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WILTSHIRE SCHOOL OF GYMNASTICS

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT





It should be noted that the scale accuracy of images within this document cannot be guaranteed.

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CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION	2	
OVERVIEW	2	
THE PROPOSAL	2	
2 ASSESSMENT	3	
THE SITE	3	
3 PROPOSAL	4	
DESIGN PRINCIPLES & APPROACH	4	
USE, AMOUNT, LAYOUT, SCALE, APPEARANCE	4	4
ACCESS	5	
LANDSCAPING	5	
PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT	5	
4 DESIGN	6	
THE DESIGN	6	
5 SUMMARY	8	
SUMMARY	8	



1 INTRODUCTION

1

OVERVIEW

- 1.1 This statement supports an application for the demolition of the entrance, office and first aid room providing a new entrance and reception area for Wiltshire School of Gymnastics.
- 1.2 The proposals have been developed in accordance with: CABI's guidance on writing and using Design and Access Statements Wiltshire Council's Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

- 1.3 This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Circular 01/2006 which requires applications to be accompanied by a Design and Access Statement. It also takes account of the advice set out in the CABI publication, "Design & Access Statements - how to write, read and use them".

THE PROPOSAL

- 1.4 This Design and Access Statement supports the planning application for the demolition of the existing entrance structure, construction of a new entrance lobby, and internal refurbishment of the reception area.
- 1.5 The proposal seeks to improve the building's functionality, accessibility, and safety, while aligning with Wiltshire Council's planning policies and design guidance.



2 ASSESSMENT

THE SITE

- 2.1 Bowerhill Industrial Estate is a well-established employment hub located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of Melksham town centre, with direct access from the A350. It hosts a range of industrial and commercial occupiers including Tool Station, Screwfix, Knorr-Bremse, and Herman Miller. The estate plays a vital role in supporting the local economy and is characterised by a mix of warehouse, office, and light industrial units.
- 2.2 The site in question is situated within a busy and active part of the estate, with on-site parking and pedestrian access routes. However, the current entrance arrangement opens directly into the car park, creating potential conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians.
- 2.3 The site is not within an AONB.
- 2.4 The site and its neighbouring dwellings are not listed buildings.
- 2.5 The site is not within a Flood Zone.



2



Site Photos

3 PROPOSAL

3

DESIGN PRINCIPLES & APPROACH

3.1 The proposed works will:

- Source matching materials to make the entrance fit seamlessly with the rest of the building
- Create a better work environment for reception staff to access the office and cupboards
- Feature a new Club Shop for the public
- Provide more sunlight into the entrance and reception area with the use of larger windows
- Maintain a level access to provide accessibility for everyone entering the building
- Enhance the safety of children as part of our duty of care under British Gymnastics Safeguarding

USE, AMOUNT, LAYOUT, SCALE, APPEARANCE

- Use: No change to the building's use
- Amount: Entrance and New reception area replacing the existing entrance, office and first aid.
- Layout: Positions remain unchanged.
- Scale: Entrance and reception area made larger to provide a more welcoming entrance.
- Appearance: Matching materials and detailing to existing building.

ACCESS

Inclusive Access

- 3.2 Level access will be provided at the new entrance. Automatic doors and clear signage will support users with mobility or sensory impairments. The reception desk will be designed to accommodate wheelchair users.

Pedestrian and Vehicular Separation

- 3.3 The new layout will clearly separate pedestrian routes from vehicular areas. Wayfinding improvements will guide users safely to and from the building.

LANDSCAPING

- 3.4 Minor Landscaping to the front of the building is proposed to suit the revised access provision.

PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.5 This proposal aligns with the following Wiltshire Council planning policies:

Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015) and emerging Wiltshire Local Plan: Supports sustainable development, improved accessibility, and high-quality design.

- 3.6 Wiltshire Design Guide (2024): Emphasises the importance of movement, public space, and inclusive design. The guide encourages developments that promote pedestrian safety and well-being through thoughtful layout and access strategies.
- 3.7 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Advocates for developments that are safe, inclusive, and sustainable, with clear pedestrian routes and access for all users.

4 DESIGN

4

THE DESIGN

4.1 The main design factors that were considered are:

- Maintaining the same brick and simplistic look of the building from the outside
- A front porch entrance with level access making the building accessible for everyone.
- Large windows providing direct sunlight into the building.
- A larger reception area that benefits staff and public and will enhance the user experience when the centre hosts large competitions.
- A modern reception area with an easier to use desk, replacing the existing curved desk.
- An enclosed office area to provide a quiet workspace and space for meetings.

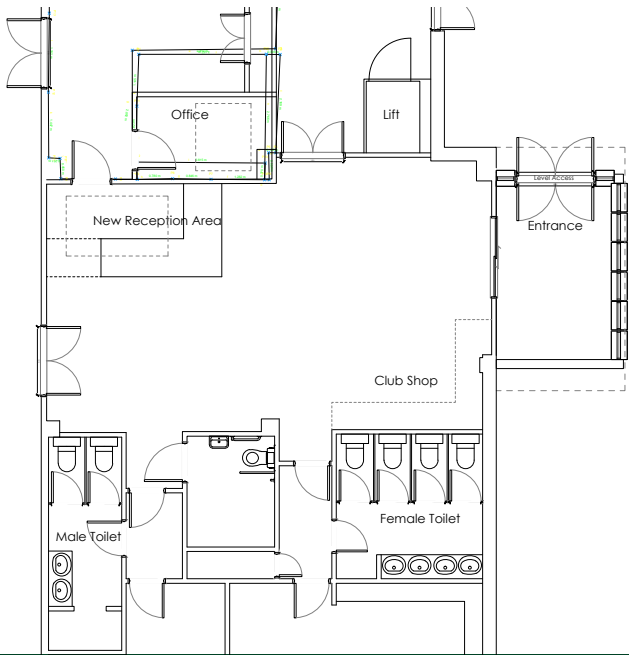


Front Elevation



Side Elevation

Side Elevation



Proposed Elevations, Floor Plan & Internal Model

5 SUMMARY

5

SUMMARY

- 5.1 This development represents a thoughtful and policy-compliant enhancement to the building's entrance and reception area. It improves safety, accessibility, and user experience, while aligning with Wiltshire Council's strategic priorities for sustainable and inclusive design.