice. Therefore, a new 2 lane artificial cricket practice facility is required at Culver Close.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To provide a new 2 lane artificial cricket net facility on Culver Close by April 2024 to unlock the potential of the cricket club as outlined in the Benefits section.

CLUB BACKGROUND

Bradford on Avon Cricket Club were founded in 1962 and have been playing cricket at Culver Close, Pound Land, BA15 1LF ever since. Today, the club runs two men's league team who compete in the Wiltshire County Cricket League Division 2 and Division 6. We have a Women's softball team who train and play tournaments on a Sunday morning. We also have Social team who play on Wednesday evening and occasionally on Sunday afternoons.

The club also have a thriving youth section with over 150 children from School Reception Year through to u15s. In 2023, we delivered All Stars programme (Reception to Year 2) and Dynamos programme (Year 3 to Year 4) on behalf of the ECB and we regularly sell out the places on each course and have one of the highest number of registrations for both programmes across the entire County. The club also runs four u11 teams (one of which is a girls-only team), three u13 teams and one u15s team.

The Culver Close is owned by Bradford on Avon Town Council but the cricket square and the surrounding outfield are maintained by the Cricket Club. Two youth-sized football pitches are sited on the outfield to the East and West of the cricket square from September to March. These are currently used by Bradford Town Youth Football Club.

From early April to the end of August, the weekly itinerary at the ground is as follows:

BoA Ground Usage

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
AM						Adhoc Youth fixtures	Women's training & Games
PM	u11s / u15s League	u13s League	Snrs Midweek XI / u13s League	Snr Practice / u11s league	Junior Training	Snr League	Snr Friendly XI

In recent years, the number of girls playing cricket has increased with high interest from primary school aged children. This has led to the creation of an u11s girl team. The Women's team, formed in

2021 creates a pathway for our younger female players through to women's cricket, thus matching what is currently in place for men.

THE PROBLEM – A VICTIM OF OUR OWN SUCCESS

With such a congested itinerary where the cricket square is occupied, either through use or being prepared for further games by the groundkeeper, there is limited opportunity for younger players to practice with a cricket ball in a safe and controlled environment. For those players wishing to have additional practice, with a parent or friends, there is nowhere for them to safely use when a game is underway.

Since recommencing the youth section in 2013, there are many examples of our more talented players who have been selected for a place in the Wiltshire County junior age group programmes have left the club and moved to our local neighbours who have better practice facilities. We have also seen this to a degree within the adult teams. In certain instances, we have also seen this being a decider factor on whether to join the club in the first place.

Our success with the youth section has seen record numbers of female players come into the club with the first u11s girls team playing fixtures in 2021. We also have girls above this age group playing mixed cricket and seeking a pathway into Women's cricket. This exciting expansion of cricket for the club is imminent and again adds further pressure onto a limited resource, the cricket square.

The adults train on a Thursday evening and practice on the cricket square using a single batting cage, this regularly means that not everyone is able to practice their batting due to limited time and the quality of the playing surface is often worn and the bounce is inconsistent leading to poor practice that reduces morale of players.

Therefore, a new artificial cricket net facility on Culver Close is greatly required.

THE REQUIREMENT

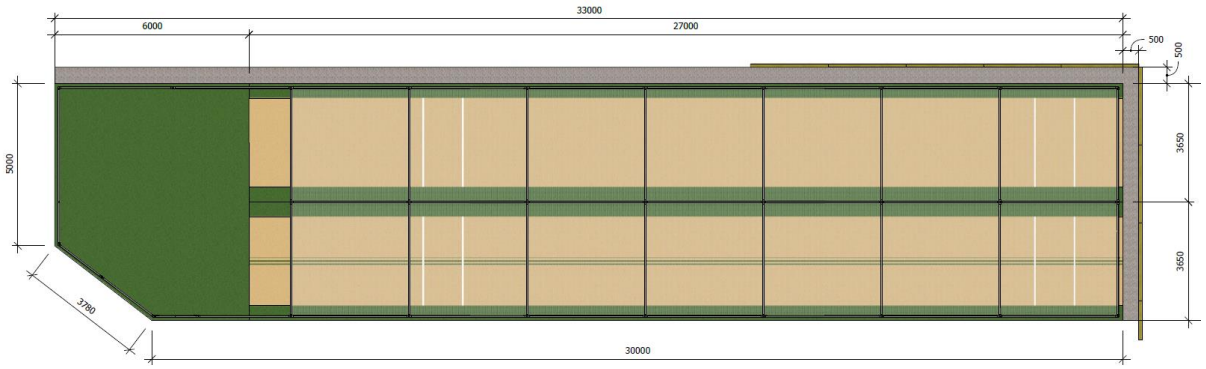
Number of Nets

From U11s upwards, all cricketers play hardball games. Therefore, they need to practice safely with a cricket ball if they are to improve their skills. A typical youth age group, should consist of 20+ players and ECB coach to player ratios for Net Coaching: 1 coach : 8 children. Therefore, to coach an age group in a Net environment would ideally require a 3 lane facility above a 2 lane version. However, the site identified by Bradford Town Council will only permit a 2 lane facility as constrained by the footpath

A 2 lane artificial net would be a huge improvement, with coaches needing to adapt their session plans to ensure the player ratios are balanced when excessive numbers of players attend.

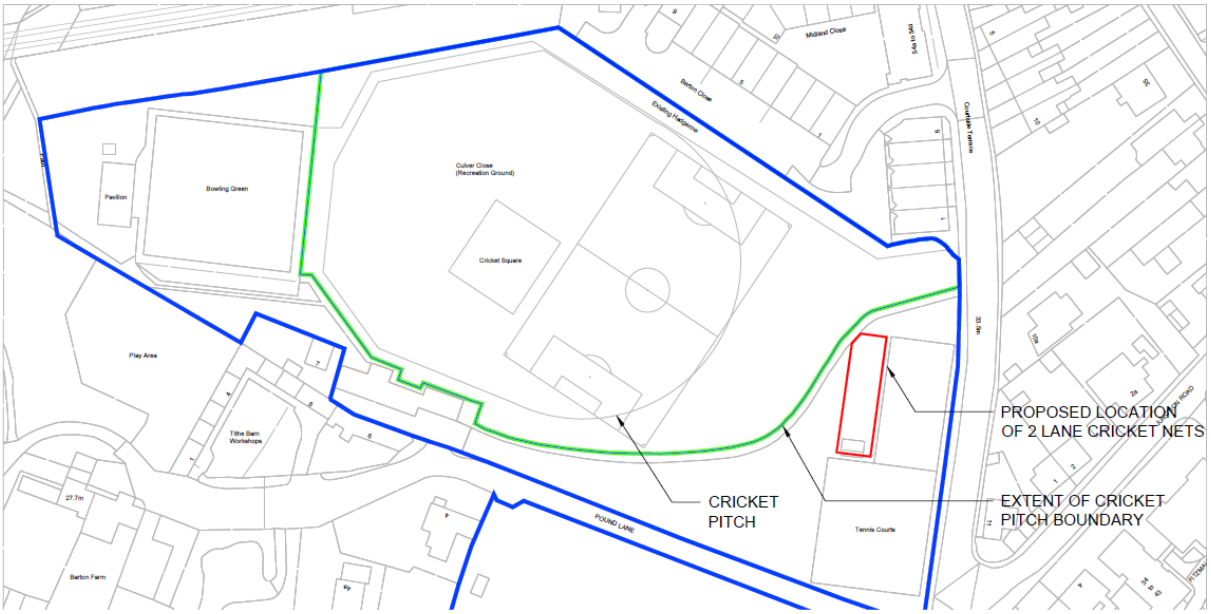
Net Size

Practice facility suppliers have indicated that an enclosed Net facility would be 33m x 9.3m overall. The internal netted practice area would be approximately 31m x 7.3m.



Practice Facility Location

The proposed location for the Nets is shown below (extract from Site Location Plan). The 4th tennis court location groups the practice facility within the tennis court area and maintains reasonable separation from Barton Close properties. The nets will have a netted roof to prevent balls from leaving the practice area. The old tennis hut will be removed and the litter bin, bicycle racks and two adjacent public benches will be re-sited by BoA Town Council. The sloping site will be leveled down with a retaining feature wall of railway sleepers installed to protect the raised tennis courts. A walkway will be maintained between the tennis courts and new cricket net to permit collection of tennis balls and access to the tennis courts central entrance. The chosen location will also ensure that the playing field is not encroached upon and does not required diversion of existing footpath. This has been discussed with two Net Suppliers and was also the recommended location part of the recent facilities consultation exercise.

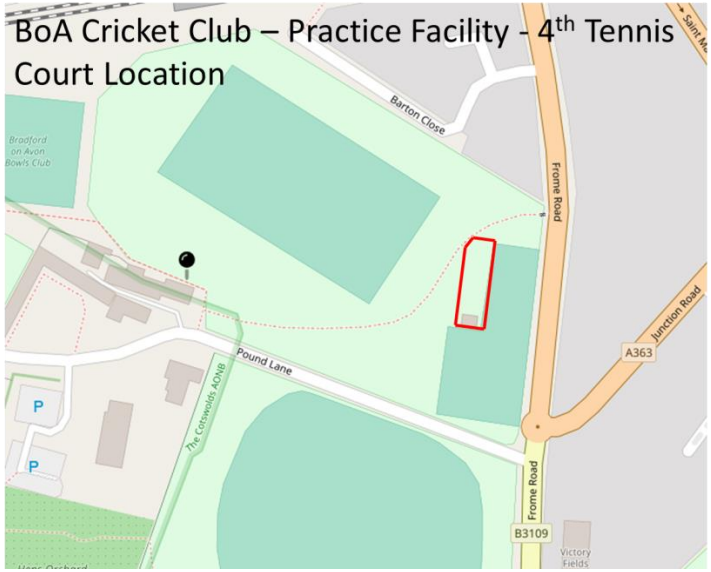


SITE PLAN - Other locations on Culver Close have been considered but the proposed location is the only location that doesn't encroach on to the existing cricket or football pitches and in consultation with BoA Town Council.








BoA Cricket Club – Practice Facility - 4th Tennis Court Location
Barton Close
Bradford on Avon Bowls Club
Frome Road
Junction Road
A363
Pound Lane
P
P
The Cotswolds AONB
Frome Road
B3109
Victory Fields

A Data sheet for a typical 2 lane net is provided at Annex D.

Ball Security

In order to prevent balls struck from leaving the practice area, all sides of the internal practice area will be netted including the roof. There will be a locked gated access with the facility use controlled by the Cricket Club.



OWNERSHIP & LIABILITIES

Once installed, the Nets would be owned, administered and maintained by BoA Cricket Club. The nets will be available to the wider public to use and a booking system will be made available via the Cricket Club website.

Any revenue will go back to the Cricket Club to be placed in a fund to be used to maintain / replace the facility in the future (c12 years - 2036).

The Cricket Club will also be responsible for any liabilities from the Net. This is expected to be covered through its annual insurance policy which would be amended/updated to include the Net facility.

REQUIREMENT BENEFITS

The benefits of an artificial net facility are as follows:

- provide a safe space for all groups to practice hardball cricket – this will see better space management and thus increase the use of Culver Close for cricket.
- attract and retain players at the club - this may further enable the creation of a women's hardball team and supporting u13s and u15s girls teams. With more players staying at the club, we may see the creation of a 3rd team in the next 1-2 years.
- increase the performance levels of all players and teams - this may result in promotion of current teams and an increase in the number of younger players being selected for County cricket development programmes.
- Better connection with the Community – this will allow Culver Close to be attractive for use for cricket throughout Easter and Summer School holidays by various groups. The County would be able to deliver its various youth development programmes using the nets, professional coaches would be able to hire the facility to deliver 1:1s and parents would be able to use the facility with their child.

Annex's:

Annex A – Cricket Club Membership Stats – 2023

Annex B – Net Annual Usage Estimates

Annex C – ECB Approved Non Turf Pitch (NTP) Systems

Annex D – Slatter Cricket & Play - 2 Lane Net Data Sheet

ANNEXES

ANNEX A – CRICKET CLUB MEMBERSHIP STATS - 2023

Overall, the Club has the following membership (as of Aug 2023):

Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Cumulative Total
Under 7s (All Stars)	33	16	49	49
Under 9s (Dynamos)	33	9	42	91
Under 11s	20	2	22	113
Under 13s	23	7	30	143
Under 15s	10	1	11	154
Under 19s	8		8	162
Under 30s	12		12	174
Under 40s	18	3	21	195
Under 50s	11	11	22	217
Under 60s	4	1	5	222
	172 (77.5%)	**50 (22.5%)**		**222**

ANNEX B – NET ANNUAL USAGE ESTIMATES

The estimated usage of Cricket net will not be an exact science and is heavily based on assumptions but we have attempted to model this to better understand the Community usage and benefit:

	Before					
	Main Square Used by	**Nets Use By**	**Net - Opportunity**	**No of Players**	**No of Weeks**	**Total No Players**
Mondays	U11s		Adhoc	0	10	0
Tuesdays	U13s		Adhoc	0	10	0
Wednesdays	Midweek XI		Adhoc	0	10	0
Thursdays	Adult Trg	Adult Trg		16	24	384
Fridays	U13s / U15s / U11s	U13s / U15s / U11s		16	29	464
Saturdays	AM		Adhoc	0	20	0
	PM - 1st & 2nd XI		Adhoc	0	18	0
			Adhoc	0	20	0
Sundays	AM - Youth Cricket		Adhoc	0	10	0
			Adhoc	0	20	0
	PM - Friendlies		Adhoc	0	10	0
			Adhoc	0	20	0
Easter Holidays			Adhoc	0	2	0
Summer Holidays			Adhoc	0	6	0
						848
	After					
	Main Square Used by	**Nets Use By**	**Net - Opportunity**	**No of Players**	**No of Weeks**	**Total No Players**
Mondays	U11s	Home & Opposition	Adhoc	16	10	160
Tuesdays	U13s	Home & Opposition	Adhoc	16	10	160
Wednesdays	Midweek XI	Home & Opposition	Adhoc	22	10	220
Thursdays		Adult Trg		24	24	576
Fridays		U13s / U15s / U11s		32	29	928
Saturdays			Adhoc	20	20	400
	PM - 1st & 2nd XI	Home & Opposition	Adhoc	22	18	396
			Adhoc	30	20	600
Sundays	U9s & u11s Girls	Home & Opposition	Adhoc	16	10	160
			Adhoc	20	20	400
	PM - Friendlies	Home & Opposition	Adhoc	22	10	220
			Adhoc	30	20	600
Easter Holidays		Adhoc	Adhoc	100	2	200
Summer Holidays		Adhoc	Adhoc	100	6	600
					New Capacity	**5620**
					Current Capacity	**848**
		663%	**Increase**		**Additional Capacity Gained**	**4772**

The provision of 2 nets would provide an 660% increase in practice capacity, providing a significant opportunity for adhoc practice by members and the local community during the main spring and summer holiday periods.

ANNEX C – ECB APPROVED NON TURF PITCH (NTP) SYSTEMS

ECB APPROVED NON-TURF PITCH (NTP) SYSTEMS – OUTDOOR USE		
SUPPLIER	**ECB APPROVED NTP SYSTEMS**	**CONTACT DETAILS**
ClubTurf Limited	ClubTurf International Pitch ClubTurf Natural Pitch	www.clubturf.com
Dura-Sport Limited	DSI-pro Cricket System DSI-pro Vision Cricket System DS Grass Cricket System DSE Cricket System	www.dura-sport.co.uk
Exclusive Leisure Limited	The Cricketweave 'T' Base Synthetic Turf Pitch The Exclusive T10 'T' Base Synthetic Turf Pitch The Exclusive ECO Pitch (provisional approval)	www.exclusiveleisure.co.uk
Notts Sport Limited	NGU Envelope System NGU NottsBase® System	www.nottssport.co.uk
SIS Group Limited ("SIS Pitches")	Cricket Pro IP Cricket Eco IP	www.sispitches.com
total-play Limited	total-play 'tp365' Synthetic Turf Pitch System total-play 'tp 5T' Synthetic Turf Pitch System total-play 'tp B1' Synthetic Turf Pitch System total-play 'tp365' NPC Synthetic Turf Pitch System total-play 'tp 5T' NPC Synthetic Turf Pitch System total-play 'tp B1' NPC Synthetic Turf Pitch System	www.total-play.co.uk
Verde Sports Limited	Premier System Synthetic Turf Pitch Test Match Synthetic Turf Pitch	www.verdesports.com

ANNEX D – SLATTER CRICKET & PLAY - 2 LANE NET DATA SHEET

