



Guidance Note
Multi Use Games Areas in Rural Settlements in the South West

Background

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) are a cost effective way of providing for a range of sport and recreational activities on one site. They are of value in both urban areas, where land is often of a premium, as well as in rural areas, where rural communities which do not have convenient access to the same range of opportunities normally found in larger settlements may benefit from relatively basic local 'multi-sport' provision.

As part of it's work on developing a new Regional Plan for Sport, Sport England (South West) commissioned some research to establish the level of provision of MUGAs in all rural parishes of between 1,000 and 5,000 population. This research was completed prior to the launch of the Regional Plan in March 2004, and since then further analysis of the results has been carried out to enable Sport England to provide some regional guidance on future needs in the rural parts of the region.

For the purpose of this guidance, a MUGA is defined as:

"A fenced, non-turf surfaced area, marked out and an adequate size for at least two of the following sports: tennis, netball, basketball and 5 a side football."

Purpose of this Guidance Note

The Regional Plan for Sport 2004-2008 contains a specific proposal (AL7) which aims to:

"Develop a better system of open access facilities for play and sport."

The Regional Plan suggests that all communities over 1,000 population should benefit from such provision. This guidance focuses on current provision of MUGAs in all parishes of between 1,000 and 5,000 population – this is the size of settlement which should normally be able to justify and sustain a MUGA, but which is often too small to warrant other multi-sport facilities facilities, such as a sports hall or a floodlit synthetic turf pitch.

It should be acknowledged that, for a variety of reasons, some settlements falling into this category will not require a MUGA (for example it may already have a good range of indoor and outdoor facilities) or may not physically have a the ability to accommodate a MUGA due to topography, planning restrictions, etc.

It should also be acknowledged that many existing MUGAs would not meet the Regional Plan objective of providing 'open access / free-play' facilities, as many are operated and managed for formal use through some form of booking system. However, this guidance is aimed at providing only an initial guide to possible future priorities for MUGA provision in rural settlements, with the intention of seeking more 'open access/free play' type facilities as and when new opportunities arise.

This Guidance Note, therefore, is aimed at providing an initial indication to local authorities and other providers as to the type of settlements within each local authority area which Sport England's research suggests could usefully be considered for new/improved MUGA provision. It is suggested that this be taken into account by local authorities undertaking local needs assessments, and drawing up future facility strategies. Opportunities for the funding of future MUGA provision in rural areas

could be considered as part of local authorities work on formulating a Supplementary Planning Document for developer contributions to sport and recreation provision.

Explanation of the County Schedules and Maps

In order to be able to identify those rural settlements which are relatively 'remote' in terms of access to the type of multi-sport opportunities found in larger towns and cities, an analysis of accessibility has been undertaken. This has involved plotting the following information onto maps for each county (these are available on request).

- **Parish population bands** (those with a population of between 1,000 and 5,000 are shown as dark green – these are the parishes subject to this guidance). In the South West there are some **424** parishes within this population band.
- **Existing MUGAs** – only those within parishes of between 1,000 and 5,000 population are identified. Existing floodlit MUGAs are shown as orange stars on the maps, and no-floodlit MUGAs as smaller black stars.
- **Catchment Areas for Sports Halls and Synthetic Turf Pitches** – by plotting the 10 minute drive time catchment areas for all existing community sports halls and publicly available floodlit synthetic turf pitches, an indication can be given as to the relative accessibility of these parishes to multi sport opportunities. It is therefore possible to identify those parishes which are less accessible to wider sporting opportunities than those which are in closer proximity to facilities in the larger towns and cities.

Using this information, a schedule for each county has been produced, which lists the following (by district/unitary authority area):

- **Priority 1 Parishes** – these have been identified on the basis that they do not have an existing MUGA, and they are further than a 10 minute drive of an existing sports hall or synthetic turf pitch. They are therefore more likely to warrant locally accessible multi sport opportunities, unless further analysis shows this not to be the case (eg a reasonable level of provision already exists). A total of **160** 'Priority 1' Parishes have been identified across the region (representing 38% of all parishes of between 1,000 and 5,000 population).
- **Priority 2 Parishes** – these have been identified on the basis that they do not have an existing MUGA, but are within a 10 minute drive of an existing sports hall or synthetic turf pitch. Therefore they are likely have relatively better opportunities for access to multi sport opportunities, although further analysis may show this not to be the case (eg poor public transport links to nearby facilities). A total of **185** 'Priority 2' Parishes have been identified across the region (representing 44% of all parishes of between 1,000 and 5,000 population).
- **Existing MUGA Provision** – only those located in parishes of between 1,000 and 5,000 population are listed, whether floodlit or non-floodlit. A total of **79** parishes (18% of parishes of this size) have an existing MUGA. Of these 40 are floodlit and 39 are not floodlit. It is important to note that the schedules only relate to settlements of this size – many other MUGAs exist in settlements larger than this (ie market towns and the main towns and cities) as well as in some smaller parishes of less than 1,000 population.

- **Projects being progressed at present** – where Sport England is aware of current funding proposals for new MUGAs in these settlements, these are shown with an asterisk. However, there may be others currently being developed which we are not yet aware of.

SOUTH WEST REGION:
EXISTING MUGA PROVISION IN RURAL PARISHES OF BETWEEN 1,000 AND 5,000
POPULATION

LOCAL AUTHORITY	PARISHES WITH EXISTING MUGA PROVISION		PARISHES WITHOUT EXISTING MUGA PROVISION	TOTAL NO. PARISHES (1,000 – 5,000 POPN)
	Floodlit	Non-floodlit		
Avon Unitaries	4 (9%)	2 (4%)	38 (86%)	44
Cornwall	8 (11%)	5 (7%)	62 (83%)	75
Devon	7 (8%)	9 (11%)	67 (81%)	83
Dorset	2 (6%)	3 (9%)	30 (86%)	35
Gloucestershire	4 (7%)	3 (5%)	50 (88%)	57
Somerset	11 (16%)	8 (11%)	51 (73%)	70
Wiltshire	4 (7%)	9 (15%)	47 (78%)	60
SW Total	40 (9%)	39 (9%)	345 (81%)	424

Conclusion

This Guidance has been produced to assist local authorities and other providers to identify those rural settlements in their areas which are most likely to be able to justify and sustain future MUGA provision. It is intended to provide only a starting point for further investigation as part of a local needs assessment and in identifying future priorities in a local sports strategy. It is hoped that this will lead to more authorities seeking developer contributions for such provision through the land use planning system.

Demand for MUGA provision is also likely to be forthcoming from settlements smaller than 1,000 population, as well as from settlements larger than 5,000 population, and these should continue to be progressed where a good case can be made. However, in order to help address the issue of access to multi sport opportunities in rural areas, it is hoped that this guidance will assist in improving the situation for residents of medium sized villages which currently lack easy access to multi-sport provision.

It is intended to review this guidance periodically, and therefore any comments on the accuracy of the schedules would be welcome, as changes can be incorporated into future updates. Please forward any comments to: martin.drennan@sportengland.org.

**PRIORITIES FOR MUGA PROVISION IN RURAL PARISHES OF
BETWEEN 1,000 AND 5,000 POPULATION**

FORMER AVON

LOCAL AUTHORITY	PRIORITY 1 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Beyond 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PRIORITY 2 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Within 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PARISHES WITH EXISTING MUGA PROVISION	
			Floodlit	Non-floodlit
Bath & North East Somerset	Cameley Clutton High Littleton Paulton Publow & Pensford Timsbury	Bathampton Bathford Chew Magna Saltford Stowey Sutton Whitchurch	Batheaston Farmborough	
Bristol				
North Somerset	Blagdon Winscombe & Sandford Wrington	Backwell Bleadon Easton-in-Gordano Hutton Kewstoke Locking Long Ashton St Georges Wick St Lawrence Winford Wraxall & Failand	Churchill Congresbury (x2)	
South Gloucestershire	Hawkesbury Marshfield Wickwar	Alveston Charfield Olveston Pilning & Severn Beach Pucklechurch Siston Sodbury Westerleigh Wick & Abson		Almonds- bury Iron Acton

**PRIORITIES FOR MUGA PROVISION IN RURAL PARISHES OF
BETWEEN 1,000 AND 5,000 POPULATION**

CORNWALL

LOCAL AUTHORITY	PRIORITY 1 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Beyond 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PRIORITY 2 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Within 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PARISHES WITH EXISTING MUGA PROVISION	
			Floodlit	Non-floodlit
Caradon	Deviack Lansallos Lanteglos Linkinhorne Maker with Rame Millbrook Pelynt St Germans St Ive	Dobwalls and Trewidland	Callington Menheniot St Cleer	
Carrick	Chacewater Cubert Feock Gwennap Ladock Perranworthal St Just-in-Roseland	Kea Kenwyn Mylor St Erme	St Clement	Probus St Newlyn E
Kerrier	Constantine Crowan Mawnan Mullion St Keverne Stithians	Breage Budock Carharrack Lanner Mabe Porthleven Portreath St Day St Gluvias	Wendron	Grade Ruan
North Cornwall	Kilkhampton Padstow St Merryn St Endellion St Minver Lowlands Tintagel	Camelford Lanivet St Kew St Teath		Stoke- Climsland
Penwith	Perranuthnoe St Buryan St Erth	Gwinear-Gwithian Ludgvan Madron Marazion	St Just	
Restormel	Lostwithiel Luxulyan Mawgan-in-Pydar Mevagissey St Enoder St Goran	Colan St Mewan Tywardreath	St Dennis Roche	Fowey

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DEVON

LOCAL AUTHORITY	PRIORITY 1 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Beyond 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PRIORITY 2 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Within 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PARISHES WITH EXISTING MUGA PROVISION	
			Floodlit	Non-floodlit
East Devon	Beer Budleigh Salterton Dunkeswell Feniton	Broadclyst Colyton Lypstone Uplyme Whimple	Newton-Poppleford	Woodbury
Exeter City				
Mid Devon	Bampton Bow Halberton Hemyock Sampford Peverell Uffculme	Bradninch Crediton Hamlets Sandford Willand		Silverton
North Devon	Coombe Martin Georgeham Lynton & Lynmouth Mortehoe North Molton Swimbridge Witheridge	Bishops Tawton Heanton Punchardon Landkey South Molton Tawstock	Chulmleigh	
Plymouth City				
South Hams	Cornwood / Harford Kingswear Modbury Newton & Noss Salcombe Stokenham	Bickleigh Brixton Dartington Harberton Marldon Sparkwell Stoke Gabriel Ugborough Wembury	South Brent	Stoke-Fleming Yealmtton
Teignbridge	Bishopsteignton Buckfastleigh Hennock Ilsington Ipplepen Tedburn St Mary	Ashburton / Buckland Exminster Kingskerswell Ogwell Shaldon Starcross	Abbotskerswell Moretonham-pstead	Chudleigh Kenton
Torbay				
Torridge	Bradworthy Hartland		Winkleigh Woolfardis-worthy	Holsworthy
West Devon	Buckland Monachorum Chagford Dartmoor Forest Horrabridge North Tawton South Tawton	Lifton		Bere Ferrers Hatherleigh

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BETWEEN 1,000 AND 5,000 POPULATION**

DORSET

LOCAL AUTHORITY	PRIORITY 1 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Beyond 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PRIORITY 2 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Within 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PARISHES WITH EXISTING MUGA PROVISION	
			Floodlit	Non-floodlit
Bournemouth				
Christchurch				Burton
East Dorset	Alderholt Holt Sixpenny Handley Sturminster Marshall	West Parley		
North Dorset	Child Okeford Milborne St Andrew Tarrant Monkton	Blandford St Mary Charlton Marshall Motcombe Sturminster Newton	Stalbridge	Marnhull
Poole				
Purbeck	Bere Regis Corfe Castle Wool	Arne Lytchett Matravers		Wareham St Martin
West Dorset	Broadmayne Broadwindsor Charminster Charmouth Crossways Yetminster	Bothenhampton Bradford Abbas Bradpole Lyme Regis Netherbury Symondsburly	Beaminster Puddletown	
Weymouth				

**PRIORITIES FOR MUGA PROVISION IN RURAL PARISHES OF
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GLOUCESTERSHIRE

LOCAL AUTHORITY	PRIORITY 1 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Beyond 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PRIORITY 2 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Within 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PARISHES WITH EXISTING MUGA PROVISION	
			Floodlit	Non-floodlit
Cheltenham		Swindon Up Hatherley		
Cotswold	Blockley Bourton-on-the-Water Northleach South Cerney Stow-on-the-Wold	Avening Chipping Campden Fairford Kempsford Mickleton Moreton-in-Marsh Siddington	Lechlade	
Forest of Dean	Awre Dymock Longhope Ruardean St Briavels Westbury on Severn	Drybrook Littledean Lydbrook Ruspidge & Soudley Woolaston	Newnham	Mitcheldean
Gloucester City				
Stroud	Berkeley Bisley with Lypiatt Frampton on Severn Minchinhampton Slimbridge Woodchester	Eastington Kings Stanley Kingswood Painswick Randwick Thrupp Uley Upton St Leonards Whiteshill & Ruscombe	Hamfallow	Hinton Leonard-Stanley
Tewkesbury		Badgeworth Great Witcombe Highnam Hucclecote Innsworth Longford Shrudington Walton Cardiff Winchcombe Woodmancote	Twynning	

**PRIORITIES FOR MUGA PROVISION IN RURAL PARISHES OF
BETWEEN 1,000 AND 5,000 POPULATION**

SOMERSET

LOCAL AUTHORITY	PRIORITY 1 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Beyond 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PRIORITY 2 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Within 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PARISHES WITH EXISTING MUGA PROVISION	
			Floodlit	Non-floodlit
Mendip	Evercreech* Meare	Chilcompton* Rodney Stoke St Cuthbert Out Walton* Wookey	Coleford	Ashwick
Sedgemoor	Ashcott Brent Knoll East Huntspill Pawlett* Woolavington	Axbridge Berrow Cannington Cheddar East Brent Nether Stowey Puriton Shipham Spaxton Wedmore Wembdon Westonzoyland*		Mark West-Huntspill
South Somerset	Abbas & Templecombe Castle Cary East Coker Henstridge Ilchester Ilminster* Kingsbury Episcopi South Petherton West Coker	Barwick Combe St Nicholas Langport Martock Merriot Tatworth & Forton	Ansford Bruton (x2) Huish-Episcopi Stoke-sub-Hamdon Wincanton	Bruton Curry Rivel Milborne-Port Somerton
Taunton Deane	North Curry	Cheddon Fitzpaine Creech St Michael Milverton Norton Fitzwarren Ruishton Staplegrove Trull West Monkton	Bishops-Lideard Wiveliscombe	Bishops Hull
West Somerset	Dulverton* Old Cleeve Williton*		Porlock Stogursey Watchet	

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WILTSHIRE

LOCAL AUTHORITY	PRIORITY 1 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Beyond 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PRIORITY 2 PARISHES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without existing MUGA (floodlit or non-floodlit) ▪ Within 10 min drive of an existing community sports hall or floodlit synthetic turf pitch 	PARISHES WITH EXISTING MUGA PROVISION	
			Floodlit	Non-floodlit
Kennet	Burbage Great Bedwyn Netheravon Ramsbury	Bishops Canning Bromham Ludgershall Potterne Roundway Rowde West Lavington	Pewsey	Aldbourn Market-Lavington Seend Upavon
North Wilts	Ashton Keynes Hullavington Lyneham & Bradenstoke Minety Purton / Braydon Sherston	Calne Without Chippenham Without Cricklade Langley Burrell Lydiard Millicent St Paul Malmebury	Box Crudwell	Brinkworth Colerne Malmesbury
Salisbury	Idmiston Landford Mere Redlynch Shrewton Whiteparish Winterslow	Alderbury Downton Laverstock Tisbury Wilton Winterbourne		Bulford Donhead St Mary
Swindon		Chiseldon Covington Wanborough		
West Wiltshire		Atworth Bratton Dilton Marsh Hilperton North Bradley Southwick Westwood Winsley	Holt	