

## Client Details

Hensingham ARLFC

### Care of

Mr Ricky Fee,  
Stobbarts Ltd.  
Tam Howe, Lakes Road,  
Workington,  
CA14 3YP

## Prepared By

Terezia Holecova

### On behalf of

Day Cummins Ltd.  
Unit 4A Lakeland Business Park  
Lamplugh Road  
Cockermouth  
Cumbria  
CA13 0QT

Telephone: 01900 820700

Email: [dc@day-cummins.co.uk](mailto:dc@day-cummins.co.uk)

Web: [www.day-cummins.co.uk](http://www.day-cummins.co.uk)

## Project Details

File Ref: 6210

Date Issued: July 2026

FOR THE

## PROPOSED CHANGING FACILITIES

AT



**HENSINGHAM ARLFC,  
CLEATOR MOOR ROAD,  
HENSINGHAM,  
WHITEHAVEN,  
CA28 8TX**

## **1.0 Introduction**

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared by Day Cummins Ltd. on behalf of our clients, Hensingham ARLFC, care of Mr Ricky Fee, Stobbart Ltd. In support for the construction of new changing room facilities.

The proposal seeks planning permission for the erection of a purpose-built changing facility comprising four changing rooms together with associated showers, toilets, officials changing facilities, plant and storage rooms.

The development responds to a clearly identified need arising from the sustained growth of the club in recent years. Membership has increased significantly, particularly within the junior sections and the rapidly expanding girls' and women's teams. This growth reflects the success of the club's development programmes and increasing demand for community sport within the local area.

The following statement is intended to provide additional information regarding the site context and the design approach to the proposed development, and to demonstrate the way that the scale, massing and materiality of the scheme are appropriate to the context.

## **2.0 Site Context**

### **2.1 Site Description**

The application site forms part of the established Hensingham ARLFC sports ground located within Hensingham, Cumbria.

The site comprises existing rugby pitches together with clubhouse facilities, parking areas, hardstanding and associated sports infrastructure. The wider surroundings comprise recreational land together with residential development, established community facilities, and industrial use. The Whitehaven Academy is also adjacent to the club.

The proposed building is located within the existing operational area of the rugby club and will function as ancillary accommodation directly supporting the established sporting use of the ground.

### **2.2 Planning Policy**

National planning policy supports the provision and improvement of community sports facilities where they promote healthy lifestyle and social wellbeing.

The proposed development contributes positively towards these objectives by improving existing sporting infrastructure and ensuring the long-term sustainability of an established community sports club.

The proposal also supports wider objectives relating to:

- Promoting healthy lifestyles
- Increasing participation in sport

- Encouraging participation by girls/women
- Improving accessibility
- Strengthening community facilities
- Supporting sustainable communities

The development therefore represents an investment in social infrastructure which delivers significant community benefits.

## **2.3 Scope for Development**

Hensingham ARLFC has experienced sustained growth in recent years.

Particular success has been achieved through the continued expansion of the youth section together with a rapidly growing girls' rugby programme. The club now accommodates significantly more members than when the existing changing accommodation was originally constructed.

As participation has increased, a growing mismatch has developed between the number of users and the capacity of the current facilities. The existing changing rooms are outdated, undersized, unable to comfortably accommodate current numbers, and lacking modern accessibility standards.

Without investment, these shortcomings will increasingly constrain participation, reduce the quality of the players experience and limit the club's ability to continue growing.

The proposed development directly addresses these issues through the provision of four modern changing rooms designed to modern standards.

The project has been informed through feasibility work assessing site options, design solutions, project viability and future operational requirements, ensuring the proposed building represents an appropriate long-term solution.

## **2.4 Community Benefits**

The proposal delivers substantial public benefits extending beyond the physical building itself.

The new facility will remove one of the principal barriers to participation currently experienced by the club.

The proposal will provide safe and equitable facilities for everyone using the club.

Improved accommodation will enhance the overall player experience, encourage continued participation and support wider public health objectives through increased involvement in organised sport.

## 3.0 Design

### 3.1 Design Principles

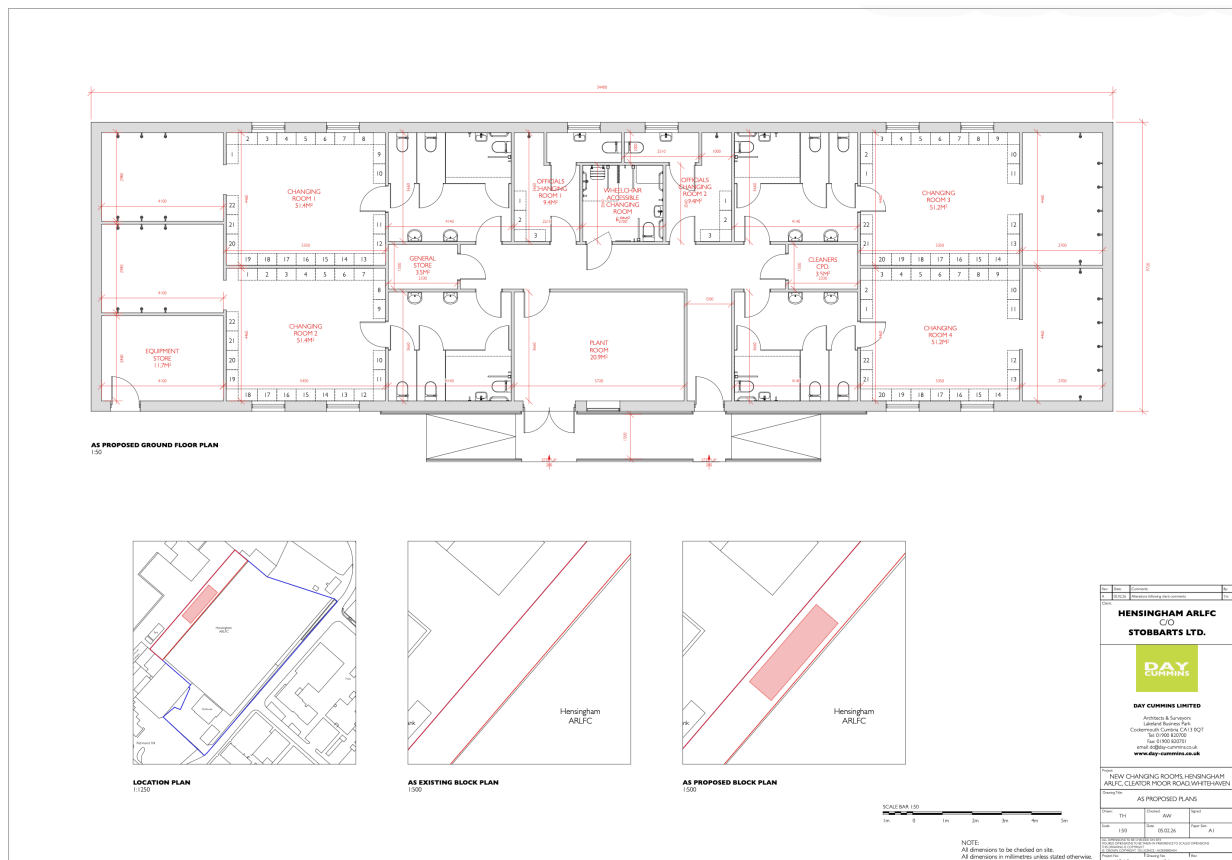
The design has been created to produce a simple and robust building which fulfils its functional purpose whilst sitting comfortable within the existing sports complex.

As an ancillary building serving the rugby pitch, the architecture intentionally adopts a restrained and practical appearance.

The building has been designed with simplicity of form, durability, ease of maintenance, and accessibility in mind. And the proposal avoids unnecessary architectural complexity in favour of a clean contemporary appearance appropriate to a community sports facility.

### 3.2 Layout

The internal layout has been carefully planned to provide efficient circulation and ease of use whilst abiding by Sport England's Changing Room Design Guidance 2025.



The facility includes:

- Four changing rooms
- Shower facilities
- WC accommodation
- Officials' changing facilities

- Accessible facilities
- Plant room
- Storage rooms
- Associated circulation and service spaces

The layout enables teams to move efficiently between changing accommodation and adjacent playing pitches whilst providing clear separation where required.

The building has been designed to support match days, training sessions and community events throughout the year.

### 3.3 Scale and Massing

The building adopts a simple rectangular dorm with a modest overall height.

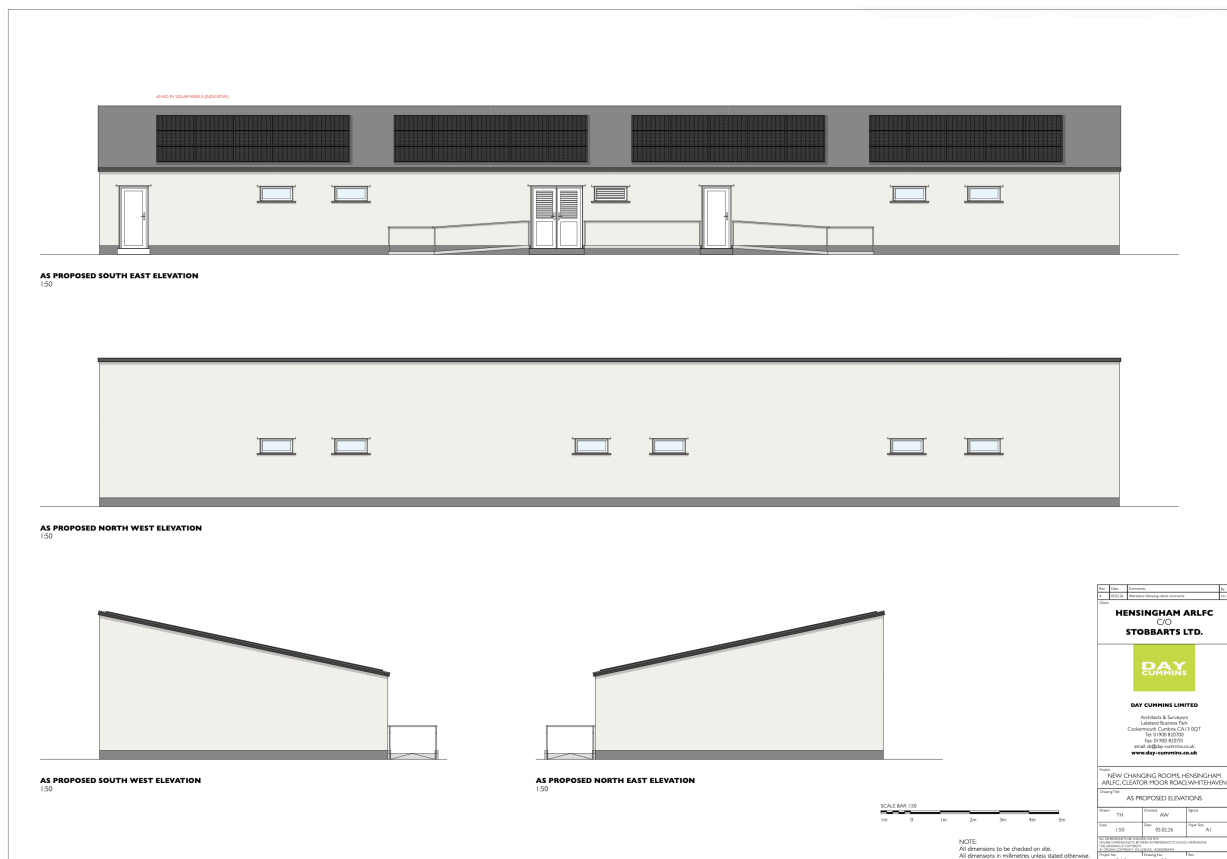
It's scale has been carefully considered to ensure it remains appropriate within the established sports complex and does not dominate surrounding development.

The massing reflects the functional requirements of the accommodation whilst maintaining an appropriate relationship with nearby buildings and open playing fields.

The proposal is therefore considered proportionate to both the site and its intended use.

### 3.4 Appearance and Materials

The external appearance has deliberately been kept simple.



The principal wall finish comprises smooth off-white render. The roof will be constructed using powder coated profiled steel sheeting.

These materials have been selected as they offer long-term durability, low maintenance, and suitability for the sports environment.

The restricted palette ensures the building remains visually subservient within the landscape whilst presenting an attractive civic appearance.

## **4.0 Access**

### **4.1 Inclusive Design**

The proposed development has been designed to ensure that the facilities are accessible to all members of the community.

The building will provide:

- Level access wherever practicable
- Accessible entrances
- Compliant circulation routes
- Accessible WC facilities
- Inclusive changing accommodation
- Part M and K compliant accessible ramps

The development supports equal access for players, officials, volunteers and visitors regardless of age or physical ability.

### **4.2 Vehicular Access**

The proposal will utilise the existing vehicular access arrangements serving Hensingham ARLFC.

No alterations are proposed to the established highway access. Existing parking provision will continue to serve the club.

Given that the proposal replaces inadequate facilities rather than significantly increasing site activity, no unacceptable impacts upon the local highway network are anticipated.

### **4.3 Pedestrian Access**

Safe pedestrian routes already exist throughout the sports complex linking parking areas, the clubhouse and the playing pitch.

The proposed building integrates into these existing circulation routes without requiring significant alterations.

## 5.0 Conclusion

This application seeks permission for the construction of four new changing rooms and associated welfare facilities at Hensingham ARLFC.

The proposal has been developed in response to a clearly evidenced need arising from sustained membership growth, particularly within the club's youth and girls' sections. Existing facilities no longer provide sufficient capacity or an appropriate standard of accommodation for current users and are increasingly limiting the club's ability to continue expanding.

The proposed building has been carefully designed to provide a simple facility using off-white-coloured rendered walls and a powder coated profiled steel roof. Its functionality integrates successfully within the existing rugby complex.

The development will deliver modern, accessible and inclusive facilities that support the involvement and improve the experience of the players and officials. It will provide lasting benefits to the club and the wider community.

For these reasons, the proposed development is considered to represent sustainable development that is appropriate in terms of design, accessibility and community benefit, and planning permission is respectfully sought.