

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 22 November 2025 18:52

**To:** Section 62A Applications Non Major <section62anonmajor@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Planning Objection - Application ref S62A/2025/0133 (Stoke Lodge Playing Fields) - Against

Dear Sir/Madam

**Application ref S62A/2025/0133 (Stoke Lodge Playing Fields) - Against**

I am writing with reference to the Application for planning permission for works to install 8no. CCTV poles and cameras at the following site address:

Stoke Lodge Sports Ground, Shirehampton Road, Sea Mills, Bristol BS9 2BH

I write to you as a resident, neighbouring Stoke Lodge with my property backing on to the proposed site for camera [REDACTED] in the application. I oppose the application for a number of reasons.

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- There is no legal requirement for a school to install CCTV on playing fields; such an
- installation is not proportionate to the risk of safeguarding students and staff in an area with a very low crime rate.
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- The planned installation will infringe on the privacy of neighbouring properties as well
- as those using the space.
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- The planned position of at least one, possibly two of the camera poles obstructs the
- PROW across Stoke Lodge.
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Looking at each point in turn:

- 1.
- 2.
3. **CCTV cameras and perimeter fencing is not proportionate to risk**
- 4.
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- KCSIE does not require that a site used for school playing fields be fenced or possess
- CCTV coverage in order to safeguard students. None of the clauses relating to safeguarding of students away from school site refer to the 'requirement' to film students, staff and passers by for safeguarding purposes. Schools are required to take reasonable
- and proportionate actions to protect their students, the installation of 24/7 CCTV cameras is not proportionate or appropriate for safeguarding.
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- Since living on [REDACTED], I have not been aware of any situations on the playing fields or in the nearby properties that have given me any concern for my children and their safeguarding
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- Other schools in the area, including Bristol Free School, use a public site for their PE lessons without the need for a fence or CCTV coverage - I fail to see how the requirements are different for Cotham School's use of Stoke Lodge playing fields less than 2 miles away from Bristol Free School and the playing fields they use at the Greenway Centre where the recorded crime rate is double that of Stoke Lodge. (According to crime rates reported for the postcodes of the two school playing field sites, Stoke Lodge has recorded 50% fewer crimes overall in the last 12 months than the site at Greenway with anti-social behaviour 56% lower and criminal damage/arson 92% lower (ADT))
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- From experience the school uses the site for about 8-10 hours per week and then predominantly
- uses the top end of the field (the sloping nature of the bottom end of the field does not lend itself to even sports pitches)
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4. **Infringement of privacy**

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- My property backs onto the site of the proposed area for Camera [REDACTED] (I note that the site for this specific camera differs on different plans and so the exact location for this camera pole is unclear). The proposed 6 metre pole with 3 cameras will have the capability of looking directly into our garden and more worryingly into our family bathroom,
- our bedroom and my teenage daughter's bedroom. The cameras will be able to have a 360 view with great clarity ( 3 x 5 megapixels allows the cameras to be able to recognise faces and details such as clothing and therefore potentially detect when we are getting
- dressed/undressed in the 'privacy' of our own home). My understanding is that the proposed cameras will also have infra-red/night vision capability which means that they will be heat sensitive and therefore able to detect and film us in our house at night.
- There is no legitimate reason for capturing images of my property, garden or residents.
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- There is no clarity about who will be accessing the footage and how the privacy settings will be set up. My understanding is that when an automatic software update occurs the default settings will reset meaning that even if the cameras are set to face the field when set up, this will be overridden each time the software is updated. As residents
- we will not be able to check the privacy settings of the cameras. Based on previous incidents when the school had a CCTV camera filming on site without any appropriate signage or notification, I do not feel reassured that the school will follow the required data privacy legislation. including

- the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, as the footage captures personal data
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- Finally, the proposed cameras around the field will impact on the privacy of all users of the site. This means that all members of the public including children will be filmed when using the site, which based on the low crime rate in the area is entirely disproportionate to the risk.
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5. **Planning**

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- My understanding is that the 4 PROW across Stoke Lodge are not properly marked on the plan as required by DEFRA circular 1/09 in paragraph # 7.4. Given this omission, and the fact that at least one of the camera poles (camera 5) and possibly a second (camera 4) obstruct the PROW, the position of the current fenceline may need to be moved if
- the Planning Inspectorate adds these paths to the Definitive Map. Since the proposed sites for the CCTV poles are positioned on or near the fence lines, CCTV cameras will likely need to be relocated
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- The site at Stoke Lodge playing fields is designated as Important Open Space. Bristol's current policy DM17 states that the development on part or all of an Important Open Space will not be permitted unless it is ancillary to the open space use. CCTV coverage of the entire site on a 24/7 basis cannot be defined as being ancillary to the open
- space use of the land.
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In summary, I strongly object to the proposed application on the grounds outlined in detail above. I respectfully request that the application to install 24 CCTV cameras at Stoke Lodge playing fields by Cotham School is refused.

Kind regards

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