

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT JULY 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation Turf
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide
BAFA	British American Football Association
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NC	Netball Club
NGB(s)	National Governing Body (of sport)
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf pitch
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned to undertake a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Rugby Borough Council. This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting relevant provision within the local authority area.

This report, known as the Assessment Report, presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in the area. For playing pitch sports, it is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance. This details five stages for the developing the study:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (1)
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (2 & 3)
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (4, 5 & 6)
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (7 & 8)
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (9 & 10)

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the following strategy document and Stage E ongoing once the work has been approved.

For "non -pitch" sports, Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG)' is followed. This has a similar staged approach:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together
- ◀ Application: Application of an assessment

1.1: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the Strategy is being developed

The aim of this project is to have an up-to-date PPOSS that reflects the current position and aspirations for Rugby and that can provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting the provision of outdoor sports facilities.

The Council is driving widespread transformation of the whole Borough and due to significant health inequalities across the County, facilitating a more active Borough is at the heart of the change. There is also significant housing developments and population growth across the Borough and it is important that there is a document in place to evidence the need for current and future residents to ensure that they have access to high quality outdoor sports facilities including pitches and similar provision.

As part of planned housing growth across the Borough, there are two large development areas, known as Houlton (circa 6,200 dwellings) and South West Rugby (circa 5,000 dwellings). The PPOSS will provide guidance in relation to these and the level of playing pitch and outdoor sports provision required to service the developments, although planning permission for the Houlton development has already been received.

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The PPOSS will also be one of a suite of documents used as evidence for the Council's Local Plan review. It will provide an update on projects and actions delivered during the life of the existing plan and provide a medium-term strategy in line with the future demand and long-term planning of the Borough's plan. This will enable the document to be utilised to inform policies and allocations

The PPOSS will also meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with paragraph 98 discussing the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 99 discusses assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

Scope

The scope of the PPOSS will focus geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the study are as follows:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Netball courts
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Athletics tracks
- ◀ Tennis courts

In addition, other grass pitch sports are also included where supply and/or demand has been identified. That being said, where no activity has been identified, that is not to say that the sports are not played informally.

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified. The ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

Study area

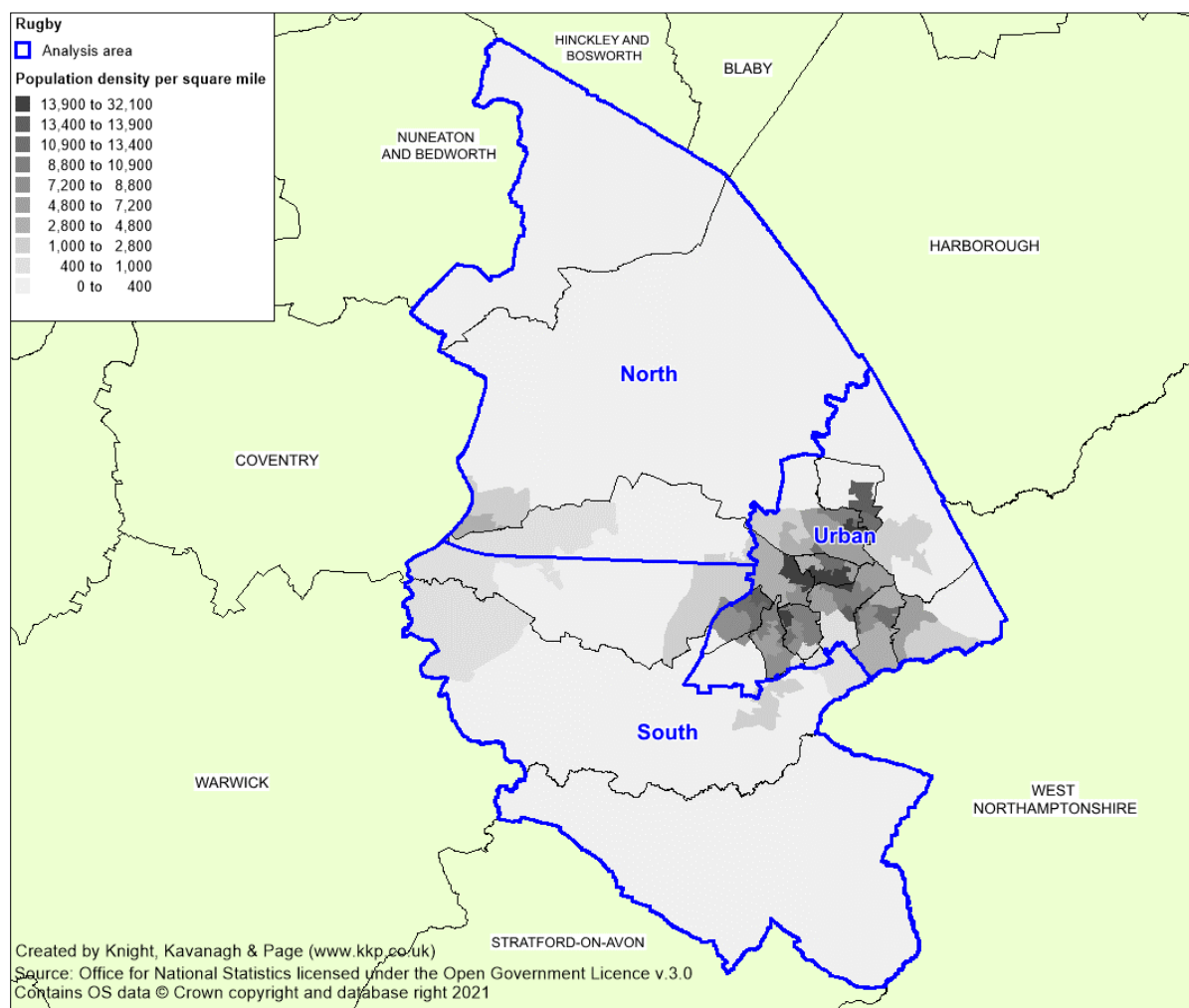
The study area is the entire local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Rugby as a whole. For this purpose, three sub-areas have been created, referred to as follows:

- ◀ North
- ◀ South
- ◀ Urban

The Urban Analysis Area, which incorporates the Town of Rugby, has been extended to incorporate the two large development areas of Houlton and South West Rugby as these are considered to be extensions. The boundaries for the areas, as well as the Borough as a whole, can be seen in the figure below.

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Figure 1.1 Map of Rugby and its analysis areas



In addition, cross-boundary aspects are also recognised in regard to neighbouring local authorities including Coventry, Warwick, Stratford-upon-Avon, West Northamptonshire and Nuneaton & Bedworth. This includes reference to imported and exported demand into and from Rugby as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines.

1.2: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision (Stage B)

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in Rugby is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This has been achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information.

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For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Community availability
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of provision
- ◀ Usage levels

For playing pitch sports, Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2021 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order'.

- ◀ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ◀ **Playing field** – the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, the PPOSS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the playing pitches and relevant outdoor sport facilities within Rugby; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the study where provision is known to exist from other sources e.g. affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision has not been recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Accessibility

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of also influences their actual availability for community use. As such, each site included in the PPOSS is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - provision in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - provision that is available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - provision which as a matter of policy or practice is not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club sites along with some semi-professional club sites where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as lapsed sites.

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In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use is put against each site.

Quality

The capacity of provision to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances, it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of a PPOSS, regardless of ownership, management and availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each pitch/facility. These ratings are then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPOSS refers to playing facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. The age of the facilities can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

Standard quality refers to playing provision that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and the provision of toilets, although some level of improvement/modernisation may be required.

Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, the site assessments for sports played in the winter are conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer have assessments carried out between July and August.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality as well as the Council and relevant NGBs. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this (thus establishing an "agreed quality rating").

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Gather demand information and views

Current demand

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment.

Based on the above, demand for provision in Rugby tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play
- ◀ Unofficial use

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified).

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition.

In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available. Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues from each sport (as identified by the Council and the relevant NGBs), thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and further interrogation of key issues. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including town and parish councils as well as schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for the relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication as to how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). This ratio can then be applied to predicted population and housing growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

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Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- ◀ Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women's and girls activity.

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for Rugby cover the period up until 2040.

1.3: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Stage C)

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision in Rugby and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

Understanding the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions provision could accommodate.

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and rugby union, per day for hockey and per season for cricket and is further detailed in the table below.

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches in match equivalent sessions

Sport	Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Primary pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports-lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts).

Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

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Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a Borough-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e., the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity or whether there is a shortfall of capacity.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity), or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used until they are improved or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to be overcome through better utilising the existing stock, such as through quality improvements or through improving community access.

Once current capacity has been determined, future capacity can then also be calculated via incorporating the future demand that has been identified as well as any unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

The Assessment Report, which is this document, is drafted and presented on a sport-by-sport basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. This focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It is agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.

Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities. Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

1.4: Develop the strategy (Stage D)

The Strategy follows the production of this Assessment Report, once it has been finalised and signed off by the Steering Group. It will feature:

- ◀ **Headline findings**
- ◀ **An overall vision and associated aims for the PPOSS**
- ◀ **Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios**
- ◀ **Strategic recommendations**
- ◀ **A site-by-site and area-by-area Action Plan**
- ◀ **Housing growth scenarios**

Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the PPOSS and keep it robust and up to date (Stage E).

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Birmingham FA is the primary organisation overseeing the development (and some elements of administration) of football in Rugby. It is responsible for growing participation, promoting diversity and regulating the sport for everyone to enjoy.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation, which is a charity, linked to the Premier League, the FA and the Government, that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55
	U13s-U14s	82 x 50
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27

Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football. There is a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, in addition to training needs, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which has now been completed. As part of this, a LFFP has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)) and is delivered through the Football Foundation to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game as well as including strategic priorities for investment across small-sided football (including recreational and indoor activity). The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to using football for behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

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The LFFP is a 'live' document that should be updated following the completion of a PPOSS as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment will be identified via LFFPs.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

The LFFP for Rugby was produced in December 2018 and identifies priority projects for investment. This should be refreshed following the PPOSS based on its findings and recommendations.

Consultation

A total of 39 football clubs play in Rugby, with 21 responding to consultation requests. This equates to a club response rate of 54% and a team response rate of 84%. Most clubs that have not responded are small clubs fielding just one or two teams.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 122 football pitches across 38 sites in Rugby. Of these, 83 pitches are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used) across 27 sites. The majority of unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

Table 2.2: Summary of pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Pitch type					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
North	2	4	2	4	1	13
South	4	5	2	3	-	14
Urban	3	18	9	14	12	56
Rugby	9	27	13	21	13	83

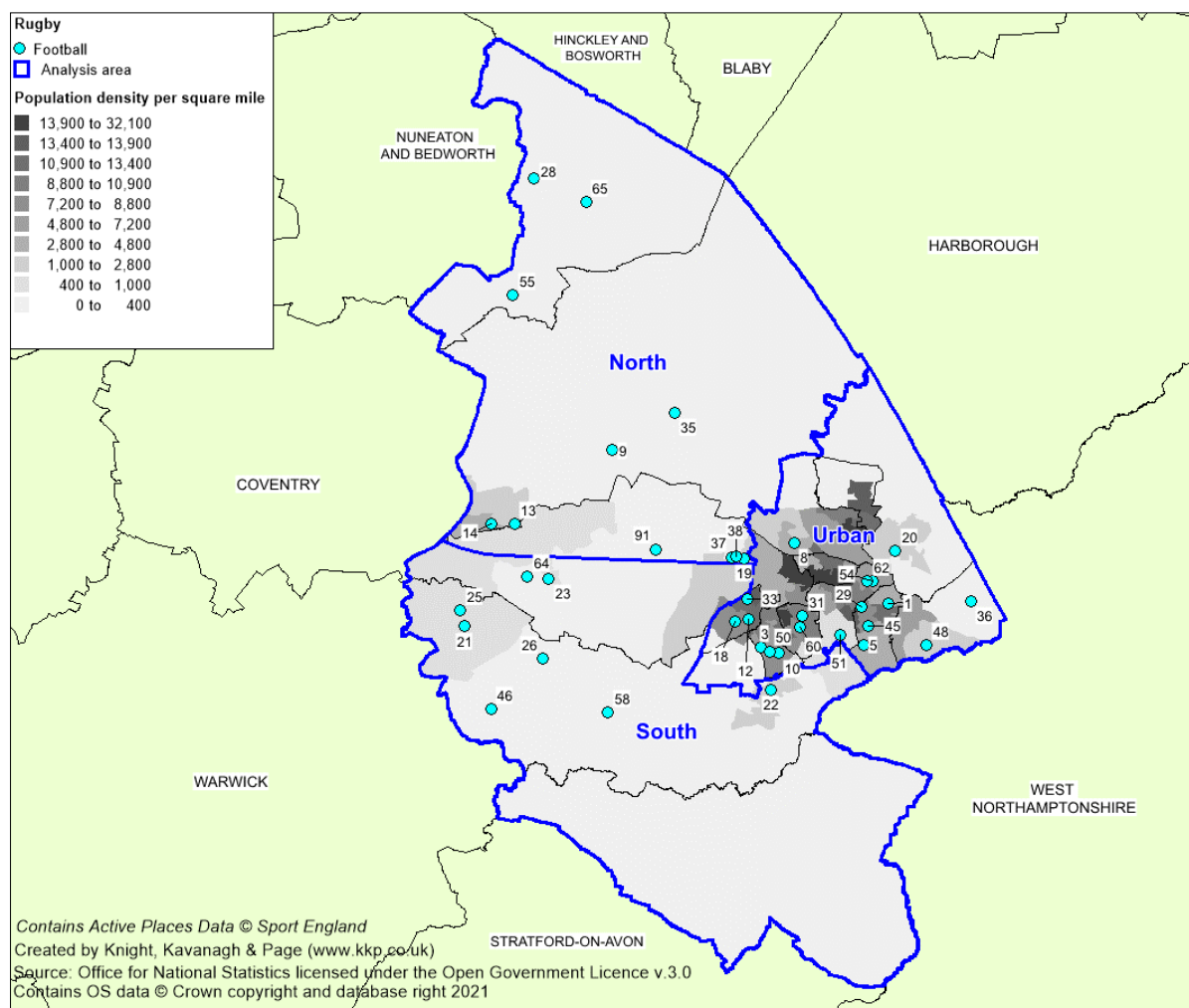
The Urban Analysis Area contains a significantly higher number of pitches than the other two analysis areas, with 56 pitches in total. The North and South analysis areas provide 13 and 14 pitches, respectively.

There is a relatively even split across each pitch type, although the largest number of pitches are identified as youth 11v11 (27 pitches). Adult pitches are the least represented (nine pitches).

Figure 2.1 below identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Rugby, regardless of community use.

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Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in Rugby



Disused provision

Overall, there are 11 disused football pitches identified across five sites in Rugby. In concentration, this breaks down as four disused youth 11v11 pitches, three youth 9v9 pitches, one mini 7v7 pitch and three mini 5v5 pitches.

Exact details surrounding each site are referenced in the table below.

Table 2.3: Disused sites within Rugby for football

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Comments
2	Addison Road	CV22 7DA	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch, last provided <i>circa</i> 2021. Pitches are no longer marked out and grass is overgrown.
7	Avon Mill Recreation Ground	CV21 1DY	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch, last provided <i>circa</i> 2021. Pitches are no longer marked out and grass is overgrown.
27	Frobisher Recreation Ground	CV22 7HY	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch, last provided <i>circa</i> 2019. Pitch is no longer marked out.

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Comments
34	Hillmorton Recreation Ground	CV21 4EN	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and three mini 5v5 pitches. Last provided <i>circa</i> 2019 but no longer marked out.
92	Freemantle Recreation Ground	CV22 7ST	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch, last provided <i>circa</i> 2021. Pitch is no longer marked out.
-	GEC St Modwens	CV21 2EZ	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch, last provided <i>circa</i> 2002. Pitches are no longer marked out and grass is overgrown.

Future provision

Planning permission has been approved for a development in Clifton Upon Dunsmore, situated in the Urban Analysis Area. This includes the proposed creation of three football pitches; consisting of one adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch.

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Rugby is generally secure. A site is thought to reflect a secure tenure if it has a long-term lease or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years. In order to attract external funding, clubs and sites generally need long-term security of tenure. As an example, this is a requirement for Football Foundation investment.

Most local authority sites in Rugby ensure long-term security of tenure as part of the Council's ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offer and are therefore considered to provide security of tenure. In total, 13 responding clubs indicate that they rent use of council-owned pitches, predominately on a seasonal basis.

In addition, three responding clubs own freehold of their home ground, with all three forming part of the wider club that operates Rugby Town Football Club. The individual clubs are Rugby Town FC, Rugby Town Girls FC and Rugby Town Women FC.

Furthermore, three of the responding clubs operate at their home ground via a lease agreement secured via the Council. These form part of a trust at Rugby Borough Sports Trust (Rugby Borough FC, Rugby Borough Royals FC and Rugby Borough Women & Girls FC).

In contrast, tenure is unsecure at most other venues, most notably at education sites where long-term access is not guaranteed. This is the case across education sites in Rugby, even where community use is high, such as at Bilton School, Binley Woods Primary School, Cawston Grange Primary School, Harris Church of England Academy, Princethorpe College and Wolvey Church of England Primary School. Schools that are not governed by the Council (e.g., academies) are able to make their own decisions regarding community use, which is a particular issue given the large number of pitches provided by each. Users of such sites should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to enter into community use agreements that guarantee access beyond the current season.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Rugby has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in Rugby. As seen, most pitches are assessed as standard quality, with 35 being rated as such. Of the remaining pitches, 31 community available pitches assessed as good quality and 17 are assessed as poor.

Table 2.4: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	1	6	2
Youth 11v11	10	10	7
Youth 9v9	5	5	3
Mini 7v7	9	7	5
Mini 5v5	6	7	-
Total	31	35	17

A significant difference in the quality of pitches is identified between the quality scores above and the 2015 PPS; overall, the 2015 study assessed one pitch as poor quality, one pitch as good quality and the remaining 69 pitches as standard quality. Therefore, in comparison, the current PPS findings report an increase of 30 good quality pitches, an increase of 16 poor quality pitches and a reduction of 34 standard quality pitches.

The good quality pitches (community available) are located at:

- ◀ Alwyn Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ GEC Recreation Ground
- ◀ Houlton School
- ◀ Rugby Borough Sports Trust
- ◀ Whinfield Recreation Ground
- ◀ Wolston Leisure & Community Centre

Rugby Borough FC is the only club in Rugby which reports an improvement in the quality of its pitches across recent years, attributing this improvement to its recent Pitch Improvement Grant. All of the pitches at Rugby Borough Sports Trust are now also treated with sand soil due to its previous experiences of flooding.

Coventry City FC (Sky Blue Lodge), Rugby High School for Girls, Rugby School (Springhill Pitches) also offer good quality pitches; however, none are available for community use.

Conversely, poor quality pitches (community available) are located at:

- ◀ Barr Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Cawston Grange Primary School
- ◀ Clifton Upon Dunsmore Playing Field
- ◀ Fetherston Crescent Recreation Ground
- ◀ Harris Church of England School
- ◀ Binley Woods Primary School
- ◀ Church Lawford Football Pitch
- ◀ Dyers Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Fosse Way Park
- ◀ Wolvey Church of England Primary School

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Additionally, Abbots Farm Junior School, Bilton Church of England Junior School, Henry Hinde Junior School, Long Lawford Primary School and Paddox Primary School off poor quality pitches, although none of which are available for community use.

Although some Council-owned pitches are assessed as poor quality, most are assessed as standard quality when considering the maintenance regime undertaken. As such, the main reasons for pitches being assessed as poor quality relates more so to waterlogging issues and/or unofficial use exacerbating problems due to the open access nature of many sites.

Five clubs report a deterioration in pitch quality over recent years, all of which play at Council operated sites. As an example, Brinklow FC reports that the grass cutting is very irregular at Barr Lane Playing Field and on numerous occasions has not been up to standard when needed.

Lawford United FC also attributes maintenance issues at Cherwell Way to a slight deterioration in pitch quality, despite receiving a good quality assessment.

Hilmorton Juniors, Lawford United FC and Rugby Town football clubs all report that their sites have suffered from vandalism recently, including, Whinfield Recreation Ground, Cherwell Way and Rugby Town Football Club.

Pitch improvement

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (detailed later in this section).

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments, instead being able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: September - October, November – March or April – June.

As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the Football Foundation and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

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Table 2.5: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings.

PQS Rating	PPPOS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	
High	

In Rugby, the following sites have received PitchPower reports:

- ◀ Alwyn Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ GEC Recreation Ground
- ◀ Rugby Town Football Club
- ◀ Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Rugby Borough Sports Trust
- ◀ Whinfield Recreation Ground

These have been accounted for within the PPOSS quality ratings and all the findings align with the exception of Alwyn Road Recreation Ground. Further interrogation is required at this site to determine discrepancy.

In addition to PitchPower, the FA has a general pitch improvement strategy, in partnership with the GMA. As part of this, it has a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice and practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. This is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise local authority-maintained sites.

The Football Foundation and the FA have also recently developed a new Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Whilst local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund, clubs, leagues and/or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

Funding is awarded over a ten-year period for up to 66% of the total cost required to bring the pitches up to an appropriate standard, following a site assessment. The level of funding then decreases year on year, with the expectation that the Club is able to take on the works independently by the end of the term. This fund was initially available until the end of March 2020, although it has since been extended indefinitely due to ongoing circumstances surrounding Covid-19.

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini pitches may be marked onto senior pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, but it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time. There is also one football pitch in Rugby which is marked onto a cricket outfield, which can create availability issues at multi-sport sites as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing, and the football season begins in September as cricket fixtures are still being played.

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The table below highlights all sites containing over marked pitches.

Table 2.6: Sites containing over marked pitches

Site ID	Site	Comments
22	Dunchurch and Bilton Cricket Club	One adult pitch is overmarked on a cricket outfield.
37	King George's Field (Long Lawford)	One youth 9v9 pitch is overmarked by one adult pitch.
48	Rugby Borough Sports Trust	Six mini 5v5 pitches are overmarked by six mini 7v7 pitches.
64	Wolston Leisure & Community Centre	One youth 9v9 pitch is overmarked by one youth 11v11 pitch.

Despite the over markings, none of the sites included in the table above have pitches assessed as poor quality, suggesting that the over marked pitches are being maintained relatively well. However, capacity issues are evident at some of the sites, partly as a consequence of the additional usage.

Ancillary facilities

As with pitch quality, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across Rugby has been assessed on the basis of identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. To that end, ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing.

Overall, 16 pitches in Rugby are not serviced by a clubhouse or changing facilities across the following seven sites:

- ◀ Barr Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Church Lawford Football Pitch
- ◀ Twickenham Playing Fields
- ◀ Cherwell Way
- ◀ Dyers Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Whinfield Recreation Ground

A lack of changing facilities can cause issues, particularly for adult football and women's and girls' football, where adequate provision can be a league requirement. This means that the abovementioned sites may be unusable for some clubs and teams.

The following sites are considered to have poor quality clubhouse facilities:

- ◀ Alwyn Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Fetherston Crescent Recreation Ground
- ◀ Fosse Way Park
- ◀ Shilton Playing Field
- ◀ The Field (Bourton)

The ancillary facilities provided at the aforementioned sites are all outdated and, in some cases, unfit for purpose, most notably at Fosse Way Park and Shilton Playing Field.

Standard quality provision is identified at three sites, with these being Binley Woods Recreation Ground, Clifton Upon Dunsmore Playing Field and Whinfield Recreation Ground, whereas the following sites are considered to offer good quality facilities:

- ◀ Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club
- ◀ King George's Field (Long Lawford)
- ◀ Coventry City FC (Sky Blue Lodge)
- ◀ GEC Recreation Ground
- ◀ Rugby Borough Sports Trust

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◀ Rugby Town Football Club

◀ Wolston Leisure & Community Centre

In addition to site assessments, of the clubs that responded to consultation requests, 43% report they have access to good quality clubhouse and/or changing provision at their respective home venues, whilst standard quality facilities are accessed by 14% of clubs and 29% access poor quality facilities. The remaining 4% report that they are without such ancillary provision.

Away from clubhouse provision, Fosse Way Park and King George's Playing Field (Long Lawford) are both reported to have inadequate car parking facilities during peak times when several matches are scheduled at the same time. Furthermore, Binley Woods Recreation Ground, Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Field, Fetherston Crescent Recreation Ground and The Field (Bourton) all offer no dedicated car parking facilities.

Football pyramid demand

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. These are then supported by regional feeder leagues, which were previously at Step 7 of the pyramid but are now not included.

The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top. Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements.

Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 6 clubs.

The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they have to achieve the appropriate grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. This, however, does not apply to clubs being promoted to Step 6 (as they must meet requirements immediately).

In Rugby, Rugby Town FC operate within the football pyramid at Step 5 level, playing in the United Counties League Premier Division South.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System similar to the adult men's which provide structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Although women's clubs still require to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

In Rugby, Coventry City Girls FC, Rugby Borough Women FC and Rugby Town Women FC operate in the Women's National League System at Tier 6 level. Below is a summary of the clubs competing in the Women's National League system.

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Table 2.7: Summary of teams playing within the Women’s National League System

Team	League	Level
Coventry City Girls FC	West Midlands Regional Women's Football League – Division One North	Tier 6
Rugby Borough Women FC	West Midlands Regional Women's Football League – Division One South	Tier 6
Rugby Town Women FC	West Midlands Regional Women's Football League – Division One South	Tier 6

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 230 teams across 39 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Rugby. This consists of 42 senior men’s, six senior women’s, 78 youth boys’, 21 youth girls’ and 83 mini soccer teams (including any designated girls only mini teams).

Table 2.8: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Rugby

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
North	7	7	7	5	6	32
South	7	5	6	7	3	28
Urban	34	45	29	33	29	170
Total	48	57	40	45	38	230

The Urban Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 170, whilst the South Analysis Area has the fewest with 28 teams. There are more youth 11v11 teams (57) when compared to other formats of play, with mini 5v5 teams (38) being the least represented. This is reflective of the supply of pitches identified previously.

Participation trends

Participation in Rugby has seemingly increased over recent years, with more clubs reporting a growth in demand compared to those reporting a decrease. In total, 64% of clubs report an increase in the number of adult teams, whilst 50% report an increase in youth teams and 57% report an increase in mini teams. In contrast, only 14% of clubs report adult and youth decreases, whereas none report a reduction in mini demand.

Women’s and girls’ demand

The FA’s current four-year strategy, ‘Time for Change’ has a focus on providing all girls with equal access to football by 2024. This focus will be a key objective of any facility investment to ensure that facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

In addition, Wildcat centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, providing opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment and Squad sessions for 12 – 16 year olds follow the same format. All organisations delivering Wildcat centres or Squad sessions receive a £900 grant over 2 years and equipment in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl’s participation.

As indicated above, there are currently 26 dedicated female teams playing within Rugby, representing almost 9% of the total number of teams, which is comparatively a high number.

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There are currently two Wildcats centre in the Boroughs, one hosted by Rugby Town Girls FC and the Rugby Borough. Rugby Town Girls FC also deliver a Squad session.

Imported/exported demand

Coventry City Girls FC import a total of ten teams from Coventry to Wolston Leisure Community Centre in Rugby, consisting of one adult, four youth 11v11, three youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 teams.

No other exported or imported demand is identified.

Latent demand

Of responding clubs, 33% indicate that they could field more teams if they had access to more pitches, which represents high levels of latent demand and suggest existing capacity issues. An example of this is Coventry City Girls FC, which reports that it is currently restricted to a select number of teams playing at its home ground, Wolston Leisure & Community Centre. This is because the trust in charge of managing the site reportedly allocates the number of pitches allowed to be used at one time, in order to protect the quality of grass pitches at the site.

The full list of responsive clubs which identify latent demand are:

- ◀ Coventry City Girls FC
- ◀ Lawford United FC
- ◀ Rugby Borough Royals FC
- ◀ Rugby Town FC
- ◀ Hilmorton Juniors FC
- ◀ Rugby Borough FC
- ◀ Rugby Borough Women & Girls FC

Given the high level of future demand noted below, it is considered that this latent demand will also be absorbed by participation increases and population growth. As such, the quantifiable figures should be merged rather than being considered separately.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing developments within Rugby.

Future population growth

Based on population projections to 2040 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. This is through using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers. Team generation rates have then been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference, total current population in Rugby of 110,650 is projected to increase to 124,302 by 2040. The table below shows the number of new teams that will generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions this will create.

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Table 2.9: Projected future demand from population growth

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent session ¹
Adult Mens (18-45)	1:477	5.16	5	2.5
Adult Womens (18-45)	1:3264	0.74	1	0.5
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:64	5.90	6	3
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:269	1.35	1	0.5
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:53	3.68	4	2
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:150	1.23	1	0.5
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:62	5.78	6	3
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:80	4.42	4	2

As seen, it is anticipated that there will be a growth of six adult, seven youth 11v11, five youth 9v9, six mini 7v7 and four mini 5v5 teams. This represents relatively substantial growth.

At a localised level, the largest degree of future demand generated is identified in the Urban Analysis Area with nine match equivalent sessions (18 teams), whilst the remaining two analysis areas both yield 2.5 match equivalent sessions respectively (five teams each).

Table 2.10: Summary of future demand generated via population growth

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
North	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5
South	0.5	1	-	0.5	0.5	2.5
Urban	2	2	2	2	1	9
Rugby	2.5	3.5	2.5	3	2	14

Participation increases

From respondents, five clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide and quantify this potential growth. This equates to a predicted growth of 48 teams.

Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions ²
Brinklow Juniors	North	2 x Mini	Mini 5v5	1
		1 x Youth	Youth 9v9	0.5
		4 x Youth	Youth 11v11	2
Brinklow Sunday	North	1 x Adult	Adult	0.5
Hillmorton FC	Urban	5 x Mini	Mini 5v5	2.5
		5 x Youth	Youth 9v9	2.5
		5 x Youth	Youth 11v11	2.5
		2 x Adult	Adult	1

¹ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

² Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis. Therefore 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions ²
Lawford United	North	1 x Youth	Youth 9v9	0.5
		4 x Youth	Youth 11v11	2
Rugby Borough FC	Urban	8 x Mini	Mini 5v5	4
		4 x Youth	Youth 9v9	2
		5 x Youth	Youth 11v11	2.5
		1 x Adult	Adult	0.5
Total				24

The total future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 24 match equivalent sessions per week. Most of this is identified in the Urban Analysis Area (17.5 match equivalent sessions), whilst no match equivalent sessions are identified in the South Analysis Area. This is shown further in the following table.

Table 2.12: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
North	0.5	4	1	-	1	6.5
South	-	-	-	-	-	0
Urban	1.5	5	4.5	-	6.5	17.5
Rugby	2	9	5.5	0	7.5	24

Most future demand is expressed for youth 11v11 pitches (nine match equivalent sessions), whilst none is expressed for mini 7v7 pitches. However, as mini 5v5 demand grows, this will likely create mini 7v7 growth as the new teams age.

It should be noted that participation increases have been discounted from the supply and demand analysis section of this report as it is seen as principally aspirational. Instead, population growth figures have been adopted to ascertain the future supply and demand analysis of football provision in Rugby.

The Strategy Report that proceeds this document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact on the existing pitch stock if such aspirational participation increases are realised, in addition to a Housing Growth Scenario that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development.

2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

As a guide, the FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its current quality.

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Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in Rugby:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 2.15 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Match equivalent sessions

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

One team accessing one pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches, the current usage of such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in less grass pitch use).

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extra-curricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use, current play has been increased on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

Informal use

A number of football pitches in the Borough, such as Binley Woods Recreation Ground and Cherwell Way, are on open access sites. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of, for example, dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime and reduced capacity.

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Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time, which can differ for each pitch type depending on when leagues operate for each format of play. In Rugby, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for adult and youth pitches, whereas it is Saturday AM for mini pitches. As such, peak time varies by playing format, as shown in the table below.

Table 2.13: Summary of peak time for playing formats

Playing format	Peak time
Adult	Sunday AM
Youth 11v11	Sunday AM
Youth 9v9	Sunday AM
Mini 7v7	Saturday AM
Mini 5v5	Saturday AM

On occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed, or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than the overall spare capacity that exists. This is because most or all of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period. Where this is the case, given that peak time usage should not be utilised over and above overall capacity, adjustments have been made.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

The table below identifies the way actual spare capacity is represented in Table 2.15.

Table 2.14: Spare capacity examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	If the cell has a dash in it, this means that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it was to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.

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Table 2.15: Football pitch capacity analyse

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
1	Abbots Farm Junior School	CV21 4AP	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	2	2	4	2	2	Unavailable for community use.
3	Alwyn Road Recreation Ground	CV22 7QU	Urban	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	2	1.5	8	6.5	2	Actual spare capacity.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Good	1	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity.
5	Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground	CV22 5EP	Urban	Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity.
8	Avon Valley School	CV21 1EH	Urban	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	3	3	6	3	3	Unavailable for community use.
						Youth	(9v9)	No	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Unavailable for community use.
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	1	4	3	1	Unavailable for community use.
9	Barr Lane Playing Field	CV23 0LU	North	Brinklow Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to poor quality.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	2.5	1	1.5	-	Overplayed.
10	Bilton C of E Junior School	CV22 6LB	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	2	2	4	2	2	Unavailable for community use.
12	Bilton School	CV22 7JT	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	4	4	16	12	4	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	3	4	1	0	Used at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	8	6.5	0.5	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	3	3.5	8	4.5	3	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	2	4	2	0.5	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	2	4	2	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.						
13	Binley Woods Primary School	CV3 2QU	North	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	2.5	1	1.5	-	Overplayed.
14	Binley Woods Recreation Ground	CV3 2JJ	North	Binley Woods Parish Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Discounted due to poor quality.
18	Cawston Grange Primary School	CV22 7GU	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
19	Cherwell Way	CV23 9SU	North	Long Lawford Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	1	4	3	0	Used at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	2	1	8	7	1	Actual spare capacity.
20	Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Field	CV23 0BY	Urban	Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
21	Coventry City Football Club (Sky Blue Lodge)	CV8 3FL	South	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		No	Good	2	-	-	-	-	Elite football club facility
22	Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club	CV22 6PN	South	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
23	Dyers Lane Playing Field	CV8 3HE	South	Wolston Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Discounted due to poor quality.
Youth						(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	0	1	1	1	Discounted due to poor quality.	
25	Fetherston Crescent Recreation Ground	CV8 3FD	South	Ryton-upon-Dunsmore Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
26	Fosse Way Park	CV23 9NP	South	Frankton Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Discounted due to poor quality.
28	Gamecock Barracks	CV11 6QN	North	MOD	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	0	4	4	1	Unavailable for community use.
						Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	1	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Unavailable for community use.
						Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	1	0	4	4	1	Unavailable for community use.
29	GEC Recreation Ground	CV22 5ED	Urban	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	2	1	8	7	2	Actual spare capacity.
31	Harris Church of England Academy	CV22 6EA	Urban	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	2.5	1	1.5	-	Overplayed.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
33	Henry Hinde Junior School	CV22 7HN	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Unavailable for community use.
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	1	4	3	1	Unavailable for community use.
35	HMPS College Newbold Revel	CV23 0TH	North	School	Unsecure	Adult		No	Standard	2	2	4	2	1	Unavailable for community use.
						Mini	(5v5)	No	Standard	2	2	8	6	1	Unavailable for community use.
36	Houlton School	CV23 0AS	Urban	School	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	2	2	8	6	2	Discounted due to nature of site.
37	King Georges Field (Long Lawford)	CV23 9DE	North	Long Lawford Parish Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	Used to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0	Used to capacity at peak time.
38	Long Lawford Primary School	CV23 9AL	North	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Unavailable for community use.
45	Paddox Primary School	CV22 5HS	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	No	Poor	3	3	6	3	3	Unavailable for community use.
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	4	4	8	4	4	Unavailable for community use.
46	Princethorpe College	CV23 9PX	South	School	Unsecure	Adult		Yes	Standard	2	2	4	2	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
48	Rugby Borough Sports Trust	CV21 4PN	Urban	Trust	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Good	6	12.5	36	23.5	0	Used to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Good	9	16	54	38	0	Used to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	5.5	4	1.5	-	Overplayed.

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Good	2	7	8	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time.
50	Rugby High School For Girls	CV22 7RE	Urban	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	No	Good	3	3	12	9	3	Unavailable for community use.
51	Rugby School (Springhill Pitches)	CV22 5PY	Urban	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	No	Good	3	3	12	9	3	Unavailable for community use.
54	Rugby Town Football Club	CV21 3SD	Urban	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	Used to capacity.
55	Shilton Playing Field	CV7 9JQ	North	Shilton Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	2	2	4	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
58	The Field (Bourton)	CV23 9RE	South	Bourton & Draycot Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
60	Twickenham Playing Fields	CV22 6EG	Urban	Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
62	Whinfield Recreation Ground	CV21 3SD	Urban	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	2	6	8	2	0	No spare capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	3	4	12	8	0	No spare capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	6	4	2	0	Overplayed.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	2	6	8	2	0	No spare capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	2	3	4	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Good	1	2	4	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
64	Wolston Leisure & Community Centre	CV8 3GT	South	Trust	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	2	3	1	0	Used to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	4	4	0	0	Used to capacity.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Good	1	4	4	0	0	Used to capacity.
65	Wolvey Church of England Primary School	LE10 3LA	North	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	3	1	2	-	Overplayed.
84	Rugby Free Secondary School	CV22 5PE	Urban	School	Unsecure	Adult		No	Standard	3	3	6	3	3	Unavailable for community use.
						Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Unavailable for community use.
						Youth	(9v9)	No	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Unavailable for community use.
91	Church Lawford Football Pitch	CV23 9EE	South	Church Lawford Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	0	2	2	1	Discounted due to poor quality.

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Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Rugby. It totals 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 16 pitches at 11 sites.

Table 2.16: Actual (peak time) spare capacity site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
3	Alwyn Road Recreation Ground	Urban	Youth (11v11)	2	2
			Youth (9v9)	1	1
5	Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground	Urban	Youth (11v11)	1	1
19	Cherwell Way	North	Mini (7v7)	2	1
29	GEC Recreation Ground	Urban	Youth (11v11)	2	2
54	Rugby Town Football Club	Urban	Adult	1	1
55	Shilton Playing Field	North	Youth (11v11)	2	1
58	The Field (Bourton)	South	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
60	Twickenham Playing Fields	Urban	Adult	1	0.5
62	Whinfield Recreation Ground	Urban	Youth (9v9)	1	1
64	Wolston Leisure & Community Centre	South	Adult	1	1
64	Wolston Leisure & Community Centre	South	Mini (7v7)	1	1.5
Total					13.5

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, most actual spare capacity is identified on youth 11v11 pitches (6.5 match equivalent sessions per week) and in the Urban Analysis Area (8.5 match equivalent sessions per week). However, each pitch type and each analysis area has some level identified.

Table 2.17: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
North	-	1	-	1	-	2
South	1	0.5	-	1.5	-	3
Urban	1.5	5	2	-	-	8.5
Rugby	2.5	6.5	2	2.5	0	13.5

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Rugby, eight pitches across seven sites are overplayed by a combined total of 11 match equivalent sessions per week.

Six of the eight overplayed pitches in Rugby reflect a shortfall due to their poor quality, whilst the remaining five pitches are overplayed due to the degree of demand accommodated.

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 2.18: Overplay site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
9	Barr Lane Playing Field	North	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
13	Binley Woods Primary School	North	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
31	Harris Church of England Academy	Urban	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
48	Rugby Borough Sports Trust	Urban	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
62	Whinfield Recreation Ground	Urban	Youth (11v11)	1	2
64	Wolston Leisure & Community Centre	South	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
65	Wolvey Church of England Primary School	North	Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
			Youth (9v9)	1	2
Total					11

Overplay is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the following table. The highest level of overplay is identified on youth 11v11 pitches (8.5 match equivalent sessions per week) and in the North Analysis Area (5.5 match equivalent sessions per week). No overplay is identified on adult or mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 2.19: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
North	-	3	2	0.5	-	5.5
South	-	0.5	-	-	-	0.5
Urban	-	5	-	-	-	5
Rugby	0	8.5	2	0.5	0	11

2.4: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is then also considered, based on team generation rates which are driven by population projections to 2040.

Adult football

Overall in Rugby there is a current spare capacity on adult pitches amounting to 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week, reducing to two match equivalent sessions when accounting for exported demand. This is partly because no overplay is identified on any of the adult pitches currently provided. Overall spare capacity is evidenced in the South and Urban analysis areas, whilst the North Analysis Area is played to capacity.

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Table 2.20: Supply and demand position for adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Total
North	-	-	0	-	0
South	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Urban	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.5
Rugby	2.5	0	2.5	0.5	2

When accounting for future demand, six additional teams are expected to be generated, leading to an overall future shortfall of one match equivalent session per week.

Table 2.21: Future supply and demand position for adult pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	-	0.5	0.5
South	0.5	0.5	0
Urban	1.5	2	0.5
Rugby	2	3	1

Youth 11v11 football

The table below shows that for youth 11v11 pitches in Rugby a shortfall is present, amounting to two match equivalent sessions. The North Analysis Area presents a shortfall, whilst the South and Urban analysis areas are currently played to capacity.

Table 2.22: Supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ³	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Total
North	1	3	2	-	2
South	0.5	0.5	0	-	0
Urban	5	5	0	-	0
Rugby	6.5	8.5	2	0	2

When accounting for future demand, seven additional teams are expected to be generated, leading to a future shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week across the Borough.

Table 2.23: Future supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	2	0.5	2.5
South	-	1	1
Urban	-	2	2
Rugby	2	3.5	5.5

³ In match equivalent sessions

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Youth 9v9 football

Youth 9v9 pitches across Rugby are currently at capacity, despite a shortfall identified North Analysis Area. Spare capacity exists in the Urban Analysis Area, whilst the South Analysis Area is played to capacity.

Table 2.24: Supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Total
North	-	2	2	-	2
South	-	-	0	-	0
Urban	2	-	2	-	2
Rugby	2	2	0	-	0

When accounting for future demand, an overall shortfall is presented amounting to 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is due to projected growth of five teams.

Table 2.25: Future supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	2	0.5	1.5
South	0	-	0
Urban	2	2	0
Rugby	0	2.5	2.5

Mini 7v7 football

As seen in the table below, mini 7v7 pitches have current overall spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session per week. Spare capacity currently exists in both the North and South analysis areas and is most prominent in the latter, whilst the Urban Analysis Area is played to capacity.

Table 2.26: Supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Total
North	1	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
South	1.5	-	1.5	1	0.5
Urban	-	-	0	-	0
Rugby	2.5	0.5	2	1	1

When accounting for future demand of six additional teams, all current spare capacity is projected to be utilised, leaving a future shortfall of two match equivalent sessions per week.

⁴ In match equivalent sessions

⁵ In match equivalent sessions

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Table 2.27: Future supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	0.5	0.5	0
South	0.5	0.5	0
Urban	0	2	2
Rugby	1	3	2

Mini 5v5 football

Mini 5v5 pitches are currently at capacity, with no spare capacity or overplay identified.

Table 2.28: Supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Total
North	-	-	0	-	0
South	-	-	0	-	0
Urban	-	-	0	-	0
Rugby	0	0	0	0	0

When accounting for future demand of five additional teams, an overall shortfall is evident amounting to two match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.29: Future supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North	0	0.5	0.5
South	0	0.5	0.5
Urban	0	1	1
Rugby	0	2	2

2.5: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall supply and demand balance by pitch type in Rugby.

Table 2.30: Summary of supply and demand

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity ⁷	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Future demand	Total
Adult	2.5	0	2.5	0.5	3	1
Youth 11v11	6.5	8.5	2	-	3.5	5.5
Youth 9v9	2	2	0	-	2.5	2.5
Mini 7v7	2.5	0.5	2	1	3	2
Mini 5v5	0	0	0	-	2	2

⁶ In match equivalent sessions

⁷ In match equivalent sessions

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Overall, it is determined that there is currently a shortfall of youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions and overall spare capacity on adult and mini 7v7 pitches, whilst youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions are currently at capacity. After factoring in exported and future demand, a capacity shortfall is created on adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches and worsens on youth 11v11 pitches.

Football – supply and demand summary

- ◀ In total, 16 pitches display some level of actual spare capacity across 11 sites, equating to 13.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Eight pitches are overplayed across seven sites by a total of 11 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is currently a shortfall of youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions and overall spare capacity on adult and mini 7v7 pitches, whilst youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions are currently at capacity.
- ◀ After factoring in exported and future demand, a capacity shortfall is created on adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches and worsens on youth 11v11 pitches.

Football – supply summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 122 football pitches across 38 sites in Rugby, with 83 pitches available at some level for community use across 27 sites.
- ◀ Disused pitches are identified at Addison Road, Avon Mill Recreation Ground, Frobisher Recreation Ground, Hilmorton Recreation Ground, Freemantle Recreation Ground and GEC St Modwen's.
- ◀ Planning permission has been approved for a development in Clifton Upon Dunsmore, situated in the Urban Analysis Area, involving the creation for three football pitches.
- ◀ In total, 31 community available pitches assessed as good quality, 35 as standard quality and 17 as poor quality.
- ◀ A total of five sites are identified as being serviced by poor quality ancillary provision, whilst seven have no changing facilities.

Football - demand summary

- ◀ A total of 230 teams across 39 clubs are identified within Rugby, consisting of 42 senior men's, six senior women's, 78 youth boys', 21 youth girls' and 83 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ Demand has seemingly grown in recent years, with more clubs reporting participation increases compared to those reporting a reduction.
- ◀ Coventry City Girls FC exports some of its match and training demand outside of the Borough to Bablake Playing Fields and President Kennedy School, both in Coventry.
- ◀ 33% of clubs report latent demand in that they could field more teams if more or better facilities were available to them.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict an increase amounting to six adult, seven youth 11v11 teams, five youth 9v9 teams, six mini 7v7 teams and four mini 5v5 teams, whilst five clubs have aspirations to grow by a total of 48 teams.

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PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, meaning World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements, subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test.

Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity. Other sports that are known to use 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse.

EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

3.2: Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 64 metres including run offs); however, many 3G pitches nationally are slightly undersized due to previously being converted from sand-based provision. Dimensions for hockey are generally smaller than for football.

There are currently three full size 3G pitches in Rugby, provided across two sites; Rugby Borough Sports Trust provide two and Rugby Town Football Club provides one. Each pitch is serviced by sports lighting and available for community use.

Table 3.1: Full size 3G pitches in Rugby

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
48	Rugby Borough Sports Trust	CV21 4PN	Urban	Yes	Yes	106 x 70
						106 x 70
54	Rugby Town Football Club	CV21 3SD	Urban	Yes	Yes	105 x 70

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All of the pitches are located in the Urban Analysis Area, reflecting an insufficient spread across the Borough.

Table 3.2: Summary of the number of full size 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	Full size pitches available for community use
North	-
South	-
Urban	3
Total	3

As well as the full size pitches, there are also five smaller size outdoor 3G pitches across four sites in Rugby. Of these, only one, located at Gamecock Barracks, is unavailable to the community. All have sports lighting.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G provision (outdoor)

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
28	Gamecock Barracks	CV11 6QN	North	No	Yes	40 x 30
48	Rugby Borough Sports Trust	CV21 4PN	Urban	Yes	Yes	40 x 30
						30 x 20
54	Rugby Town Football Club	CV21 3SD	Urban	Yes	Yes	60 x 43
64	Wolston Leisure & Community Centre	CV8 3GT	South	Yes	Yes	61 x 35

Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas. The FA's recommended pitch size for youth football varies from 91 x 55 metres to 73 x 46 metres depending on age, whilst it is 55 x 37 metres for mini 7v7 play and 37 x 27 metres for mini 5v5 play.

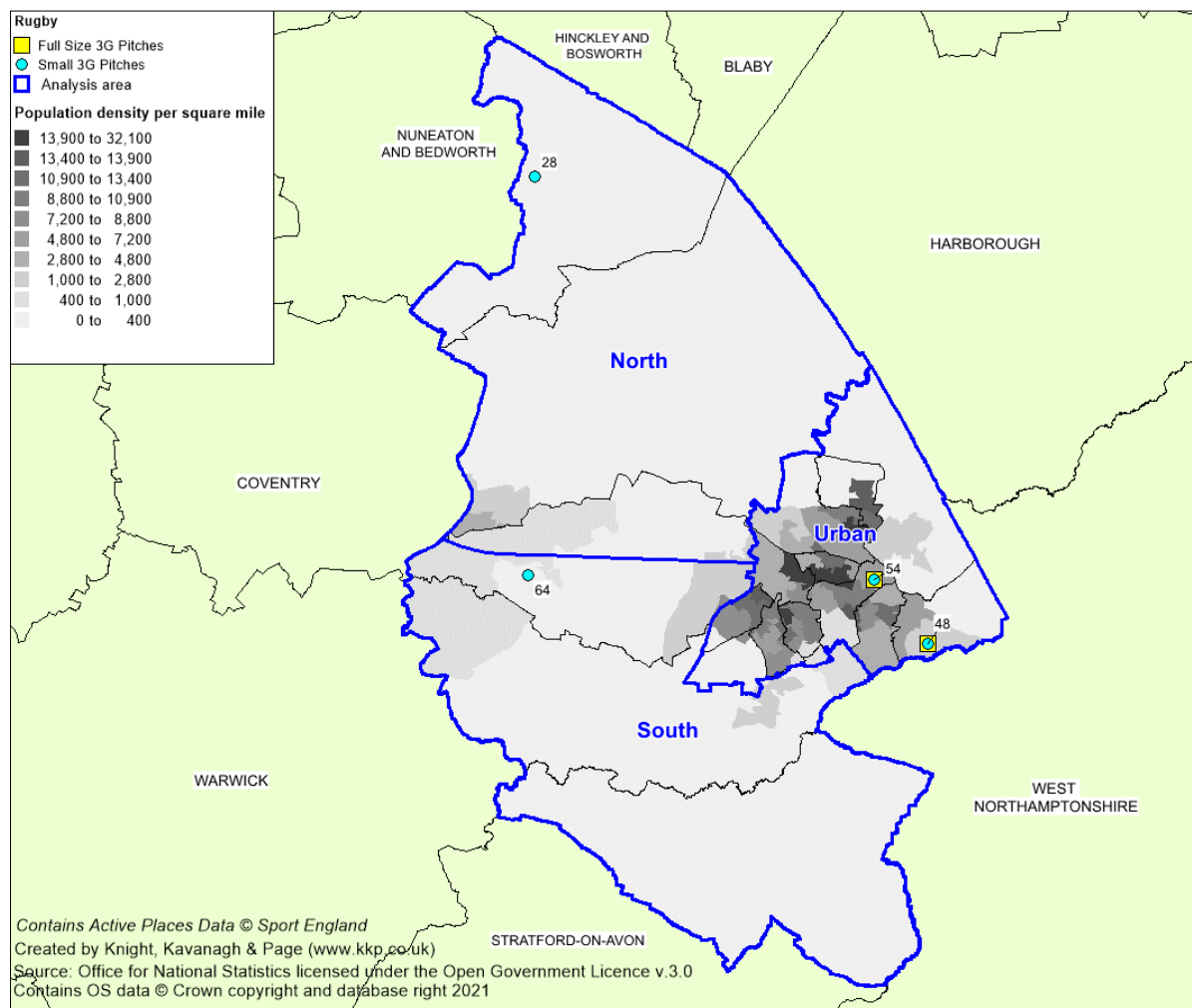
Future provision

Rugby Borough FC has aspirations to construct a third full size 3G pitch at Rugby Borough Sports Trust, replacing an existing youth 11v11 pitch.

Figure 3.1 overleaf identifies the location of all 3G pitches currently in Rugby, regardless of size.

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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Rugby



FA pitch register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard.

Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours. To remain accredited, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the football pyramid (steps 1-6).

In Rugby, the full size 3G pitches at Rugby Borough Sports Trust and Rugby Town Football Club are all FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. Re-testing is required every three years to ensure that this remains the case.

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None of the smaller size pitches in Rugby are FA approved and therefore cannot be used officially for matches.

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

In Rugby, none of the 3G pitches are World Rugby compliant. However, Rugby Welsh RUFC uses the pitch at Rugby Town Football Club to fulfil its training demand.

Management/ownership

The two full size pitches as well as the smaller size pitches at Rugby Borough Sports Trust are owned by the Council and operated by Rugby Borough FC, which leases the site. The full and smaller size pitch at Rugby Town Football Club are owned and managed by the Club itself.

Elsewhere, the smaller size pitches at Gamecock Barracks and Wolston Leisure & Community Centre are managed by the MOD and a community organisation, respectively.

No 3G pitches in Rugby are identified at education providers, which is rare across the Country as schools are common operators.

Availability

The availability of the full size 3G pitches in Rugby is very good, with the pitches at both Rugby Borough Sports Trust and Rugby Town Football Club available throughout each day. However, it must be noted that a considerable degree of capacity is allocated to both Rugby Borough FC and Rugby Town FC at their respective sites.

The availability at each venue providing a full size pitch is summarised in the table below.

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Availability
48	Rugby Borough Sports Trust	Available to the community every day from 09:00 to 22:00, although significant capacity is taken up by the Club itself.
54	Rugby Town Football Club	Available to the community every day from 09:00 to 22:00, although significant capacity is taken up by the Club itself.

The picture differs for the remaining smaller sized pitches. Wolston Leisure & Community Centre offers a slightly smaller amount of access, with availability limited on Sundays from 09:00 until 12:15. As stated previously, no availability is offered at Gamecock Barracks due to the private nature of the site.

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Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

The full size pitches at Rugby Borough Sports Trust are assessed as good quality. One has recently undergone resurfacing in 2021, whilst the other was last resurfaced in 2016 yet is still considered to be of a high standard.

The full size pitch at Rugby Town Football Club is assessed as standard quality. Despite having not been resurfaced since its installation in 2006, remedial work on the pitch has been undertaken recently and the pitch is now back on the 3G Pitch Register.

Table 3.5: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
48	Rugby Borough Sports Trust	2021	Good
		2016	Good
54	Rugby Town Football Club	2006	Standard

The smaller size pitches at Rugby Borough Sports Trust have also exceeded their recommended lifespans and are assessed as poor quality, whereas the pitches at Gamecock Barracks and Wolston Leisure & Community Centre are standard quality.

The smaller sized pitch at Rugby Town Football Club is a new installation (2021) and is therefore good quality.

Table 3.6: Age and quality of smaller size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
28	Gamecock Barracks	2017	Standard
48	Rugby Borough Sports Trust	2010	Poor
		2010	Poor
54	Rugby Town Football Club	2021	Good
64	Wolston Leisure & Community Centre	2011	Poor

Ancillary facilities

All 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered to be adequate with no issues raised during consultation or via site assessments. This is partly helped by the full size pitches being provided at club sites, where the provision is dedicated to football users, rather than at education sites, where facilities can often be dual purpose.

3.3: Demand

The 3G pitch stock currently servicing Rugby is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times during midweek, especially in winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). Usage is also high at weekends given that all three full size pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches and are regularly accessed for this purpose.

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Currently, it is considered that all of the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related. The large majority of capacity is being taken up by clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a strong presence of recreational football activity taking place (e.g., via unaffiliated groups). Rugby Town FC and Rugby Borough Sports FC are prominent users given that they manage the existing full size pitches.

The table below summarises usage levels of the full size 3G provision in Rugby based on booking sheets supplied by the operators. This is compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM). This applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 3.7: Current usage of full size 3G pitches during peak time across Rugby⁸

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
48	Rugby Borough Sports Trust	18	15	10	9
		18	15	10	9
54	Rugby Town Football Club	18	17	16	8

Where usage is known, 180 hours of midweek availability is identified across the two pitches at Rugby Borough Sports Trust and the full size pitch at Rugby Town Football Club. There is much less availability for weekend usage, with 52 hours available across all three pitches. However, significant capacity is taken up by Rugby Borough FC at Rugby Borough FC, Rugby Town FC and a multitude of other clubs in the Borough.

In regards to spare capacity within the peak period, the two full size pitches at Rugby Borough Sports Trust offer three hours of midweek spare capacity each and one hour each of spare capacity at the weekend. One of the pitches is available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 17:00-18:00, whilst the second pitch is available on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays between 17:00-18:00. Notwithstanding this, spare capacity at the weekend is limited to Saturday between 09:00-10:00 when matches within the Borough are not played, making this spare capacity unrealistic.

In addition, the full size pitch at Rugby Town Football Club offers one hour of spare capacity during the peak period midweek (Monday at 17:00-18:00) and eight hours at the weekend (Saturday between 12:00 and 17:00 & Sunday between 09:00-10:00 and 15:00-17:00).

Booking sheets for the smaller sized pitches could not be acquired.

Unmet/latent demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many football clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at sports lit facilities, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.

⁸ Availability is considered to exist if any booking slots are available, either for a whole pitch or part of a pitch (based on pitches being divided into thirds or quarters for training and recreational usage).

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In Rugby, 43% of football clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a high proportion of unmet demand. Of these, 28% are currently training in some form on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all of their teams, or do not have access at preferred times. The remainder are not training on 3G pitches at all and are instead using sand-based pitches or grass pitches either at their home grounds or elsewhere, with each club stating that this is not preferable.

No unmet demand for rugby union or any other sport is identified.

Exported/imported demand

Imported demand is identified from Coventry City Girls FC, who field three youth 9v9 teams on the smaller size pitch at Wolston Leisure & Community Centre.

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, potential growth from population projections equates to 28 football teams to 2040. If this growth was realised, and if all additional teams wanted or needed to train on 3G provision, it will increase the number of 3G pitches required.

In addition, although no rugby union demand currently accesses 3G pitches (with none suitable for such activity), it is clear that future access could provide a solution to the deficits identified in Part 4 of this report.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football

To quantify the 3G shortfall for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one full size 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). It also has an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based pitches to ensure the sustainability of them.

For the model, in addition to full size pitches being included, some smaller size pitches are also incorporated as many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. To calculate their contribution, a pitch large enough to cater for youth matches (but not adult) is considered to be the equivalent of half a full size pitch (0.5 pitches), whilst a pitch that is large enough for mini matches (but not youth or adult) is the equivalent of quarter of a full size pitch (0.25 pitches). Any pitch smaller than this is discounted, as are any pitches that are unavailable for community use.

The contribution each pitch in Rugby makes towards the modelling is summarised in the table below. This then informs the proceeding modelling tables.

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Table 3.8: Contribution of 3G pitches in meeting training requirements

Site name	Analysis area	Size (meters)	Comments	Full size pitch equivalents
Gamecock Barracks	North	40 x 30	No community availability.	-
Rugby Borough Sports Trust	Urban	106 x 70	Full size pitch full available to the community	1
		106 x 70	Full size pitch full available to the community	1
		40 x 30	Pitch large enough for mini football	0.25
		30 x 20	Too small for meaningful use	0
Rugby Town Football Club	Urban	105 x 70	Full size pitch full available to the community	1
		60 x 43	Pitch large enough for mini football	0.25
Wolston Leisure & Community Centre	South	61 x 35	Pitch large enough for mini football	0.25

Using the above, with current demand in Rugby totalling 230 teams, it is feasible that at least six full size 3G pitches are required (rounded down from 6.05). This means an existing shortfall of 2.25 full size 3G pitches.

Table 3.9: Current shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Current demand (number of teams)	3G full size pitch requirement	Current number of full size 3G pitches	Current shortfall
230	6	3.75	2.25

To further this analysis, the table below explores where the 3G pitch shortfalls exist, by analysis area, on the presumption that all demand will want to train within the area that they play matches in. On this basis, there is a shortfall in each analysis area.

Table 3.10: Current shortfall for 3G pitches by analysis area for training demand

Analysis area	Current demand	Current 3G requirement	Current number of pitches	Current shortfall
North	32	1	-	1
South	28	1	0.25	0.75
Urban	170	4	3.5	0.5
Rugby	230	6	3.75	2.25

In order to alleviate the current shortfall of 3G pitches in Rugby, one additional pitch is required in the North Analysis Area, 0.75 pitches in the South Analysis Area and 0.5 pitches in the Urban Analysis Area.

When factoring in future demand, the overall requirement could increase to the need for seven full size pitches (rounded up from 6.79), meaning a shortfall of 3.25 pitches.

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Table 3.11: Future shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Analysis Area	Future demand (number of teams)	3G full size pitch requirement	Current number of full size 3G pitches	Future shortfall
North	37	1	-	1
South	33	1	0.25	0.75
Urban	188	5	3.5	1.5
Rugby	258	7	3.75	3.25

Rugby union

Rugby Welsh RUFC utilises the 3G pitch at Rugby Town Football Club as its home ground at Alwyn Road Recreation Ground is not serviced by sports lighting. However, the pitch is not World Rugby compliant, which means that it should not be used for full contact activity. The Club's training sessions at the site total 180 minutes per week.

Providing World Rugby compliant 3G pitches is a potential resolution and this will be further explored in the proceeding strategy document.

Other sports

No demand for access to 3G pitches has been uncovered for any other sports in Rugby.

3.5: Conclusion

For football, there is limited spare capacity on the present supply of 3G pitches when teams require access for training purposes, leading to several clubs reporting a desire for increased provision. With the FA model suggesting that there is a current shortfall of over two full size 3G pitches and a future shortfall of over three, priority should be placed on the creation of new provision and conversions of sand-based AGPs. To that end, precedence should be given to areas with identified shortfalls

In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated. In that regard, providers should be encouraged to put sinking funds in place and it is also recommended that all new and existing pitches undergo FA testing every three years to remain FA approved. This is particularly key in relation to the poor quality pitch at Rugby Town Football Club.

For rugby union, suitable 3G provision may provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches. This could be achieved in collaboration with reducing shortfalls for football, or exclusively if it is adjudged that the provision would receive enough usage and be sustainable without football demand.

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3G – supply and demand

- ◀ With 230 football teams currently affiliated to Rugby there is a potential shortfall of 2.25 full size 3G pitches to meet training demand.
- ◀ When accounting for future demand, the potential shortfall increased to at least 3.25 pitches.
- ◀ For football, there is clear shortfall of provision and the priority regarding 3G should therefore be placed on the creation of new provision in areas where it is required.
- ◀ In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated.

3G – supply summary

- ◀ There are three full size 3G pitches in Rugby (two at Rugby Borough Sports Trust and one at Rugby Town Football Club), all of which are available to the community and sports lit.
- ◀ In addition, there are five smaller size 3G pitches across four sites.
- ◀ The full size 3G pitches are all FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches (none of the smaller sized pitches are).
- ◀ None of the pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ The full size pitch at Rugby Town Football Club is assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ The smaller size pitches at Rugby Borough Sports Trust and Wolston Leisure & Community Centre have also exceeded their recommended lifespans.

3G – demand summary

- ◀ The 3G pitch stock currently servicing Rugby is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times during midweek, especially in winter months.
- ◀ Only four hours of midweek availability is identified across the two sites with full size pitches.
- ◀ For football, 43% of clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a high proportion of unmet demand.
- ◀ Rugby Welsh RUFC utilises the 3G pitch at Rugby Town Football Club as its home ground at Alwyn Road Recreation Ground is not serviced by sports lighting. However, the pitch is not World Rugby compliant, which means that it should not be used for full contact activity. The Club's training sessions at the site total 180 minutes per week.
- ◀ When accounting for spare capacity within the peak period, the two full size pitches at Rugby Borough Sports Trust offer three hours of midweek spare capacity each (six in total) and one hour each of spare capacity at the weekend (two in total).
- ◀ The full size pitch at Rugby Town Football Club offer one hour of peak time spare capacity during the week and eight hours at the weekend.

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PART 4: RUGBY UNION

4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. As part of this, Club Developers and a team of community rugby coaches deliver core programmes for clubs across Rugby.

The RFU governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

Consultation

A total of seven rugby union clubs are identified as playing within Rugby. Of these, six responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 86%. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 4.1: Summary of rugby club consultation

Club	Responded?
A.E.I RUFC	No
Broadstreet RUFC	Yes
Newbold on Avon RUFC	Yes
Old Laurentians RUFC	Yes
Rugby Lions RUFC	Yes
Rugby Welsh RUFC	Yes
Rugby St Andrews RUFC	Yes

4.2: Supply

There are 40 grass rugby union pitches identified in Rugby across 15 sites, with 32 pitches available for community use across 11 sites. In the main, the pitches that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites.

Of the pitches available for community use, 28 are senior pitches and four are age grade pitches. Traditionally, mini and age grade rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches and this is the case throughout Rugby, even at sites with dedicated age grade pitches.

Table 4.2: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. senior pitches	No. of age grade pitches	No. mini pitches	Total
North	6	1	-	7
South	6	2	-	8
Urban	16	1	-	17
Rugby	28	4	-	32

As shown in the table above, the majority of the community available pitches are identified within the Urban Analysis Area (17 pitches), followed by the South Analysis Area (eight pitches). The North Analysis Area has the fewest number of pitches (seven). For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to the table below.

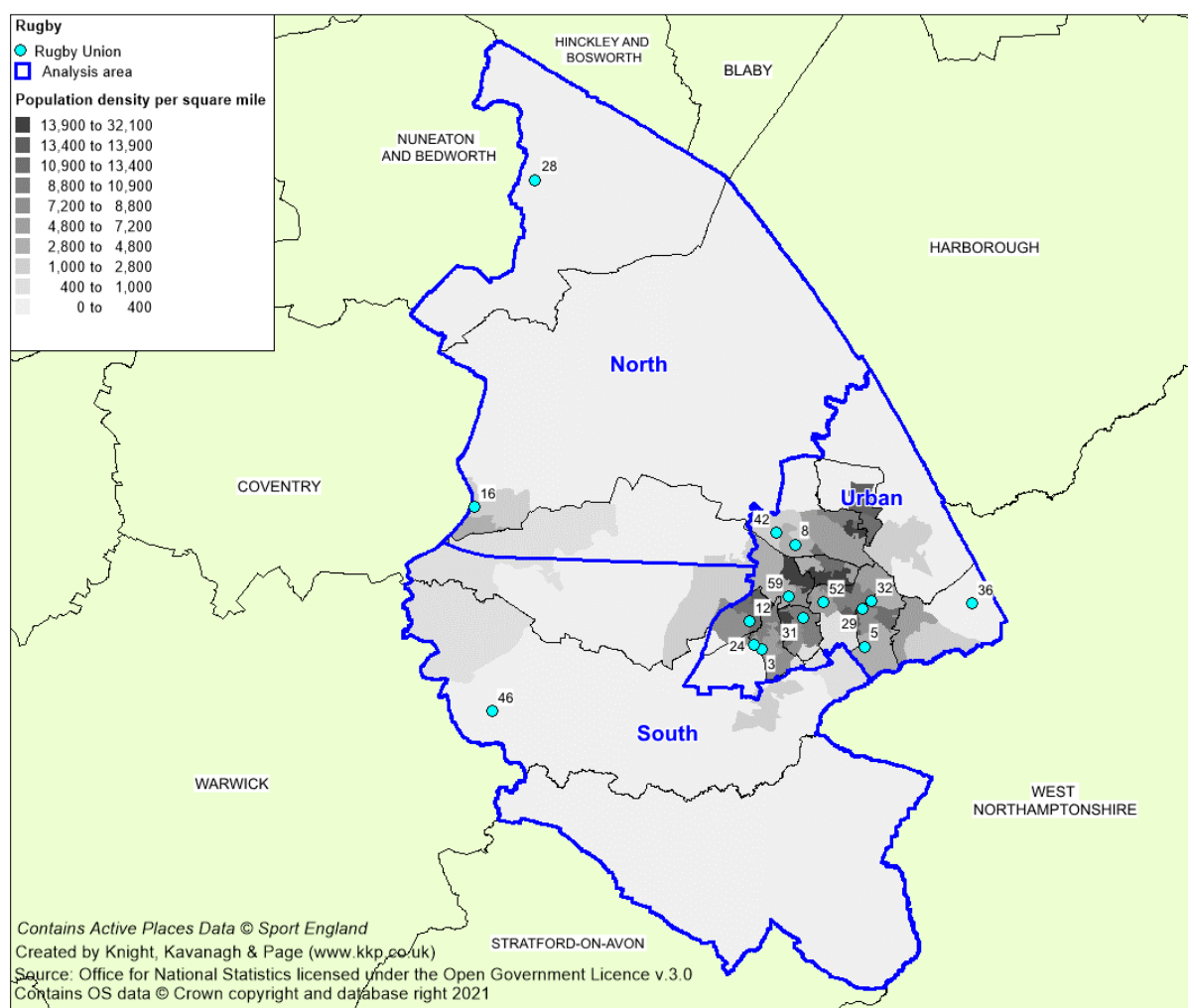
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Table 4.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ⁹
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 ¹⁰

The figure below identifies all grass rugby union pitches currently servicing Rugby. For a key to the map, see Table 4.8.

Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Rugby



⁹ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

¹⁰ Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.

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Disused provision

One age grade pitch is identified as disused within Rugby, located at The Rugby Football Club. However, Rugby Lions RUFC are currently in discussions with the Council to bring the pitch back into use.

Future provision

Rugby Welsh RUFC reports a requirement for a second pitch to be provided at its home ground, Alwyn Road Recreation Ground, in order to meet its current and future demand. Discussions are ongoing with the Council.

Old Laurentians RUFC has plans to relocate as it is currently over capacity and Fenley Field is inadequate to facilitate the Club's growth. In addition the Club wants to offer a modern clubhouse with a wide range of amenities at its home ground. As of yet, it has not secured funding for the relocation; however, is working in conjunction with the Slatter Group to proceed with its plans for relocation.

Management and security of tenure

Broadstreet and Newbold-on-Avon rugby clubs have freehold of their home grounds. As such, both are considered to have security of tenure.

A.E.I RUFC, Rugby Welsh RUFC and St Andrews RUFC rent their sites from the Council. Whilst this provides security of tenure as part of the Council's ongoing leisure commitment, a longer term agreement with the respective clubs could be beneficial. This is particularly the case if any funding was to be sought for site improvements.

Old Laurentians RUFC currently leases its pitches at Fenley Field from the Laurentians Charitable Trust, which provides limited security of tenure. However, the Club has aspirations to develop a new site and so has no intention to enter into a longer-term commitment at Fenley Field. Despite this, it is believed that Laurentians Charitable Trust will also be the owners of any potential new site.

Rugby Lions is currently in an 85-year lease agreement with the Council for use of its pitches at the Rugby Football Club, signifying a strong security of tenure. Currently, the second pitch is currently displaced for cricket and is not being utilised by Rugby Lions RUFC. However, the Club has agreed a payment structure with the Council and supplied a new business plan, with the intention of returning the second pitch at Rugby Town Football Club back into use.

The arrangement for each club is summarised in the table below. However, this is unknown for A.E.I RUFC at GEC Recreation Ground.

Table 4.4: Ownership/management arrangements for rugby clubs in Rugby

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club users	Arrangement	Tenure
3	Alwyn Road Recreation Ground	Urban	Rugby Welsh RUFC	Rent from the Council	Secure
5	Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground	Urban	St Andrews RUFC	Rent from the Council	Secure
16	Broadstreet Rugby Club	North	Broadstreet RUFC	Freehold	Secure

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club users	Arrangement	Tenure
24	Fenley Field	Urban	Old Laurentians RUFC	Leased from Laurentian Charitable Trust	Unsecure
29	GEC Recreation Ground	Urban	A.E.I RUFC	Rent from the Council	Secure
42	Newbold on Avon Rugby Club	Urban	Newbold on Avon RUFC	Freehold	Secure
59	The Rugby Football Club	Urban	Rugby Lions RUFC	Leased from the Council	Secure

Sports lighting

In total, seven rugby pitches across five sites in the Borough offer sports lighting, all of which are available for community use and are identified at club sites. These are Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground, Broadstreet Rugby Club, Fenley Field, Newbold on Avon Rugby Club and The Rugby Football Club.

Rugby Welsh RUFC reports aspirations for additional sports lighting to be installed at Alwyn Road Recreation Ground so that its training demand can be better catered for during the winter months. Broadstreet RUFC also has plans to install sports lighting on its third pitch.

Pitch quality

The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken, with the definitions of these shown in the table below.

Table 4.5: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Minimal or no maintenance is undertaken
M1	Regular maintenance is undertaken that extends beyond a basic regime
M2	A sophisticated, regular and dedicated maintenance regime is undertaken

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether or not drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Table 4.6: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Drainage is natural but inadequate
D1	Drainage is natural and adequate
D2	A pipe drainage system is installed (at 5-metre centres and within the last eight years)
D3	A pipe and slit drainage system is installed (at 1-metre centres in the last five years)

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated on a scale of good, standard and poor as shown below.

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Table 4.7: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of pitches which are available for community use in Rugby, there are seven good quality, seven standard quality and 18 poor quality pitches. In addition, most unavailable pitches are also assessed as poor quality.

A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in the table overleaf.

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Table 4.8: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	Management	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
3	Alwyn Road Recreation Ground	CV22 7QU	Urban	Secure	Council	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0 / M0	Poor
5	Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground	CV22 5EP	Urban	Secure	Council	Yes	4	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
								Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
								Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
								Senior	Yes	M0 / D1	Poor
8	Avon Valley School	CV21 1EH	Urban	Unsecure	School	No	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
							1	Age grade	No	M0 / D1	Poor
12	Bilton School	CV22 7JT	Urban	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	3	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
16	Broadstreet Rugby Club	CV3 2AY	North	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	6	Senior	Yes	M2 / D3	Good
								Senior	Yes	M2 / D3	Good
								Senior	No	M2 / D3	Good
								Senior	No	M2 / D3	Good
								Senior	No	M2 / D3	Good
							1	Senior	No	M2 / D3	Good
24	Fenley Field	CV22 7QT	Urban	Secure	Trust	Yes	3	Senior	Yes	M0 / D2	Standard
								Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
								Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
28	Gamecock Barracks	CV11 6QN	North	Unsecure	MOD	No	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
29	GEC Recreation Ground	CV22 5ED	Urban	Secure	Council	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
31	Harris Church of England Academy	CV22 6EA	Urban	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
32	Hartfield Sports Ground	CV21 3TP	Urban	Unsecure	School	No	4	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
36	Houlton School	CV23 0AS	Urban	Unsecure	School	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
42	Newbold on Avon Rugby Club	CV21 1EZ	Urban	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0 / D2	Standard
							1	Senior	Yes	M0 / D1	Poor
							1	Age grade	Yes	M0 / D0	Poor
46	Princethorpe College	CV23 9PX	South	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	3	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
							2	Age grade	No	M0 / D1	Poor
52	Rugby School Playing Fields	CV22 5DS	Urban	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	3	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
59	The Rugby Football Club	CV22 7AU	Urban	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard

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As seen, the seven good quality pitches in the Borough are all identified at Broadstreet Rugby Club. The maintenance at the site is at a relatively high level, with a particular focus attributed to the Club's main pitch whereby extra maintenance procedures are conducted.

A further six community available pitches in Rugby are assessed as standard quality, these are located at:

- ◀ Fenley Field
- ◀ Houlton School
- ◀ Newbold on Avon Rugby Club
- ◀ Rugby School Playing Fields
- ◀ The Rugby Football Club

At Fenley Field, Old Laurentians RUFC reports that additional drainage measures are in place on its main pitch, reflected in a higher non-technical assessment score than the remaining pitches at the site.

The remaining 18 community available pitches are assessed as poor quality, these are located at:

- ◀ Alwyn Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Bilton School
- ◀ GEC Recreation Ground
- ◀ Newbold on Avon Rugby Club
- ◀ Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Fenley Field
- ◀ Harris Church of England Academy
- ◀ Princethorpe College

Old Laurentians, Rugby St Andrews and Rugby Welsh rugby clubs all report worsening pitch quality since the previous season. The respective grounds of these three clubs (Fenley Field, Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground and Alwyn Road Recreation Ground) all suffer from limited maintenance work and have no drainage systems in place.

The poor quality age grade pitch at Newbold on Avon Rugby Club are adversely impacted by being utilised for club training demand. The site is also situated on a floodplain and despite maintenance and drainage efforts, the pitch consequently suffer.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Rugby have access to changing room provision for home games, although the quality of these facilities varies from club to club. Five clubs are identified as having either good quality or adequate changing facilities, whilst the remaining site at Alwyn Road Recreation Ground has poor quality provision and reports the necessity for either improvements or expansion. The table below provides a summary of the ancillary facilities provided at each club's home ground.

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Table 4.9: Ancillary facilities offered at each rugby club's home ground

Site ID	Site name	Club/organisation	Clubhouse	Car Parking	Dugouts	Stands	Fencing	Overall quality
3	Alwyn Road Recreation Ground	Rugby Welsh RUFC	x	✓	x	x	x	Poor
5	Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground	St Andrews RUFC	✓	✓	x	x	✓	Good
16	Broadstreet Rugby Club	Broadstreet RUFC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Good
24	Fenley Field	Old Laurentians RUFC	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	Standard
29	GEC Recreation Ground	A.E.I RUFC	✓	✓	x	x	x	Standard
42	Newbold on Avon RUFC	Newbold on Avon RUFC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Good
59	The Rugby Football Club	Rugby Lions RUFC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Good

Old Laurentians RUFC reports that its ancillary facilities at Fenley Field require improvement, citing that roof of the clubhouse causes constant issues.

Despite being assessed as good quality, Broadstreet RUFC aspires to refurbish its existing changing rooms to increase its storage for training kit and equipment; however, funding has not been secured for this renovation.

In addition, despite all clubs being serviced by car parks, only one of the five responsive clubs (Broadstreet RUFC) reports that its provision is suitable enough to meet the level of demand facilitated.

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4.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Rugby tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive demand

There are seven rugby clubs considered to be based in Rugby, collectively providing a total of 72 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of 14 senior men's, one senior women's, 28 age grade boys', four age grade girls' and 25 mini teams.

The clubs are mixed in terms of what they provide. There are several large clubs offering numerous senior and age grade teams, such as Broadstreet, Newbold on Avon, Old Laurentians and Rugby St Andrews rugby clubs. Conversely, A.E.I RUFC and Rugby Welsh RUFC are smaller clubs offering only senior sections.

Table 4.10: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams					Total
		Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mini	
A.E.I RUFC	Urban	1	-	-	-	-	1
Broadstreet RUFC	North	3	-	7	-	5	15
Newbold on Avon RUFC	Urban	3	-	7	-	6	16
Old Laurentians RUFC	Urban	2	-	7	3	4	16
Rugby Lions RUFC	Urban	1	1	-	1	4	7
Rugby Welsh RUFC	Urban	2	-	-	-	-	2
Rugby St Andrews RUFC	Urban	2	-	7	-	6	15
Total		14	1	28	4	25	72

Of the club-based demand, the Urban Analysis Area caters for the largest number of teams (57), whilst the North Analysis Area caters for the remaining 15 teams and the South Analysis Area caters for none.

Table 4.11: Summary of demand by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Total
	Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mini	
North	3	-	7	-	5	15
South	-	-	-	-	-	0
Urban	11	1	21	4	20	57
Rugby	14	1	28	4	25	72

Amidst all the rugby teams within the Borough, age grade boys' teams are the most represented with 28 teams, whilst senior women's teams are the least represented with just one team (fielded by Rugby Lions RUFC).

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Additional club demand

Broadstreet RUFC and St Andrews RUFC both field touch rugby teams, the latter fielding one senior women's touch team and the former fielding one senior men's team and one senior women's team. Old Laurentians RUFC fields one walking rugby team and one senior women's TAG team.

In addition, Broadstreet RUFC also fields a 'didi' rugby team, consisting of children under the age of six. Most that participate in this, transition into the Club's mini format once old enough to do so.

Participation trends

Participation in Rugby has seemingly varied across the Borough's clubs in recent years, with two clubs citing an increase in participation in one age group and three clubs recording some form of decrease in participation. Newbold on Avon RUFC reports reductions in participation across all four of its sections (senior, colts, youth and mini).

Table 4.12: Demand trends expressed by clubs in the previous three years (where known)

Club	Senior teams	Colts teams (u18-u19)	Youth teams (U13-U17)	Mini teams (U7-U12)
Broadstreet RUFC	-	-	-	-
Newbold on Avon RUFC	Decreased	Decreased	Decreased	Decreased
Old Laurentians RUFC	Decreased	-	-	-
Rugby Lions RUFC	Decreased	Decreased	Decreased	Decreased
Rugby Welsh RUFC	Increased	-	-	-
Rugby St Andrews RUFC	-	-	Decreased	Increased

Rugby Welsh RUFC reports adding one senior team, whilst Rugby St Andrews RUFC reports a general increase across all of its mini age groups, whilst not quantifying this rise. However, the Club also reports losing one U16 team, emphasising the historical difficulty in maintaining the participation of this specific age group as players transition through education. In addition, Old Laurentians RUFC reports the loss of one senior team, reducing from three to two senior men's teams.

The greatest decrease in participation is identified by Rugby Lions RUFC. The Club reports losing three senior teams and numerous colts, youth and mini teams due to a lack of access to pitches, stating that its sole senior pitch is insufficient to meet its potential demand. Hence, the Club's past members left to play for other clubs within the Borough and a regain of this demand would not be able to be accommodated at the Club. Additional pitches are needed, thus it is actively seeking partnerships with nearby clubs and schools to facilitate its aspired growth.

Newbold on Avon RUFC reports losing its fourth senior men's teams as well as struggling to regularly field a second team, however these struggles have now been alleviated. Furthermore, the Club has struggled to maintain its colt's division due to players leaving for University, whilst its mini division has been adversely affected by the long break due to Covid-19.

Broadstreet RUFC is the only club which reports no change in its level of participation.

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Training demand

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting.

Currently, the following clubs are known to utilise match pitches to accommodate some level of training demand:

- ◀ Broadstreet RUFC
- ◀ Old Laurentians RUFC
- ◀ Newbold on Avon RUFC
- ◀ Rugby Lions RUFC
- ◀ Rugby St Andrews RUFC

Training arrangements for A.E.I RUFC are currently unknown as it did not respond to consultation requests and because its pitch at GEC Recreation Ground is not serviced by sports lighting.

Table 4.13: Summary of rugby union club facility use for evening training

Club	Site	Training demand	Match equivalent sessions
A.E.I RUFC	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
Broadstreet RUFC	Broadstreet Rugby Club	One dedicated training pitch is used for training, with the dedicated training pitch accommodating 7.5 training sessions per week.	3.75 match equivalent sessions per week
Newbold on Avon RUFC	Newbold on Avon RUFC	One sports lit colts pitch is used for training four times a week for one hour by both senior, age grade and mini teams.	2 match equivalent sessions per week
Old Laurentians RUFC	Fenley Field	One sports lit senior pitch is used for training, amounting to seven training sessions across seniors, age grade and mini provision.	3.5 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby Lions RUFC	The Rugby Football Club	One sports lit senior pitch is used for training, amounting to three match equivalent sessions per week.	3 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby St Andrews RUFC	Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground	One sports lit senior pitch is used for training, amounting to ten training sessions across seniors, age grade and mini provision.	5 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby Welsh RUFC	Rugby Town Football Club	The sports lit 3G pitch at Rugby Town Football Club is used for training twice a week, totalling three hours per week.	1.25 match equivalent sessions per week

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Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

Nationally, clubs with access to 3G pitches for training utilise them as a method of protecting grass pitches for matches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play generally continues to take place on grass pitches, although there is occasional use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of grass pitch quality or capacity issues (especially during bad weather spells).

There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Rugby; however, as identified above, a pitch at Rugby Town Football Club is being used to accommodate demand. For more information, see Part 3 of this report.

Additional usage

The pitches at Broadstreet Rugby Club are used by Coventry College for rugby matches, as well as for various County matches/tournaments.

In addition, at Newbold on Avon Rugby Club, the Gaelic football club Rugby Gaels uses one the pitches for its match and training demand. Similarly, the pitch at Rugby Football Club (home to Rugby Lions RUFC), is used by the American football team Rugby Rhinos for its match provision. Whilst most of this usage can be adequately accommodated as it takes place outside of the rugby union season, it can impact on post-season remedial work.

Exported/imported demand

There is no known exported or imported rugby union demand in Rugby, although Broadstreet RUFC are technically in Rugby despite being considered as Coventry-based. The Club is therefore also included within the Coventry PPOSS.

Unmet/latent demand

Two of the six responsive clubs report that if more pitches and facilities were made available, they would be able to field more teams and expand its number of teams. These are Rugby Welsh RUFC and Rugby Lions RUFC, with the former suggesting the potential addition of one senior men's team and one youth boys' team, whilst the latter report the capability of adding six to ten teams across all formats. This is linked to its participation reduction referenced earlier.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments within Rugby.

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Future population growth

Based on population projections to 2040 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth. Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates can then be established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference total current population in 2023 of 110,650 will increase to 124,302 by 2040. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by this growth and the requisite match equivalent sessions that it will create. As seen, an increase of two senior men's, three age grade boys and three age grade mixed teams are projected.

Table 4.14: Borough-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions ¹¹
Men (19-45yrs)	1:1278	1.72	2	1
Women (19-45yrs)	1:17616	0.12	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:160	3.44	3	1.5
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:1057	0.49	0	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:353	3.07	3	0.75

At a localised level, the largest degree of future demand generated is identified in the Urban Analysis Area with 1.75 match equivalent sessions, whilst the South Analysis Area yields one match equivalent session and the North Analysis Area generates 0.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.15: Summary of future demand generated via population growth

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					Total
	Senior men	Senior women	Age grade boys	Age grade girls	Age grade mixed	
North	0.5	-	0.5	-	-	1
South	-	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Urban	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.75	1.75
Rugby	1	0	1.5	0	0.75	3.25

Future training demand

Similar to competitive demand referenced above, future levels of training demand can also be calculated via using Sport England's calculator. This demand is based upon access to a floodlit grass pitch equated into match equivalent sessions.

¹¹ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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Table 4.16: Future training demand

Age group	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions)	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions) - rounded figure ¹²	Hour/s equivalent
Men (19-45yrs)	0.86	-	0.5 hours
Women (19-45yrs)	0.06	-	-
Boys (13-18yrs)	1.72	1.5	2 hours
Girls (13-18yrs)	0.25	-	-
Mixed (7-12yrs)	0.77	1	1.5 hour

Participation increases

Of the five clubs that responded to consultation requests, two quantify their aspirations to increase their current team numbers by a total of five teams. Broadstreet RUFC wish to add three teams in total, equating to one senior women's, one colts girls' and one youth girls' team. In addition, Rugby Welsh RUFC wants to establish an additional senior men's team and an additional colts' team.

The remaining clubs do not plan to increase their number of teams further.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior teams play at this time. Peak time for mini and age grade rugby is Sunday AM.

4.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby union pitches, the following assumptions are applied to the site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side (unavailable pitches are not).
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where dedicated age grade and/or mini pitches are provided and are known to be used as standard practice).
- ◀ From U13s upwards, teams play 15 v 15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U6s-U12s) play on half of a senior pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time; this means that play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ◀ For senior and youth teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ◀ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.

¹² Rounded to the nearest 0.5 match equivalent session.

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- Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- Age grade rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.
- Internal use of school pitches is added to current play, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, based on quality, as set out below.

Table 4.17: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

The table below identifies the way capacity and overplay is represented in Table 4.19.

Table 4.18: Spare capacity examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitch(es) have actual spare capacity at peak time.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch(es) is/are played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality but can also be due to the site being unavailable to the community.
1	If the cell is highlighted in red with a number, it means that the pitch(es) are overplayed.

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Table 4.19: Capacity table for rugby pitches available for community use in Rugby

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Quality rating	Sports lighting?	Pitch capacity	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
3	Alwyn Road Recreation Ground	Urban	Yes	1	Senior	Poor	No	0.5	1.5	-	1	Overplayed through match demand from Rugby Welsh RUFC.
5	Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground	Urban	Yes	1	Senior	Poor	No	1.5	1	-	0.5	Pitch is used by Rugby St Andrews RUFC for its match demand.
				2	Senior	Poor	No	3	5.5	-	2.5	Overplayed through match demand from Rugby St Andrews RUFC.
				1	Senior	Poor	Yes	1.5	-	5	3.5	Overplayed through match and training demand from Rugby St Andrews RUFC.
12	Bilton School	Urban	Yes-unused	3	Senior	Poor	No	4.5	3	-	1.5	Pitch is used for curricular demand.
16	Broadstreet Rugby Club	North	Yes	1	Senior	Good	Yes	3.5	3	-	0.5	Pitch is used by Broadstreet RUFC for its senior match demand.
				1	Senior	Good	Yes	3.5	3.5	-	0	Pitch is played to capacity through match and training demand from Broadstreet RUFC.
				5	Senior	Good	No	17.5	3.5	4	10	Pitches used by Broadstreet RUFC for youth and mini demand.
24	Fenley Field	Urban	Yes	1	Senior	Standard	Yes	1.75	1	3.5	4.25	Overplayed through match and training demand from Old Laurentians RUFC.
				2	Senior	Poor	No	3	6	-	3	Overplayed through match demand from Old Laurentians RUFC.
29	GEC Recreation Ground	Urban	Yes	1	Senior	Poor	No	1.5	0.5	-	1	Pitch is used by A.E.I RUFC for its match demand (training demand is unknown).
31	Harris Church of England Academy	Urban	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Poor	No	1.5	1	-	0.5	Pitch is used for curricular demand.
36	Houlton School	Urban	Yes	1	Senior	Standard	No	2	1	-	1	Pitch is used for curricular demand.
42	Newbold on Avon Rugby Club	Urban	Yes	1	Senior	Standard	No	1.75	1.5	-	0.25	Pitch is used by Newbold on Avon RUFC for its senior match demand.
				1	Senior	Poor	Yes	1.5	1.5	-	0	Pitch is played to capacity through match and training demand from Newbold on Avon RUFC.
				1	Age grade	Poor	Yes	0.5	6.5	2	8	Overplayed through match and training demand from Newbold on Avon RUFC.
46	Princethorpe College	South	Yes-unused	3	Senior	Poor	No	4.5	3	-	1.5	Pitches are used for curricular demand.
				2	Age grade	Poor	No	3	2	-	1	Pitches are used for curricular demand.
52	Rugby School Playing Fields	Urban	Yes-unused	3	Senior	Standard	No	6	3	-	3	Pitches are used for curricular demand.
59	The Rugby Football Club	Urban	Yes	1	Senior	Standard	Yes	2	3	3	4	Overplayed through match and training demand from Rugby Lions RUFC.

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Actual spare capacity

There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Furthermore, there are numerous rugby pitches in Rugby at education sites that are unused by clubs despite being reported as available. Whilst these may theoretically provide some spare capacity, it would not be reasonable to equate this as actual spare capacity as school usage itself is likely to limit what additional activity should take place on the provision. Moreover, the nature of club rugby generally means that clubs are generally unwilling to utilise secondary venues, making community use unlikely.

In addition, any pitches that are used by clubs to capacity at peak time (or overplayed), that are poor quality or that provide unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity. As such, the table below ascertains whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be used to accommodate an increase in play, firstly for senior demand, on a site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch basis.

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Table 4.20: Actual spare capacity table

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches with spare capacity	Pitch type	Potential spare capacity	Actual spare capacity (peak period)	Comments
5	Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground	Urban	1	Senior	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
12	Bilton School	Urban	3	Senior	1.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
16	Broadstreet Rugby Club	North	1	Senior	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
16	Broadstreet Rugby Club	North	5	Senior	10	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
29	GEC Recreation Ground	Urban	1	Senior	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
31	Harris Church of England Academy	Urban	1	Senior	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
36	Houlton School	Urban	1	Senior	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to nature of site.
42	Newbold on Avon Rugby Club	Urban	1	Senior	0.25	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
46	Princethorpe College	South	3	Senior	1.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
46	Princethorpe College	South	2	Age grade	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
52	Rugby School Playing Fields	Urban	3	Senior	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

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Of the 21 pitches identified as having potential spare capacity in Rugby, none are considered to offer actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in rugby. This is predominately due to poor quality and/or unsecure tenure.

Overplay

There are nine senior pitches across five sites in Rugby that are overplayed by a total of 26.25 match equivalent sessions per week. This represents substantial levels of overplay.

Table 4.21: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of overplayed pitches	Pitch type	Overplay
3	Alwyn Road Recreation Ground	Urban	1	Senior	1
5	Ashlawn Road Recreation Ground	Urban	3	Senior	6
24	Fenley Field	Urban	3	Senior	7.25
42	Newbold on Avon Rugby Club	Urban	1	Age grade	8
59	The Rugby Football Club	Urban	1	Senior	4
Total					26.25

Overplay is located solely at club sites with the highest level identified at Newbold on Avon RUFC, amounting to eight match equivalent sessions per week. As aforementioned, in the main, overplay is a consequence of concentrated training demand on match pitches.

The entire overplay is identified in the Urban Analysis Area (26.25 match equivalent sessions per week). None is identified in the North or South analysis areas.

Table 4.22: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
North	-
South	-
Urban	26.25
Rugby	26.25

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay of rugby union pitches in Rugby based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on club development plans, which are considered likely to absorb future demand identified through population increases.

As seen, there is a current overall shortfall of 26.25 match equivalent senior sessions per week, of which a shortfall is solely prominent in the Urban Analysis Area, amounting to 26.25 match equivalent sessions per week. The North and South analysis areas have no actual spare capacity or overplay.

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Table 4.23: Current supply and demand analysis

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
North	-	-	0
South	-	-	0
Urban	-	26.25	26.25
Rugby	0	26.25	26.25

When accounting for future competitive and training demand, the overall shortfall is projected to increase to 33.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.24: Future supply and demand analysis

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
	Current total	Future competitive demand	Future training demand	Future total
North	0	1	1	2
South	0	0.5	1	1.5
Urban	26.25	1.75	2	30
Rugby	26.25	3.25	4	33.5

4.6: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of rugby union provision to meet demand in Rugby, with a significant shortfall identified and with most clubs utilising overplayed provision. This deficit is projected to worsen in the future, meaning that solutions need to be sought.

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Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Of the 21 pitches identified as having potential spare capacity, none are considered to have actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase demand due to quality and/or security of tenure issues.
- ◀ There are nine senior pitches across five sites that are overplayed by a total of 26.25 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There is a current overall shortfall of 26.25 match equivalent sessions per week, with future demand exacerbating this shortfall to 33.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Rugby union – supply summary

- ◀ There are 40 rugby union pitches identified across 15 sites, of which 32 pitches are available for community use across 11 sites.
- ◀ Rugby Welsh RUFC has plans to develop an additional pitch at its home venue, Alwyn Road Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Old Laurentians RUFC has plans to relocate in order to resolve pitch capacity issues and to offer a modern clubhouse with diverse amenities. As of yet, the Club has not secured funding for the relocation; however, the Club are working in conjunction with the Slatter Group to proceed with its plans.
- ◀ Broadstreet and Newbold-on-Avon rugby clubs have freehold of their sites, whilst the remaining clubs have rental and lease agreements.
- ◀ Of pitches which are available for community use, there are seven good quality pitches, seven standard quality pitches and 18 poor quality pitches.
- ◀ Broadstreet and Old Laurentians rugby clubs both report a need for ancillary provision improvements.

Rugby union – demand summary

- ◀ There are seven rugby clubs considered to be based in Rugby providing a total of 72 teams.
- ◀ A total of five clubs are known to currently use match pitches to accommodate training demand.
- ◀ Rugby Welsh RUFC utilises the 3G pitch at Rugby Town Football Club for training despite it not being World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a growth of two senior men's, three age grade boys' and three age grade mixed teams, whilst Broadstreet RUFC and Rugby Welsh RUFC quantify aspirations to increase their current team numbers by a total of five teams.

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PART 5: HOCKEY

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH).

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. England Hockey's (EH) Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as seen below.

Table 5.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	Essential International Hockey - Training and matches	Desirable Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards England
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	Desirable All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	Essential None	Desirable Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH reports that it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2, is a versatile surface that ensures that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it is a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

For senior teams, a full-size hockey pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run-off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends. EH's preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

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It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided that the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek and also requires access to a pitch with sports lights.

Consultation

Rugby & East Warwickshire HC is the only hockey club identified as playing within Rugby and was consulted to inform this section of the report.

5.2: Supply

There are eight full size, sports lit hockey suitable pitches in Rugby located across six sites, with three pitches are located at Rugby School Sports Centre. All of the pitches are provided at education sites (or dual use sites) and are serviced by sports lighting. One of the pitches is unavailable for community use, located at Bilton Grange School.

The pitch at Bilton Grange School and two of the pitches at Rugby School Sports Centre are three of the few water-based pitches supplied nationally.

Table 5.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Surface type	Size (meters)
11	Bilton Grange School	South	No	Yes	Water	100 x 62
12	Bilton School	Urban	Yes	Yes	Sand	100 x 62
32	Hartfield Sports Ground	Urban	Yes	Yes	Sand	102 x 63
46	Princethorpe College	South	Yes	Yes	Sand	98 x 61
53	Rugby School Sports Centre	Urban	Yes	Yes	Water	98 x 63
			Yes	Yes	Sand	98 x 61
			Yes	Yes	Water	97 x 67
61	Warwickshire College (Rugby Centre)	Urban	Yes	Yes	Sand	97 x 60

As seen in the table above, six pitches are provided in the Urban Analysis Area and two are in the South Analysis Area. None are provided in the North Analysis Area.

Smaller size provision

In addition to the full size AGPs, there is also one smaller size hockey suitable pitch in Rugby, located at Bilton School. The pitch is available for community use, despite not being serviced by sports lighting. Furthermore, the pitch is predominantly used by football demand and curricular usage, facilitating no official hockey usage.

Table 5.3: Smaller sized AGPs in Rugby

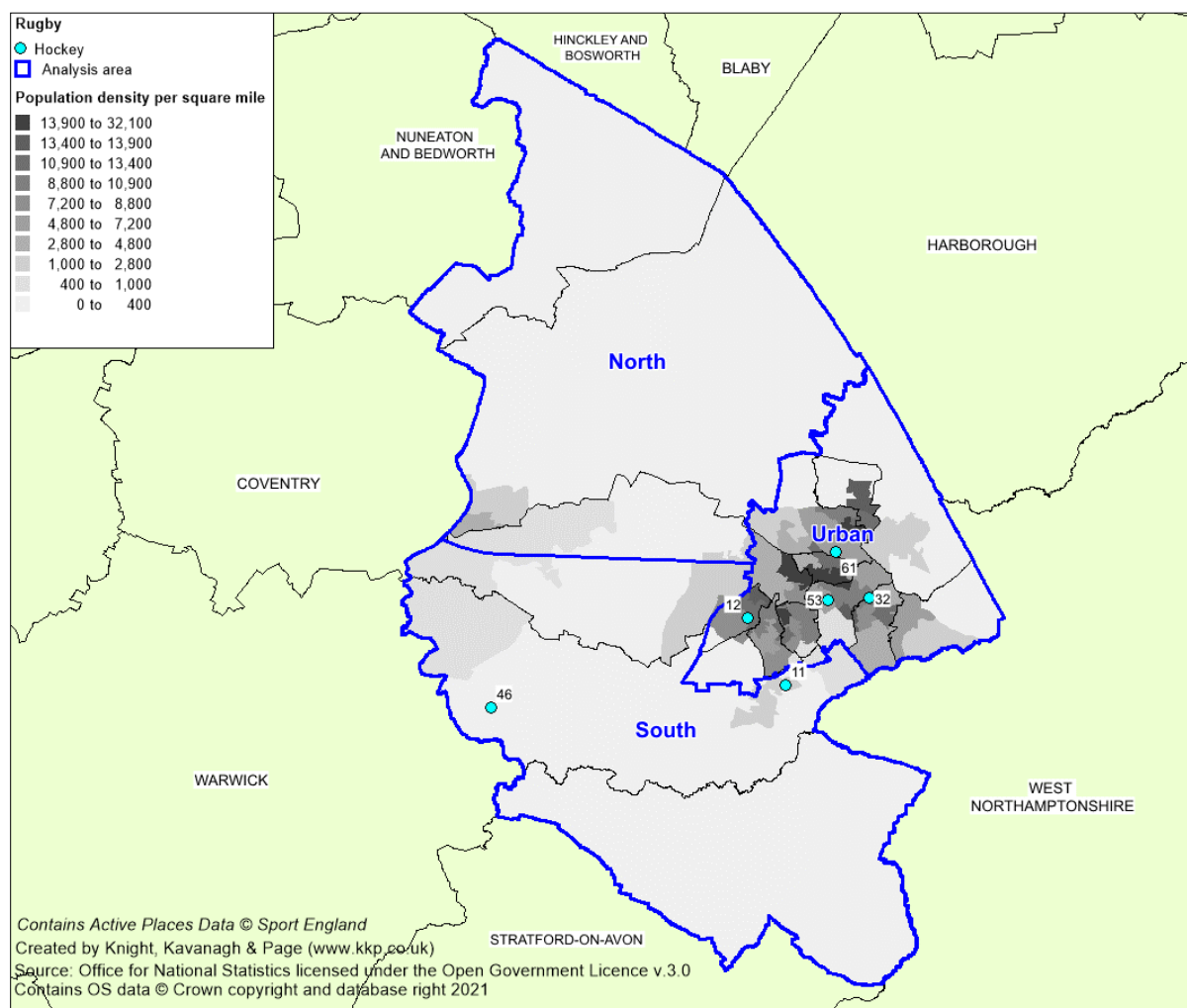
Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (meters)
12	Bilton School	Urban	1	Yes	No	68 x 38

Nationally, smaller size pitches are considered too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, although some larger ones are utilised for training demand and junior play. In Rugby, the pitch at Bilton School is not considered suitable as it is too small and is without sports lighting. As such, it has been discounted from this point forward.

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For the location of the full size AGPs, please see Figure 5.1 below.

Figure 5.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in Rugby



Management and security of tenure

As all current full size hockey provision is located at education sites, the sole hockey club in the Borough, Rugby & East Warwickshire HC, is not considered to have a security of tenure. The Club rents provision on an annual basis at three sites, with these being Hartfield Sports Ground, Rugby School Sports Centre and Princethorpe College. No longer term agreements are in place.

Availability

Sport England's FPM applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). On this basis, all but one full size AGP in Rugby is considered to be readily available to the community within the peak period, with the only exemption being the pitch at Bilton Grange School. This offers more limited midweek availability in addition to restricted hours on Saturdays.

The three pitches at Rugby School Sports Centre and the pitch at Hartfield Sports Ground also have limited availability on Saturdays. Access is only enabled until 13:00 at the former, whilst it is not allowed until 12:00 at the latter. This impacts on capacity to accommodate matches.

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Table 5.4: Availability of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Actual usage
11	Bilton Grange School	-	Unavailable for community use.	-
12	Bilton School	32	Available to the community from 17:00 to 22:00 from Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 16:00 on weekends.	Based on the degree of football usage currently, there is a small amount of spare capacity for additional hockey usage.
32	Hartfield Sports Ground	28	Available to the community from 18:00 to 22:00 from Monday to Friday, from 12:00 to 18:00 on Saturdays and from 09:00 to 14:00 on Sundays.	No capacity for additional usage based on the high degree of hockey usage by Rugby & East Warwickshire HC.
46	Princethorpe College	29	Available to the community from 18:00 to 21:00 during the week and from 09:00 to 18:00 at weekends.	Potential for additional hockey usage, although the pitch's poor quality and location is unfavourable.
53	Rugby School Sports Centre	22	All three pitches are available to the community from 08:00 to 14:00 and 19:00 to 22:00 on Mondays and Fridays and from 08:00 to 14:00 and 18:00 to 22:00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Saturdays, availability is from 08:00 to 13:00, whilst on Sundays it is from 08:00 to 14:00 and from 16:00 to 19:30.	No capacity for additional usage based on the high degree of hockey usage by the School and Rugby & East Warwickshire HC.
61	Warwickshire College (Rugby Centre)	32	Available to the community from 12:00 to 21:30 from Monday to Thursday and from 12:00 to 20:00 on Fridays. At weekends, it is accessible from 09:00 to 17:00 on Saturday and from 09:00 to 15:00 on Sundays.	Based on the degree of football usage currently, there is a small amount of spare capacity for additional hockey usage.

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Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that some providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed, leading to many pitches now being poor quality.

For the PPOSS, each AGP has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments. This rating is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and the maintenance that is undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

The following table indicates when each of the full size pitches were installed or last resurfaced within Rugby, together with an agreed quality rating. As seen, three pitches are assessed as good quality, three as standard and two as poor.

Table 5.5: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
11	Bilton Grange School	1	2015	Good
12	Bilton School	1	2008	Poor
32	Hartfield Sports Ground	1	2008	Poor
46	Princethorpe College	1	2015	Poor
53	Rugby School Sports Centre	3	2021	Good
			2015	Standard
			2016	Good
61	Warwickshire College (Rugby Centre)	1	2015	Standard

Based on the guidance of a ten-year carpet life, the pitches at Bilton School and Hartfield Sports Ground are in need of refurbishment as both have not been resurfaced since their installation in 2008. Both pitches are therefore considered to be poor quality, primarily due to heavy signs of wear and tear caused by the ages of the surfaces. Sheriff School, which owns the pitch at Hartfield Sports Ground, reports that it plans to resurface the aging pitch in the next couple of years. Furthermore, the pitch at Princethorpe College is also poor quality as it is not maintained to a high standard.

In contrast, the three England Hockey Category 1 water-based pitches based at Rugby School Sports Centre and Bilton Grange School are rated as good quality. The pitch at Bilton Grange School was installed in 2015 and remains good quality despite its age, assisted by the level of maintenance carried out. As for the two-remaining water-based pitches at Rugby School Sports Centre; one of the pitches had previously existed as a sand-based pitch and was refurbished to water-based in 2021, whereas the other was installed in 2016.

The pitches located at Warwickshire College (Rugby Centre), as well as the sand-based pitch at Rugby School Sports Centre, are rated as standard quality.

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Ancillary provision

The majority of the hockey suitable pitches are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities. However, an exception to this is found at Hartfield Sports Ground, with the provision in desperate need of refurbishment, as expressed by both Lawrence Sheriff School and Rugby & East Warwickshire HC. The School reports ongoing plans to sell a parcel of land at the site; should the sale of land proceed successfully, it intends to direct some of the revenue generated towards new changing rooms.

5.3: Demand

Rugby & East Warwickshire HC is the principal HC currently playing in Rugby. The Club consists of 22 teams, equating to seven men's teams, five women's teams and ten junior teams. It has a membership of 506, making it a particularly large club.

Table 5.6: Summary of demand

Name of club	Membership							Total
	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior boys (14-16)	Junior girls (14-16)	Junior boys (11-13)	Junior girls (11-13)	Mini mixed (5-10)	
Rugby & East Warwickshire HC	116	73	43	25	66	48	135	506

The Club utilises two pitches in Rugby to accommodate its training demand, Hartfield Sports Ground and Rugby School Sports Centre. The Club's senior men's train at Hartfield Sports Ground on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, whilst its senior women's train on Tuesday evenings at Rugby School Sports Centre. The Club's junior boys (11-13) and junior girls (11-13) train at Tuesday evenings at Hartfield Sports Ground. The Club's older junior boys' (14-16) train on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at Hartfield Sports Ground, whilst its older youth girls' train on Tuesday evening at Rugby School Sports Centre. Finally, at the Club's entry level, its mini teams train on Friday evenings at Rugby School Sports Centre.

Participation trends

Rugby & East Warwickshire HC has seen an increase in participation across both its senior and junior age groups in recent years, evidencing an overall growth in hockey demand. As an example, this season it added a fifth senior women's team due to the volume of quality junior players progressing through the Club's development setup.

Amongst its junior section, the Club attributes its rise in participation to the introduction of the Midlands Junior League. This provides more opportunities for competitive play for its younger players.

Exported/imported demand

There is no known exported/imported hockey demand identified in Rugby.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand is identified by Rugby & East Warwickshire HC, with the Club attributing the lack of good quality hockey facilities within the Borough as a key factor preventing the Club's expansion and addition of further playing members.

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Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years, meaning it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.

In relation to club aspirations, Rugby & East Warwickshire HC reports that it aspires to field one additional senior men's team, one additional senior women's team and one additional junior girls' team, totalling three additional teams at the Club. The Club also hopes to gain an increased involvement with schools to promote hockey in Rugby, with the potential to further grow junior membership through this avenue.

Hockey Heroes

Hockey Heroes is a six-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance, and respect.

There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in Rugby, with the nearest offering identified outside of the Borough in Northampton.

Back to Hockey

Back to Hockey sessions are fun, social, and informal and are aimed at people who either have not played for a number of years or that are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver the programme.

Benefits of clubs being involved in Back to Hockey include:

- ◀ More members
- ◀ More casual players
- ◀ Additional income
- ◀ Extra publicity
- ◀ New volunteers

There are currently no Back to Hockey courses operating in Rugby, with the nearest offering identified outside of the Borough in Northampton.

Walking hockey

Increasing in popularity, walking hockey is perfect for players looking for a less physically demanding version of the game but still enjoy showing their skills and being involved in the team and social aspect.

There are currently no walking hockey sessions operating in Rugby, with the nearest offering identified outside of the Borough in neighbouring Coventry.

In2Hockey

In2Hockey is England Hockey's adapted game format aimed at players 10-14 years old and is played as a 6-a-side game without goalkeepers, or as a 7-a-side game with goalkeepers.

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Rugby & East Warwickshire HC participate in the initiative, fielding two teams; one u10 junior boys team and one u10 junior girls team.

Peak time demand

Generally, all senior hockey is played on a Saturday (with the expectation of BUCS League fixtures which take place midweek, usually Wednesday), whereas all junior hockey is played on a Sunday.

Usage

Taking all the above demand into account, it is clear that there is significant usage of the full size hockey suitable AGPs within Rugby for hockey, with Rugby & East Warwickshire HC accessing three venues. In addition, most of the provision is also commonly used for other activities, most notably in terms of football, whether that be through formal training or via informal social use.

The table below summarises the usage at sites providing full size hockey suitable pitches, comparing availability against hockey use and other activity as well as taking into consideration any remaining spare capacity. Spare capacity is considered to exist for matches if there are currently less than eight teams assigned to a pitch on a Saturday or Sunday (and if the remaining capacity is not being utilised for other purposes).

Table 5.7: Usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Usage Comments	Capacity for hockey
11	Bilton Grange School	-	Unavailable for community use.	No spare capacity.
12	Bilton School	32	Unused for hockey by the community, with all demand being football based, predominately during midweek timeslots.	Spare capacity for match and training demand although pitch improvements would be required before demand could be safely accommodated.
32	Hartfield Sports Ground	28	Used by Rugby & East Warwickshire HC for matches and training.	Pitch is used to its capacity at peak time for training and matches.
46	Princethorpe College	29	Used by Rugby & East Warwickshire HC for matches.	Spare capacity for match and training demand although pitch improvements would be required before demand could be safely accommodated.
53	Rugby School Sports Centre	23	Used by the School and Rugby & East Warwickshire HC for matches and training.	Pitch is used to its capacity at peak time for training and matches.

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Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Usage Comments	Capacity for hockey
61	Warwickshire College (Rugby Centre)	32	Unused for hockey by the community, with all demand being football based, predominately during midweek timeslots.	Spare capacity for match and training demand.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

Match play analysis

It is suggested that a full size hockey pitch with sports lighting is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day for senior hockey. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).

On the basis that there are eight full size AGPs available which can accommodate hockey matches in Rugby, providing a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 64 hockey teams across the Borough. However, the pitch at Bilton Grange School is unavailable for community use, whilst the pitches at Rugby School Sports Centre and Hartfield Sports Ground cannot be used throughout the day. This therefore reduces overall capacity to 20 match equivalent sessions and 40 senior teams.

Table 5.8: Summary of capacity at peak time for senior hockey (Saturdays)

Site ID	Site	Peak time availability (Saturday)	Capacity	
			Match equivalent sessions	Teams
11	Bilton Grange School	Unavailable	-	-
12	Bilton School	09:00-16:00	4	8
32	Hartfield Sports Ground	12:00-18:00	2	4
46	Princethorpe College	09:00-18:00	4	8
53	Rugby School Sports Centre ¹³	08:00-13:00	2	4
		08:00-13:00	2	4
		08:00-13:00	2	4
61	Warwickshire College (Rugby Centre)	09:00-17:00	4	8
Total			20	40

With 12 senior teams currently playing in Rugby, this suggests that current supply is sufficient to accommodate demand, with substantial capacity remaining for an additional 28 teams.

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is generally less than it is for senior hockey as younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time). As such, provision adequate to accommodate senior demand is also likely to be adequate to accommodate junior demand, especially when accounting for more extensive availability at many sites.

¹³ Availability is only offered until 13:00 as the School uses the pitch thereafter for its own demand.

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Training analysis

In terms of capacity for training, many of the AGPs are used extensively for other purposes, most commonly football, which can limit access for hockey demand. That being said, there is still seemingly sufficient capacity at sites currently used to accommodate all training demand within the Borough, with Rugby & East Warwickshire HC reporting no capacity issues. This is helped by the presence of the water-based pitches.

5.5: Conclusion

There is a sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches in Rugby to accommodate current demand, with eight pitches provided and only one club requiring access. However, it is also clear that Rugby & East Warwickshire HC could be better catered for across the three venues currently used (Hartfield Sports Ground, Princethorpe College and Rugby School Sports Centre).

First and foremost, improved security of tenure should look to be sought and quality improvements are needed at Hartfield Sports Ground and Princethorpe College. Considering the restricted access at Rugby School Sports Centre, Rugby & East Warwickshire HC has begun using the pitch at Princethorpe College to accommodate a proportion of its match demand on Saturdays despite its poor quality and distance from its home ground, further reducing spare capacity in the Borough.

Overall, whilst providing sufficient supply to accommodate current demand, spare capacity of pitches within Rugby is minimal due to the restricted access at Rugby School Sports Centre, the high degree of football usage at Bilton School and Warwickshire College, combined with quality issues at Hartfield Sports Ground and Princethorpe College.

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Current supply is sufficient to accommodate demand given the large number of pitches provided, although it is also clear that Rugby & East Warwickshire HC could be better provided for.
- ◀ Overall, whilst being sufficient to accommodate current demand, spare capacity of pitches within Rugby is minimal due to restricted access at Rugby School Sports Centre, a high degree of football usage at Bilton School and Warwickshire College, and quality issues at Hartfield Sports Ground and Princethorpe College. This is despite some pitches currently being unused for hockey.

Hockey – supply summary

- ◀ There are eight full size, sports lit AGPs suitable for competitive hockey in Rugby located across six sites.
- ◀ In addition, there is one smaller-sized AGP located at Bilton School; however, this is not suitable for purposeful hockey demand.
- ◀ The pitch at Bilton Grange School and two of the three pitches at Rugby School Sports Centre are three of the few water-based pitches supplied nationally.
- ◀ All of the pitches are provided at education sites (or dual use sites) and are serviced by sports lighting. One of the pitches is unavailable for community use, located at Bilton Grange School.
- ◀ Limited security of tenure is provided, with no long term usage agreement in place.
- ◀ Based on the guidance of a ten-year carpet life, the pitch at Bilton School and Hartfield Sports Ground are in need of refurbishment and are assessed as poor quality, whereas all remaining pitches are considered to be good or standard quality.
- ◀ Ancillary provision is poor at Hartfield Sports Ground.

Hockey – demand summary

- ◀ Rugby & East Warwickshire HC is the only hockey club currently playing in Rugby; the Club consists of 22 teams, equating to seven men's teams, five women's teams and ten junior teams.
- ◀ Demand has grown in recent years, with the Club increasing its number of teams as well as its membership, with unmet/latent demand now reported due to a lack of capacity at venues used.
- ◀ The Club uses the pitches at Rugby School Sports Centre, Hartfield Sports Ground and Princethorpe College.
- ◀ It also reports that it aspires to field one additional senior men's team, one additional senior women's team and one additional junior girls' team in the future.
- ◀ Most of the hockey suitable provision is also commonly used for other activities, most notably in terms of football, whether that be through formal training or via informal social use.

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PART 6: CRICKET

6.1: Introduction

Warwickshire Cricket is the main governing and representative body for cricket within Rugby. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the area. It is currently working with the ECB on delivering and laying the foundations for its Strategy, “Inspiring Generations”, which has been live since 2020.

For senior cricket in Rugby there are three main offerings (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket), whilst the youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are generally played mid-week.

Country Facilities Strategy

Warwickshire Cricket is currently undertaking a County Facilities Strategy, one of which, is to be produced by each individual county cricket board across the Country, unique to its geographical area as well as being diverse in its representation. These will be seen as a long-term plan and will involve engagement with key stakeholders, including clubs, leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England.

To inform the strategies, the ECB has set out guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered throughout the development of the strategies:

- ◀ Traditional facilities (pitches, outfield, pavilions, practice areas)
- ◀ Non-traditional facilities (multi-use games areas, tapeball/softball spaces, courts/cages)
- ◀ Indoor facilities (multi use halls, cricket specific halls, match play venues)

The strategies will be used to shape investment decisions and priorities, with the decision-making process clearly explained before a list of priority projects is produced. To inform this process, each strategy will utilise PPOSS findings, where in place, as a ‘high quality’ evidence base.

Consultation

To avoid duplication and survey fatigue, Warwickshire Cricket supplied its consultation findings with clubs and leagues, from its emerging County Facilities Strategy, undertaken in 2022, to inform this section of the report. KKP also fed into the process to ensure that all relevant questions have been asked and information secured.

The following 12 clubs are based in Rugby and they have all been involved in the production of the County Facilities Strategy:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ◀ Bourton & Frankton CC | ◀ Dunchurch & Bilton CC |
| ◀ Flecknoe CC | ◀ Marton Village CC |
| ◀ Merchants CC | ◀ Newbold-on-Avon CC |
| ◀ Oakfield & Rowland United CC | ◀ Old Laurentians CC |
| ◀ Rugby CC | ◀ Stretton-on-Dunsmore CC |
| ◀ Willoughby CC | ◀ Wolvey CC |

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6.2: Supply

In total, there are 21 grass wicket cricket squares in Rugby, provided across 15 sites. Of this provision, 15 squares are available for community use across 13 sites, with seven found in the South analysis areas and six found in the Urban analysis area. There are two community available squares in the North analysis area.

Table 6.1: Summary of grass wicket squares available for community use

Analysis area	Squares available for community use
North	2
South	7
Urban	6
Rugby	15

The unavailable squares are located at Rugby School (Springhill Pitches) and Princethorpe College.

When compared to Rugby's previous PPOSS (completed in 2015), there has been an increase of two community available squares but an overall decrease of two squares when considering all provision. The increase in community available provision is due to an increase in accessible school facilities, whereas the overall decrease is due to some squares falling out of use (see disused section).

Non-turf pitches

There are non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying seven grass wickets squares across the same number of sites. This is the case at the following:

- ◀ Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club
- ◀ Hartfield Sports Ground (Lawrence Sheriff School)
- ◀ Newbold-on-Avon Cricket Club
- ◀ Oakfield & Rowland Cricket Club
- ◀ Princethorpe College
- ◀ Rugby Cricket Club
- ◀ Willoughby Cricket Club

All of these sites are available for community use with the exception of the provision at Princethorpe College.

In addition, there are seven standalone NTPs currently provided, with these being at the following sites:

- ◀ Ashlawn School
- ◀ Avon Valley School
- ◀ Bilton Grange School
- ◀ Bilton School
- ◀ Fenley Field
- ◀ Harris C of E Academy
- ◀ Rugby Free Secondary School

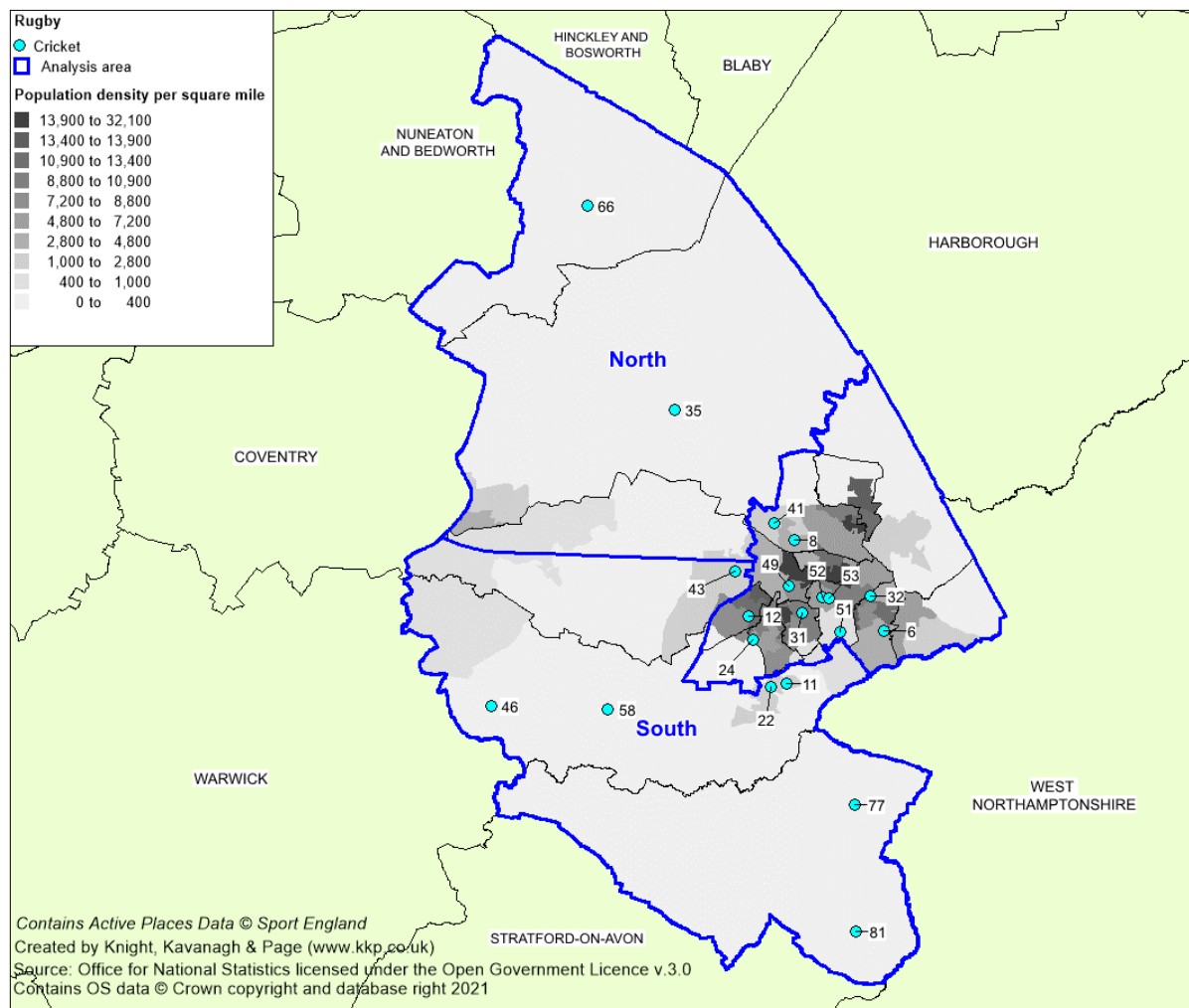
Of these, only the wickets at Bilton Grange School and Fenley Field are available for community use. The other five sites are not.

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

NTPs, particularly at club sites, aid with training and practice and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs can be used for junior matches.

The map below shows the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Rugby. For a key to the map, see Table 6.2.

Figure 6.1: Location of cricket squares within Rugby



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Table 6.2: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
							Grass	Non-turf
6	Ashlawn School	CV22 5ET	Urban	School	No	1	-	1
8	Avon Valley School	CV21 1EH	Urban	School	No	1	-	1
11	Bilton Grange School	CV22 6QU	South	School	Yes	3	13	-
							8	-
							-	1
12	Bilton School	CV22 7JT	Urban	School	No	1	-	1
22	Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club	CV22 6PN	South	Sports club	Yes	1	9	1
24	Fenley Field	CV22 7QT	Urban	Sports club	Yes	1	-	1
31	Harris C of E Academy	CV22 6EA	Urban	School	No	1	-	1
32	Hartfield Sports Ground (Lawrence Sheriff School)	CV21 3TP	Urban	School	Yes	1	7	1
35	HMPS College Newbold Revel	CV23 0JD	North	Private	Yes	1	7	-
41	Newbold-on-Avon Cricket Club	CV21 1EZ	Urban	Sports club	Yes	1	8	1
43	Oakfield & Rowland Cricket Club	CV23 9DT	South	Sports club	Yes	1	10	1
46	Princethorpe College	CV23 9PX	South	School	No	2	9	-
							1	1
49	Rugby Cricket Club	CV22 7AU	Urban	Sports club	Yes	1	13	1
51	Rugby School (Springhill Pitches)	CV22 5PY	Urban	School	No	4	4	-
							4	-
							4	-
							3	-
52	Rugby School Playing Fields	CV22 5DS	Urban	School	Yes	2	16	-
							6	-
53	Rugby School Sports Centre	CV22 5DJ	Urban	School	Yes	1	9	-
58	The Field (Bourton)	CV23 9RE	South	Bourton & Draycot Parish Council	Yes	1	10	-
66	Wolvey Playing Fields	LE10 3LA	North	Community	Yes	1	16	-

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
							Grass	Non-turf
77	Willoughby Cricket Ground	CV23 8BZ	South	Sports club	Yes	1	12	1
81	Flecknoe Cricket Club	CV23 8AY	South	Sports club	Yes	1	6	-
84	Rugby Free Secondary School	CV22 5PE	Urban	School	No	1	-	1

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Disused/lapsed provision

There are two lapsed and one disused site in Rugby that previously provided a grass wicket cricket square. The lapsed sites are Easenhall Cricket Ground, which last catered for cricket in around 2008, and Hilmorton Recreation Ground, which fell out of use for the sport in 2012 before then exclusively being used for football.

The disused square is located at Marton Village Cricket Club. This was in use by the Club until 2021; however, all of its demand has since transferred to Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club.

In addition, it is also worth noting that Whinfield Recreation Ground previously provided two cricket squares but no longer does so. However, this is not considered to be disused provision as the site is still marked out and in use for football (meaning it is still in use as a playing field).

Management and security of tenure

Of the clubs in Rugby, most are considered to have security of tenure of their primary venues, either through ownership of their home ground or via a long-term lease agreement. The arrangement for each club is summarised in the table below.

Table 6.3: Ownership/management arrangements for cricket clubs in Rugby

Name of club	Ownership/management details
Bourton & Frankton CC	The Club leases the square at The Field (Bourton) from the Council.
Dunchurch & Bilton CC	The Club leases the square at Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club from the Council whilst also using provision at Bilton Grange School.
Flecknoe CC	The Club has a long-term agreement for use of Flecknoe Cricket Club but does not disclose in what form this is provided.
Marton Village CC	The Club rents the square at Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club via an agreement with the Club.
Merchants CC	The Club rents the square at Rugby School Sports Centre from the School.
Newbold-on-Avon CC	The Club leases the square at Newbold-on-Avon Cricket Club from the Council.
Oakfield & Rowland United CC	The Club has freehold at Oakfield & Rowland Cricket Club and rents a secondary venue outside of the Borough.
Old Laurentians CC	The Club forms part of a wider entity that leases Fenley Field from the Council.
Rugby CC	The Club leases the square at Rugby CC from the Council whilst also using provision at Hartfield Sports Ground (Lawrence Sheriff School).
Stretton-on-Dunsmore CC	The Club rents the square at HMPS College Newbold Revel.
Willoughby CC	The Club has freehold of Willoughby Cricket Ground.
Wolvey CC	The Club leases the square at Wolvey Playing Fields from the Council.

The only agreements of concern are those in place for Marton Village CC, Merchants CC and Stretton-on-Dunsmore CC, all of which, only rent their current venues on an annual basis. This is particularly worrisome for Stretton-on-Dunsmore CC given the otherwise private nature of HMPS College Newbold Revel.

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Some clubs also rent secondary venues due to a lack of peak time capacity at their preferred sites, with this applying to Dunchurch & Bilton CC at Bilton Grange School and Rugby CC at Hartfield Sports Ground (Lawrence Sheriff School). As both sites are at schools, security of tenure is limited, with access able to be denied beyond the existing rental agreements.

Oakfield & Rowland United CC also utilises a secondary venue, although it does this outside of Rugby (see exported demand).

Pitch quality

The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%). For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to players.

The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Rugby found five to be good quality and the remaining 10 to be standard quality. This means that none are assessed as poor quality. The site-by-site breakdown of this is shown in the following table.

Table 6.4: Quality ratings for community available grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
11	Bilton Grange School	South	2	Standard
				Standard
22	Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club	South	1	Good
32	Hartfield Sports Ground	Urban	1	Standard
35	HMPS College Newbold Revel	North	1	Standard
41	Newbold-on-Avon Cricket Club	Urban	1	Standard
43	Oakfield & Rowland Cricket Club	South	1	Good
49	Rugby Cricket Club	Urban	1	Good
52	Rugby School Playing Fields	Urban	2	Standard
				Standard
53	Rugby School Sports Centre	Urban	1	Standard
58	The Field (Bourton)	South	1	Good
66	Wolvey Playing Fields	North	1	Good
77	Willoughby Cricket Ground	South	1	Standard
81	Flecknoe Cricket Club	South	1	Standard

In addition, all of the squares that are unavailable for community use are assessed as standard quality.

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Although no squares are assessed as poor quality, it must be noted that the provision at Flecknoe Cricket Ground received the lowest site assessment score. This is due an uneven outfield and the grass being overgrown.

Similarly, the square at Newbold-on-Avon Cricket Club scored relatively low, primarily due to noticeable drainage issues. The site sits within the floodplain and is therefore more at risk from adverse weather.

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the required standards, which are benchmarked by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA).

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports (comprehensive, mini or verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

Table 6.5: Performance Quality Standard ratings

Quality rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches
Club (Standard)	A Club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within financial limitations such as local authorities
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play

NTP provision in Rugby is generally adequate, although this is not the case at Harris C of E Academy or at Avon Valley School, where the wickets are significantly worn. Whilst neither site is available for community use, replacement would better accommodate curricular and extra-curricular needs and potentially encourage access to be offered in the future.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Rugby have access to changing room facilities at their home ground, although quality varies.

Only one site has been assessed as offering poor quality ancillary provision, with this being Newbold-on-Avon Cricket Club where the clubhouse has issues due to age and condition of the building. The Club reports ongoing plans to rectify this, stating an aspiration to refurbish the changing facilities as well as new toilets, showers and a kitchen.

Oakfield & Rowland United CC is serviced by limited ancillary provision at its site, especially in relation to its size. As such, it expresses a desire to expand the footprint of the clubhouse, primarily to enable dedicated female changing rooms and toilets to be provided.

Flecknoe CC is also serviced by limited ancillary provision, although it does not report this to be a major problem due to only hosting one team.

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Willoughby CC has plans to refurbish its changing rooms and improve disabled access at Willoughby Cricket Ground, whilst Rugby CC has an aspiration to enlarge and modernise its clubhouse. However, neither club currently have funding in place to achieve to move forward with these plans.

Dunchurch & Bilton CC has a good quality clubhouse at its site but away from this it reports plans to acquire new roll-on covers. However, it fears that its current lack of storage space would lead to them being vandalised or stolen.

All remaining clubs are serviced by adequate provision and report no issues or development plans.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. In Rugby, five club sites are serviced by fixed practice nets, located at:

- ◀ Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club
- ◀ Oakfield & Rowland Cricket Club
- ◀ Rugby Cricket Club
- ◀ The Field (Bourton)
- ◀ Willoughby Cricket Ground

In addition, Hartfield Sports Ground (Lawrence Sheriff School) also provides practice nets.

Notwithstanding the above, Willoughby CC expresses an aspiration to replace its current provision with a new two-bay facilities, although it states that the cost is currently prohibitive. Similarly, Oakfield & Rowland United CC wants to refurbish its nets, which installed over 20 years ago and are therefore in poor condition.

The practice facilities at The Field (Bourton) are also considered to be poor quality, with just a single bay provided. This is in clear need of refurbishment.

The nets at the remaining sites are in good condition, particularly at both Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club and Rugby Cricket Club where the provision has only recently been installed (in 2022).

Flecknoe, Merchants, Newbold-on-Avon, Old Laurentians, Stretton-on-Dunsmore and Wolvey cricket clubs are not currently serviced by fixed practice nets. Some of these, such as Flecknoe CC and Newbold-on-Avon CC, utilise their match wickets for training via the use of mobile nets, which adds usage to the provision.

6.3: Demand

There are 12 affiliated cricket clubs in Rugby which collectively provide 49 cricket teams. This equates to 37 senior men's, five senior women's and seven junior teams.

The makeup of the clubs is mixed. Some are large clubs providing various teams within several formats, such as Oakfield & Rowland United, Rugby and Willoughby cricket clubs, whilst others are small clubs providing only one team. This is summarised, by club in the table below.

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Table 6.6: Summary of teams by club

Club	Analysis area	No. of teams		
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior
Bourton & Frankton CC	South	1	-	-
Dunchurch & Bilton CC	South	4	-	-
Flecknoe CC	South	1	-	-
Marton Village CC	South	1	-	-
Merchants CC	Urban	1	-	-
Newbold-on-Avon CC	Urban	3	1	-
Oakfield & Rowland United CC	South	7	1	2
Old Laurentians CC	South	1	-	-
Rugby CC	Urban	8	2	3
Stretton-on-Dunsmore CC	North	1	-	-
Willoughby CC	South	6	1	2
Wolvey CC	North	3	-	-
Total		37	5	7

Most teams are based in the South Analysis Area (28 teams), followed by the Urban Analysis Area (18 teams). Only four teams are based in the North Analysis Area, with all these being senior men's sides.

Table 6.7: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
North	4	-	-
South	21	2	4
Urban	12	3	3
Total	37	5	7

ECB initiatives

The ECB is currently running a number of initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable during these periods.

All Stars cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, cricket clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ◀ Increase cricket activity for 5-8 year olds in the school and club environment.
- ◀ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition.
- ◀ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle.
- ◀ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment.
- ◀ Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children to follow and play the game.

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The following four clubs are currently signed up to deliver All Stars in Rugby:

- ◀ Oakfield & Rowland CC
- ◀ Rugby CC
- ◀ Willoughby CC
- ◀ Wolvey CC

Dynamos cricket

Dynamos provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars cricket, thus developing a pathway to retain juniors who progress, as well as being an introduction for all 8-11 year-olds new to the sport. Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket.

In Rugby, both Willoughby CC and Wolvey CC are signed up to the initiative.

Softball cricket

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase female participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are generally played on the outfield of a square and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

In Rugby, only Rugby CC currently operates softball teams.

Unaffiliated demand

Nationally, in addition to affiliated cricket demand, there is a strong presence of unaffiliated activity taking part in, for example, recreational and social formats of play and inclusive leagues. However, no such activity is identified in Rugby despite high demand elsewhere in the region, particularly in and around Birmingham.

Last Man Stands (LMS) is one example of a widely popular unaffiliated social league. Whilst it does not currently operate in Rugby, clubs and players are signposted to a league in Coventry, which accesses provision at Coventry University (Westwood Heath). It is therefore likely that some isolated demand is being picked up and exporting out of the Borough.

Latent/unmet demand

During consultation, both Rugby CC and Willoughby CC express latent demand in that both state that they could increase their number of teams if they had an additional square available to them.

No other clubs report latent or unmet demand.

Imported/exported demand

Exported demand is evidenced by Oakfield & Rowland United CC, which uses a secondary venue in Harborough known as Lutterworth Road. However, it does not report this to be an issue and notes that it is happy with the current setup.

No other exported or imported demand is identified.

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Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

Population forecasts

For population projections, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass wicket cricket squares that will arise from the forecasted growth (using ONS projections). This uses the current population within each of the relevant age groups together with current participation levels to establish team generation rates that can then be applied to future population projections.

Using the above, it is predicted in Rugby that there will be a growth of five senior men's, one senior women's and one junior team to 2040. This is shown in the table below.

Table 6.8: Future demand via population growth (2040)

Age group	Team generation rate (TGR)	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population ¹⁴
Men (18-55yrs)	1:708	4.55	5
Women (18-55yrs)	1:5125	0.61	1
Junior (7-18yrs)	1:1285	0.86	1

At a localised level, the largest degree of future demand generated is identified in the Urban Analysis Area with five teams, whilst the South Analysis Area yields two teams. The North Analysis is not forecast to grow in its number of teams.

Table 6.9: Summary of future demand generated via population growth

Analysis area	Future demand (number of teams)		
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
North	-	-	-
South	2	-	-
Urban	3	1	1
Rugby	5	1	1

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies in place to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would ordinarily suggest. For example, consultation with the ECB and Warwickshire Cricket suggests that further development of female cricket in Rugby is likely as it is currently a national priority to increase women and girl's participation. This also applies to a likely growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

In addition, the ECB's five-year media rights deal, from 2020-2025, includes a continuation of its relationship with Sky Sports. This now extends beyond broadcasting and acts as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and a commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. This could therefore see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPOSS, meaning the impact should be reviewed over coming years.

¹⁴ Rounded to the nearest whole number

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Participation increases

Two clubs indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation, with these being Newbold-on-Avon and Rugby cricket clubs. Of these, Newbold-on-Avon CC expresses the largest aspirations, stating that it wants to field an additional senior men's team, a junior development team and overhaul its youth system in order to field a selection of junior boys' and girls' teams.

Rugby CC also has significant aspirations, reporting that it wants to field one additional senior men's, one senior women's and two junior teams. Its senior men's demand is linked to its aforementioned latent demand.

6.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of match equivalent sessions per season that is available and that currently takes place on each square.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, it is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 6.10: Grass wicket capacity

Wicket quality	Matches equivalent sessions (per season)
Good	5
Standard	4
Poor	0

In addition to grass wickets, NTPs are considered to have capacity for 60 match equivalent sessions per season providing that they are not poor quality (in which instance no capacity is provided). However, this capacity is only relevant for junior play, where the provision is more commonly used and where matches can be played on a variety of days, rather than for senior cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage. The capacity of such provision is therefore judged separately to the capacity of grass wickets when a square has both.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, or where the level of play was not made clear, an assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year, depending on their age and level of competition.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

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The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets often used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to the boundary. The idea of this is to showcase what the capacity is, or could be, if best practice was followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Rugby is Saturday, although a good proportion of teams are also fielded on a Sunday and during midweek including senior women's teams. For junior cricket, peak time is midweek albeit some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

Based on the above, capacity across Saturday's, Sunday's and midweek requires consideration, which the following analysis looks to provide. This is by factoring in the overall capacity level at each site and current usage levels across each relevant period.

School usage

Whilst only a few squares based at schools currently have any recorded community use, it must be recognised that the majority do have curricular and extra-curricular use of their provision. This is especially the case at schools with a relatively strong cricket programme, such as at Rugby School and Princethorpe College, where internal usage leaves little capacity remaining for any external access. This demand has therefore been built into the below analysis.

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Table 6.11: Capacity analysis of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of wickets		Capacity (match sessions per season)		Actual play (match sessions per season)		Capacity rating (match sessions per season)		Spare capacity for Saturday cricket?	Spare capacity for Sunday cricket?	Spare capacity for midweek cricket?		
						Grass	NTP	Grass	NTP	Grass	NTP	Grass	NTP					
6	Ashlawn School	Urban	No	1	Standard	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No		
8	Avon Valley School	Urban	No	1	Poor	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No		
11	Bilton Grange School	South	Yes	3	Standard	13	-	52	-	32	-	20	-	No	No	No		
					Standard	8	-	32	-	20	-	12	-	No	No	No		
					Standard	-	1	-	60	-	40	-	20	-	No	No	No	
12	Bilton School	Urban	No	1	Standard	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No			
22	Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club	South	Yes	1	Good	9	1	45	60	29	0	16	60	No	No	Yes		
24	Fenley Field	Urban	Yes	1	Standard	-	1	-	60	-	36	-	24	No	No	Yes		
31	Harris C of E Academy	Urban	No	1	Poor	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No		
32	Hartfield Sports Ground (Lawrence Sheriff School)	Urban	Yes	1	Standard	7	1	28	-	28	-	0	-	No	No	No		
35	HMPS College Newbold Revel	North	Yes	1	Standard	7	-	28	-	12	-	16	-	No	No	No		
41	Newbold-on-Avon Cricket Club	Urban	Yes	1	Standard	8	1	32	60	46	0	14	-	No	No	No		
43	Oakfield & Rowland Cricket Club	South	Yes	1	Good	10	1	50	60	58	6	8	54	No	No	No		
46	Princethorpe College	South	No	2	Standard	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No		
					Standard	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	
49	Rugby Cricket Club	Urban	Yes	1	Good	13	1	65	60	94	12	29	48	No	No	No		
51	Rugby School (Springhill Pitches)	Urban	No	4	Standard	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No		
					Standard	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No	
					Standard	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No
					Standard	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No
52	Rugby School Playing Fields	Urban	Yes	2	Standard	16	-	64	-	30	-	34	-	No	No	No		
					Standard	6	-	24	-	20	-	4	-	No	No	No		
53	Rugby School Sports Centre	Urban	Yes	1	Standard	9	-	36	-	36	-	0	-	No	No	No		
58	The Field (Bourton)	South	Yes	1	Good	10	-	50	-	12	-	38	-	Yes	Yes	Yes		
66	Wolvey Playing Fields	North	Yes	1	Good	16	-	80	-	36	-	44	-	No	Yes	Yes		
77	Willoughby Cricket Ground	South	Yes	1	Standard	12	1	48	60	62	16	14	44	No	No	No		
81	Flecknoe Cricket Club	South	Yes	1	Standard	6	-	24	-	12	-	12	-	Yes	Yes	Yes		
84	Rugby Free Secondary School	Urban	No	1	Standard	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No		

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Actual spare capacity

Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format. Although a large amount of spare capacity is identified, it is not as simple as to equate this to actual spare capacity for all formats of play as the provision may already be fully utilised at specific times.

It should also be noted that the actual spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and during midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising it across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per season theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

Saturday cricket

Despite 10 squares displaying some form of spare capacity, many are used to capacity on a Saturday, either because two teams are already assigned to them as a home venue or because the level of spare capacity is insufficient to accommodate an additional team without overplay being created. Furthermore, overall spare capacity at Bilton Grange School, Rugby School Playing Fields and HMPS College Newbold Revel cannot be considered as actual spare capacity as security of tenure is not provided outside of the current rental agreements that are in place (meaning that there is no guarantee that community use will continue to be offered).

Due to the above, only two squares are considered to provide spare capacity for further Saturday cricket. These are shown in the table below.

Table 6.12: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by site

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
58	The Field (Bourton)	38	Used by one Saturday team; spare capacity for one additional team.
81	Flecknoe Cricket Club	12	Used by one Saturday team; spare capacity for one additional team.

In total, actual spare capacity equates to 50 match equivalent sessions per season. This is found in the South Analysis Area, meaning the North and Urban analysis areas are without spare capacity for additional Saturday cricket.

Table 6.13: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
North	-
South	50
Urban	-
Total	50

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Sunday cricket

Both squares with actual spare capacity on a Saturday also have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand on Sundays. As well as this, additional actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket is provided at Wolvey Playing Fields where no Sunday usage is currently recorded.

Table 6.14: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
58	The Field (Bourton)	38	Unused on a Sunday
66	Wolvey Playing Fields	44	Unused on a Sunday
81	Flecknoe Cricket Club	12	Unused on a Sunday

Total actual spare capacity on a Sunday equates to 104 match equivalent sessions, with 44 match equivalent sessions evidenced in the North Analysis Area and 50 match equivalent sessions in the South Analysis Area. No actual spare capacity is provided in the Urban Analysis Area.

Table 6.15: Actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
North	44
South	50
Urban	-
Total	94

Sunday capacity provides capacity for additional senior men's demand to be accommodated outside of the peak period whilst still being able to play within a competitive format. Moreover, it provides peak time availability for senior women's cricket (both hardball and softball) and for some junior demand.

Junior cricket (midweek)

Generally, midweek capacity is higher than the capacity for weekend cricket. This is because fixtures can be split across numerous days, meaning more than two home teams can be assigned to a square, whilst junior teams can also utilise NTPs where they are provided. As such, it is considered that squares can accommodate up to six junior teams during midweek (although some do accommodate more), which then also leaves capacity for other activities, such as the All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

In Rugby, all squares with actual spare capacity on a Sunday have full capacity for midweek cricket with none of them currently used on a regular basis outside of weekends. In addition, some provision provides additional capacity for junior play through the presence of an NTP.

Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club and Fenley Field also provide further spare capacity for midweek cricket, again due to a lack of current use at this time.

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Table 6.16: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
22	Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club	76	Unused midweek and the presence of an NTP increases capacity.
24	Fenley Field	24	Unused midweek (standalone NTP).
58	The Field (Bourton)	38	Unused midweek
66	Wolvey Playing Fields	44	Used by one midweek team; spare capacity exists for an additional five
81	Flecknoe Cricket Club	12	Unused midweek

The actual spare capacity equates to 194 match equivalent sessions per season. The South Analysis Area provides the most (126 match equivalent sessions), whilst the Urban Analysis Area provides the fewest (24 match equivalent sessions).

Table 6.17: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
North	44
South	126
Urban	24
Total	194

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square. On this basis, four squares in Rugby are overplayed by a total of 65 match equivalent sessions, as summarised in the table below. The overplayed squares are at Newbold-on-Avon Cricket Club, Oakfield & Rowland Cricket Club, Rugby Cricket Club and Willoughby Cricket Ground.

Table 6.18: Summary of overplay by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (sessions per season)
41	Newbold-on-Avon Cricket Club	Urban	14
43	Oakfield & Rowland Cricket Club	South	8
49	Rugby Cricket Club	Urban	29
77	Willoughby Cricket Ground	South	14
Total			65

The squares at both Oakfield & Rowland Cricket Club and Rugby Cricket Club are assessed as good quality, despite the overplay. Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay at such sites, a reduction in play is recommended to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

The squares at Newbold-on-Avon Cricket Club and Willoughby Cricket Ground are assessed as standard quality, meaning that quality improvements could alleviate the overplay.

The highest level of overplay is seen in the Urban Analysis Area (23 match equivalent sessions per season), whilst none is identified in the North Analysis Area.

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Table 6.19: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (sessions per season)
North	22
South	-
Urban	43
Total	65

6.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on squares considered against overplay and identified future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for senior teams and between four and eight matches for junior teams, depending on age).

Saturday supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday). For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified in Table 6.16 above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

Future demand is based on population projects identified in Table 6.8 and the latent demand expressed by clubs.

Table 6.20: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)

Analysis area	Sessions per season				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
North	-	22	22	-	22
South	24	-	24	24	0
Urban	-	43	43	36	79
Total	24	65	41	60	101

As seen in the table above, there is currently a shortfall of grass wicket square capacity in Rugby for Saturday cricket amounting to 41 match equivalent sessions per season. This is due to shortfalls in the North and Urban analysis areas, although spare capacity is identified in the South Analysis Area.

When accounting for future demand, there is an overall shortfall of 101 match equivalent sessions. This equates to a shortfall of 79 match equivalent sessions in the Urban Analysis Area and 22 match equivalent sessions in the North Analysis Area.

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Sunday cricket supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams.

Table 6.21: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Sunday cricket

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
North	36	22	14	-	14
South	24	-	24	-	24
Urban	-	43	43	12	55
Total	60	65	5	12	17

Like Saturday cricket, there is an overall shortfall of capacity for Sunday cricket in Rugby amounting to five match equivalent sessions per season. This is due to a shortfall in the Urban Analysis Area amounting to 43 match equivalent sessions, with spare capacity existing in the North and South analysis areas.

When factoring in future demand, the overall shortfalls increases to 17 match equivalent sessions.

Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by six (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because junior demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamos.

Table 6.22: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for midweek cricket

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
North	30	22	8	-	8
South	96	-	96	-	96
Urban	24	43	19	6	25
Total	150	65	85	6	79

There is currently overall spare capacity for midweek cricket amounting to 85 match equivalent sessions per season, although a shortfall is evident in the Urban Analysis Area amounting to 19 match equivalent sessions.

When accounting for future demand, the overall capacity reduces to 79 match equivalent sessions.

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6.6: Conclusion

There are capacity shortfalls for cricket in Rugby, especially on Saturdays for senior men's activity as well as in the Urban Analysis Area for all formats of play. This is primarily due to evidenced overplay on some existing squares and the levels of latent and future demand identified.

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity is identified on two squares for Saturday cricket, three squares on Sundays and five squares during midweek.
- Overplay is evident on four squares and amounts to 65 match equivalent sessions.
- There is a shortfall of grass wicket squares for Saturday and Sunday cricket, whilst overall spare capacity during midweek despite localised shortfalls in the Urban Analysis Area.

Cricket – supply summary

- In total, there are 21 grass wicket cricket squares provided across 15 sites, with 15 squares available for community use across 13 sites.
- There are non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying seven grass wickets squares in addition to there being seven standalone NTPs currently provided.
- Lapsed cricket provision is identified at Easenhall Cricket Ground and Hilmorton Recreation Ground, whilst disused provision is found at Marton Village Cricket Club.
- Most clubs are considered to have security of tenure of their primary venues, although the agreements for Marton Village CC, Merchants CC and Stretton-on-Dunsmore CC are of concern as they only rent their provision.
- The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Rugby found five to be good quality and the remaining 10 to be standard quality (none are assessed as poor quality).
- Dunchurch & Bilton, Newbold-on-Avon, Oakfield & Rowland United, Rugby and Willoughby cricket clubs all have aspirations to improve their ancillary provision.
- Five club sites as well as Hartfield Sports Ground (Lawrence Sheriff School) currently provide fixed practice nets, although improvements are required at The Field (Bourton), Oakfield & Rowland Cricket Club and Willoughby Cricket Ground.

Cricket – demand summary

- There are 12 affiliated cricket clubs which collectively provide 43 cricket teams, equating to 31 senior men's, five senior women's and seven junior teams.
- Four clubs are signed up to All Stars and two up to Dynamos, whilst Rugby CC also fields women's softball demand.
- Both Rugby CC and Willoughby CC express latent demand in that both state that they could increase their number of teams if they had an additional square available to them.
- Exported demand is evidenced by Oakfield & Rowland United CC, which uses a secondary venue in Harborough known as Lutterworth Road, although it reports no issues with this.
- Future demand predicted from population growth equates to five senior men's, one senior women's and one junior team, whilst Newbold-on-Avon and Rugby cricket clubs all have growth plans.

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PART 7: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS

This section focuses on other sports that are played on grass pitches and where some form of supply and/or demand in Rugby has been found. It does not include sports where no current, formal activity has been identified in the Borough, although that is not to say that other sports have not been played historically, that they are not played informally or that some demand is not exported to where supply and demand exists outside of the area.

7.1: American football

Introduction

The British American Football Association (BAFA) is responsible for the governance of the sport which is continuing to grow in popularity in the UK. There are now hundreds of clubs and thousands of players competing regularly across the Country.

The American football season in England generally runs from May until August. Teams play either the full contact version of the sport or a version known as flag football, which follows the same principles but with the removal of a players' flag constituting a tackle. This makes it more suitable for younger players and beginners.

Consultation

There is one American football club in Rugby, known as Rugby Rhinos. The Club engaged in a telephone consultation.

Supply

There are no dedicated American football pitches within Rugby. Instead, a rugby union pitch at The Rugby Football Club (home to Rugby Lions RUFC) is used by Rugby Rhinos for all activity.

The rugby union pitch is identified as being of a standard quality with minimal signs of wear and tear or damage to the surface and with maintenance carried out to a relatively high level. The ancillary provision at the site is reported to be of a high standard and the pitch is serviced by sports lighting to aid with training activity.

Demand

Rugby Rhinos fields four teams, consisting of one U11s team and one U14s team that play flag football, along with one U16s team and one U19s team that play the full contact version of the sport.

The Club carries out all its training sessions and plays all its matches at The Rugby Football Club and there is no clash between this and the rugby union activity at the site as the seasons run at separate times. However, it does impact on post-season remedial work which can exacerbate quality issues.

Training takes place every Saturday morning, with matches generally played on Sundays.

The Club cites that it lost a significant proportion of its membership due to the Covid-19 pandemic, although now it is seeing its membership figures rising at a slow rate. It hopes to further increase its membership numbers and is happy to facilitate this future demand at The Rugby Football Club.

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Supply and demand analysis

In isolation, the provision at The Rugby Football Club is sufficient to cater for the needs of American football, especially considering that a proportion of the activity is lower impact (flag football). Nevertheless, its presence at a site that is otherwise used for rugby union must be considered as this will add to the maintenance requirements at the venue and makes post-season remedial work more difficult to manage. The pitch is significantly overplayed during the rugby union season (see Part 4 for further information).

7.2: Gaelic football

Britain GAA is the Provincial Council of Gaelic football and hurling outside of Ireland. It is made up of seven counties, with Sandwell and the other Black County authorities falling into the Warwickshire region. The playing season runs from May until August.

Consultation

There is one Gaelic football club in Rugby, known as Rugby Gaels. The Club engaged in a telephone consultation.

Supply

There are no dedicated Gaelic football pitch within Rugby. Instead, a rugby union pitch at Newbold on Avon Rugby Club is used by Rugby Gaels for its activity.

Demand

Established in 1999, Rugby Gaels operates one senior team which plays in Group 1 of the Warwickshire GAA league system. The Club access the pitch at Newbold-on-Avon Rugby Club for all of its matches and also holds weekly training sessions at the site on Tuesday evenings.

There is no clash between Gaelic football and rugby union activity at the site as the seasons run at separate times. However, it does impact on post-season remedial work as the pitch cannot be rested over summer months in the way that other rugby union pitches can be.

Supply and demand analysis

With only one senior team currently playing in the Borough, the provision of pitch at Newbold on Avon Rugby Club is sufficient to meet demand. Nevertheless, its presence at a site that is otherwise used for rugby union must be considered as this will add to the maintenance requirements at the venue and makes post-season remedial work more difficult to manage. The pitch is significantly overplayed during the rugby union season (see Part 4 for further information).

7.3: Polo

Consultation

There is one polo club in Rugby, known as Rugby Polo Club. The Club engaged in a telephone consultation.

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Supply

There are three dedicated polo arenas in Rugby, all of which are found at Onley Grounds Farm. The aforementioned site offers a range of amenities to facilitate polo; including two indoor and one outdoor polo arenas, two restaurants, a café, toilet and shower provision and a polo shop. All three of the polo arenas are deemed to be of a high standard and are serviced with sports lighting.

In addition, the Club offers a livery for its members whereby members of the Club can pay a fee to keep its horse at the site; to which a majority of the Club's members do so.

The Club report plans to build a new indoor arena and have begun to draw up plans, preparing for its planning application.

Demand

There is one polo club situated within the Borough, Rugby Polo Club. The Club consists of 50 members, offering 20 different revolving teams with varying age ranges. The Club play on Wednesday and Friday evenings for recreational use, whilst more competitive play is facilitated on weekends where tournaments are held.

The Club report a decrease in participation since Covid-19 yet have since regained a large proportion of its lost members.

Supply and demand analysis

The current level of supply is sufficient enough to meet community demand for polo in Rugby, with Onley Grounds Farm able to adequately cater for this.

7.4: Rounders

Rounders England is the NGB for the sport of rounders in England. Its key role is to co-ordinate a development network, working through local delivery partners that provide a pathway and opportunities for aspiring players to progress to whatever level of play is right for them. In addition, it provides information about the game, runs coaching and umpiring courses, tournaments, sell resources, and promotes the sport at all levels. Its mission is to 'Connect People through Rounders' and get more people from any background playing rounders, more often.

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the Rugby Rounders League to inform this section of the report.

Supply

There are currently three sites providing rounders diamonds in Rugby, with these being Rugby School (Springhill Pitches), Rugby School for Girls and Bilton School. The provision at Rugby School (Springhill Pitches) is considered to be of a good quality, whilst the provision at Rugby School for Girls and Bilton School is standard quality.

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Demand

Rugby Rounders League is a friendly local league for ladies of all ages and abilities, with games played weekly on Thursday evenings at Rugby School (Springhill Pitches). It currently consists of nine teams, which is an increase of one team since the previous year. These teams are known as:

- ◀ All About that Base
- ◀ Bat Girls
- ◀ Big Batty Girls
- ◀ Cool Runnings
- ◀ Mad Batters
- ◀ Odd Balls
- ◀ Oakley
- ◀ Out of Our League
- ◀ Skool's Out

In total, the League comprises of 170 members who are registered with England Rounders, an increase of 40 members over the last 12 months. Members range from 13 to 70 years old.

In addition, the league also runs an annual mixed-gender charity tournament, also utilising Rugby School (Springhill Pitches). It notes that it has a good relationship with the School and is able to hire the site whenever required.

Supply and demand analysis

The current level of supply is sufficient enough to meet community demand for rounders in Rugby, with Rugby School (Springhill Pitches) able to adequately cater for the Rugby Rounders League.

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Other grass pitch sports – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Supply is sufficient to meet American football demand; however, its presence at The Rugby Football Club alongside rugby union demand needs to be well managed.
- ◀ Similarly, supply is sufficient to meet Gaelic football demand, although it needs to be managed alongside rugby union activity at Newbold on Avon Rugby Club.
- ◀ The current level of supply is sufficient enough to meet community demand for polo in Rugby, with Onley Grounds Farm able to adequately cater for this.
- ◀ The current level of supply is sufficient enough to meet the degree of demand for rounders in Rugby, with Rugby School (Springhill Pitches) able to adequately service the Rugby Rounders league.

Other grass pitch sports – supply summary

- ◀ There are no dedicated American football pitches within Rugby, with a rugby union pitch at The Rugby Football Club instead accessed.
- ◀ There are no dedicated Gaelic football pitches within Rugby, with a rugby union pitch at Newbold-on-Avon Rugby Club instead accessed.
- ◀ There are three dedicated polo arenas in Rugby, all of which are found at Onley Grounds Farm.
- ◀ There are currently three sites providing diamonds in Rugby, with these being Rugby School (Springhill Pitches), Rugby School for Girls and Bilton School.

Other grass pitch sports – demand summary

- ◀ Rugby Rhinos fields four teams consisting of one U11s team and one U14s team that play flag football and one U16s team and one U19s team that play the full contact version of American football.
- ◀ Rugby Gaels operates one senior team which plays in Group 1 of the Warwickshire GAA league system.
- ◀ There is one polo club situated within the Borough, Rugby Polo Club. The Club consists of 50 members, offering 20 different revolving teams with varying age ranges.
- ◀ The Rugby Rounders League consists of nine teams and comprises of 170 members.

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PART 8: BOWLS

8.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in Rugby is played on flat greens (as opposed to crown greens), with a typical season running in the Summer from May until September. Bowls England is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport.

Consultation

There are 10 clubs identified as currently using outdoor bowling greens in Rugby. Of these, seven responded to consultation requests, equating to a response rate of 70%, as summarised below.

Table 8.1: Summary of bowls clubs consultation responses

Name of club	Responded?
Bilton BC	Yes
Caldecott Park BC	Yes
Grange BC	Yes
Leamington Hastings BC	No
Oakfield BC	Yes
Rugby BC	No
Rugby Police BC	No
Rugby Railway BC	Yes
Thornfield BC	Yes
Wolvey BC	Yes

Of the clubs that did not respond to consultation, Rugby BC informed that they are unwilling to participate, whilst both Leamington Hastings BC and Rugby Police BC have been unresponsive.

8.2: Supply

There are nine flat green bowling greens in Rugby provided across the same number of sites. As seen in the table below, the Urban Analysis Area provides seven greens, whereas both the North and South analysis areas each offer one green each.

Table 8.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens
North	1
South	1
Urban	7
Total	9

Each green is available for community use and is in use by at least one club. Oakfield Bowling Club is in use by two (Oakfield BC and Rugby Police BC).

Figure 8.1 below shows the location of all bowling greens currently servicing Rugby. For a key to the map, see Table 8.3.

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Figure 8.1: Location of bowling greens in Rugby

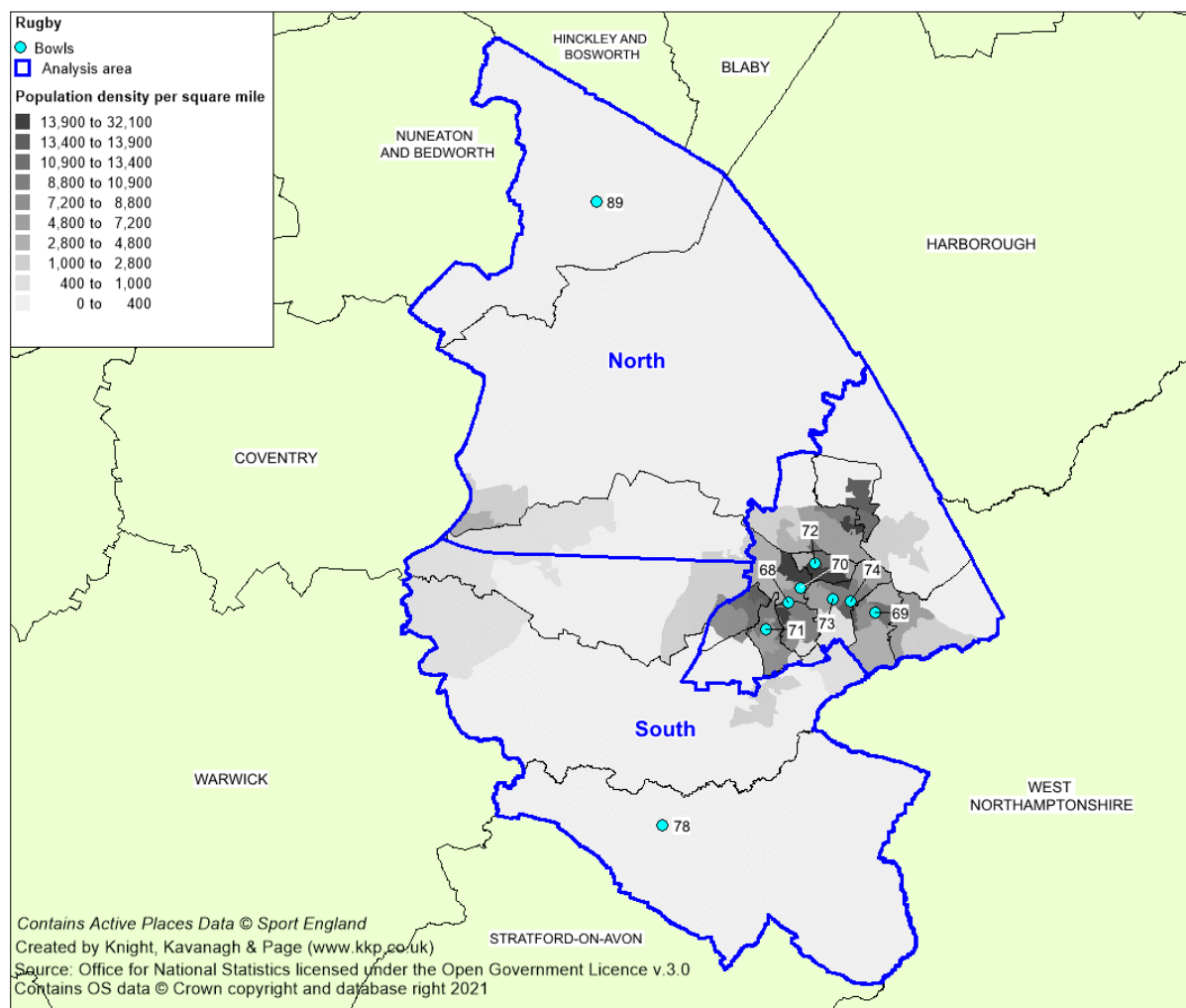


Table 8.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Club user/s
68	Rugby Bowling Club	CV22 7AS	Urban	1	Rugby BC
69	The Grange Bowling Club	CV21 3UE	Urban	1	Grange BC
70	Oakfield Bowling Club	CV22 7AL	Urban	1	Oakfield BC Rugby Police BC
71	Bilton Bowling Club	CV22 7QH	Urban	1	Bilton BC
72	Caldecott Park	CV21 2QP	Urban	1	Caldecott Park BC
73	Rugby Thornfield Bowls Club	CV22 5LJ	Urban	1	Thornfield BC
74	Rugby Railway Club	CV22 5AL	Urban	1	Rugby Railway BC
78	Leamington Hastings Parish Hall	CV23 8DX	South	1	Leamington Hastings BC
89	Wolvey Village Hall	LE10 3LJ	North	1	Wolvey BC

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Disused/lapsed provision

No bowling green sites have been identified as being disused.

Indoor bowls

Whilst this report only considers outdoor bowling greens, it must be referenced that there is also an indoor bowling facility in Rugby, located at Rugby Thornfield Bowls Club. This is pertinent to this study as many users and members of outdoor bowling greens also utilise and are members of indoor facilities, particularly during winter months.

Ownership/management

Details around the ownership and management arrangements for clubs which responded to consultation requests are provided in the table below.

Table 8.4: Ownership/management arrangements for bowling clubs in Rugby

Name of club	Ownership/management details
Bilton BC	The Club has freehold of the green at Bilton Bowling Club.
Caldecott Park BC	The Club rents the green at Caldecott Park Bowling Club from the Council
Grange BC	The Club has freehold of the green at Grange Bowling Club
Leamington Hastings BC	Unknown
Oakfield BC	The Club leases the green at Oakfield Bowling Club from the Co-Op, with eight years remaining on this agreement.
Rugby BC	Unknown
Rugby Police BC	Unknown
Rugby Railway BC	The Club has freehold of the green at Rugby Railway Club.
Thornfield BC	The Club leases the green at Rugby Thornfield Bowls Club from the Council in an agreement that expires in 2024.
Wolvey BC	The Club has freehold of the green at Wolvey Village Hall.

Of particular concern are the arrangements in place for both Oakfield BC and Thornfield BC given that the current lease agreements are nearing expiry. As such, extensions should be sought to provide greater security of tenure.

Quality

The quality of bowling greens across Rugby have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor.

Several attributes are considered, including green evenness, grass coverage and signs of unofficial use as well as the surrounding hard surfaces and disability access. For further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Overall, six greens are assessed as good quality, two as standard quality and one as poor quality. This is seen site-by-site in the table below.

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Table 8.5: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Green quality
68	Rugby Bowling Club	Urban	Good
69	The Grange Bowling Club	Urban	Good
70	Oakfield Bowling Club	Urban	Good
71	Bilton Bowling Club	Urban	Good
72	Caldecott Park	Urban	Good
73	Rugby Thornfield Bowls Club	Urban	Standard
74	Rugby Railway Club	Urban	Standard
78	Leamington Hastings Parish Hall	South	Poor
89	Wolvey Village Hall	North	Good

Rugby's sole poor quality green, located at Leamington Hastings Parish Hall, has several bare patches and only two sides of it are boarded.

Whilst no significant issues are identified on the standard quality greens, the most prominent problem at both sites relates to lower levels of grass coverage. This is at Rugby Thornfield Bowls Club and Rugby Railway Club.

Of clubs that responded to consultation, both Rugby Thornfield BC and Bilton BC report that quality has improved in recent years, whilst Caldecott Park BC and Wolvey BC report worsening green quality at their sites. All four clubs attribute the differential to an alteration in maintenance.

The remaining clubs report no change.

Surface type

There are no artificial bowling greens in Rugby, with all the provision being natural turf. Artificial greens are rare across the Country but allow for increased usage and usage during inclement weather spells. They can also reduce maintenance costs for operators following initial capital cost.

Ancillary provision

All bowls clubs in Rugby are able to access ancillary provision at their home sites and the majority are serviced by good quality facilities, although the range of what is provided and the condition varies site-by-site.

From site assessments, three greens are serviced by good quality provision, whilst the remaining six greens are serviced by standard quality provision. This is summarised in the following table.

Table 8.6: Summary of ancillary facility quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
68	Rugby Bowling Club	Urban	Standard
69	The Grange Bowling Club	Urban	Good
70	Oakfield Bowling Club	Urban	Standard
71	Bilton Bowling Club	Urban	Good
72	Caldecott Park	Urban	Good
73	Rugby Thornfield Bowls Club	Urban	Standard

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
74	Rugby Railway Club	Urban	Standard
78	Leamington Hastings Parish Hall	South	Standard
89	Wolvey Village Hall	North	Standard

At Rugby Railway Club, the bowling green is serviced by its own pavilion, separate to the main clubhouse at the site. Whilst this is more basic, quality remains adequate.

Despite there being no poor quality facilities identified, it is noted that the provision at Rugby Thornfield Bowls Club has deteriorated in recent years, primarily due to vandalism and a lack of investment. Nonetheless, Thornfield BC reports an aspiration to modernise and extend the clubhouse and the changing rooms at the site.

Conversely, several of the clubs report recent ancillary facility improvements, such as Bilton BC which has obtained grant funding to renovate the roof of its clubhouse, and Wolvey BC, which had a grant to renovate its toilets and changing rooms at Wolvey Village Hall. Similarly, Caldecott Park BC secured money to improve accessibility and to install a canopy across its onsite pavilion.

Sports lighting

In Rugby, no greens are serviced by sports lighting. However, bowling greens with sports lighting are somewhat rare across the Country and therefore opportunities to access greens for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months are comparable with the national picture. The indoor provision that is available offers a suitable alternative.

8.3: Demand

There are 10 clubs using bowling greens in Rugby. Of the seven clubs that have responded to consultation requests, there are a total of 366 members, equating to 229 senior men, 136 senior women and one junior.

Table 8.7: Summary of club membership

Club name	Members		
	Men	Women	Juniors
Bilton BC	46	28	-
Caldecott Park BC	25	9	-
Grange BC	20	20	-
Leamington Hastings BC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Oakfield BC	20	15	-
Rugby BC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Rugby Police BC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Rugby Railway BC	27	21	1
Thornfield BC	31	23	-
Wolvey BC	60	20	-

Membership across the clubs, where known, is relatively high with an average membership of 52. The largest club is Wolvey BC, with 80 members, followed by Bilton BC, with 74 members. Caldecott Park BC has the fewest members with 34.

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Participation trends

In contrast to a national trend of declining membership, two clubs report that demand has increased in recent years, with these being Bilton BC and Thornfield BC. The former attributes this to a successful open day, whilst the latter states that it has increased advertising.

Only one club reports that demand has decreased, with this being Wolvey BC despite its overall high membership. It states that it no longer fields one of its teams due to less members wanting to play.

Each remaining club states that participation levels have remained static. However, due to the nature of the sport, even clubs with static membership continuously need to be bringing in new members in order to replace existing users who can no longer play.

Additional demand

Only one club reports that its green is available for pay and play, in addition for use by members. This is Caldecott Park BC, although it notes that take-up is minimal.

Most remaining clubs report that offering pay-to-play provision is not worthwhile or economically viable as the greens would have to have an onsite presence to manage any visitors.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 161 people within Rugby, which represents approximately 0.18% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 0.16%.

Notwithstanding the above, all clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues (no waiting lists are in place). As such, a lack of green capacity does not appear to be a determinate factor preventing people from playing.

Future demand

Using ONS projections the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2040. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase.

From consultation, four of the responsive clubs express some level of future demand. Across the clubs, this equates to future demand for 45 senior members but no increase in junior members, with Wolvey BC expressing the largest amount (20 seniors).

Table 8.8: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Club name	Future demand (members)	
	Senior	Junior
Bilton BC	10	-
Caldecott Park BC	5	-
Grange BC	-	-
Leamington Hastings BC	Unknown	Unknown
Oakfield BC	-	-

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Club name	Future demand (members)	
	Senior	Junior
Rugby BC	Unknown	Unknown
Rugby Police BC	Unknown	Unknown
Rugby Railway BC	-	-
Thornfield BC	10	-
Wolvey BC	20	-

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand.

Based on the above, capacity ratings for bowling greens in Rugby are classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
At capacity range	Membership is at the capacity limit of the green
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in Rugby receives, where the information is known. Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

Table 8.9: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in Rugby

Site ID	Site	Club user	Current members	Future demand
68	Rugby Bowling Club	Rugby BC	Unknown	Unknown
69	The Grange Bowling Club	Grange BC	40	40
70	Oakfield Bowling Club	Oakfield BC / Rugby Police BC	Unknown	Unknown
71	Bilton Bowling Club	Bilton BC	74	84
72	Caldecott Park	Caldecott Park BC	34	39
73	Rugby Thornfield Bowls Club	Thornfield BC	54	64
74	Rugby Railway Club	Rugby Railway BC	49	49
78	Leamington Hastings Parish Hall	Leamington Hastings BC	Unknown	Unknown
89	Wolvey Village Hall	Wolvey BC	80	100

As can be seen, two of the greens are known to be currently operating above the recommended capacity limit, with these being at Bilton Bowling Club and Wolvey Village Hall. All remaining greens are operating within the recommended range, with more than 20 members but with fewer than 60.

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When accounting for future demand, no additional greens are considered likely to experience any capacity issues, although the issues at Bilton Bowling Club and Wolvey Village Hall are projected to worsen. Nevertheless, this is subject to the clubs' fulfilling aspirations that may be considered somewhat unrealistic.

8.5: Conclusion

Whilst there are clearly some pressures on the bowling greens in Rugby, no clubs report any capacity issues, with all responding clubs suggesting that they can meet their current and future demand via existing provision. As such, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, although with each green in use, it is also clear that each green requires protection to ensure that demand can continue to be accommodated.

Bowls – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Two greens are currently operating above recommended capacity limits, whilst none are operative below the threshold considered necessary to make provision sustainable.
- ◀ When accounting for future demand, no additional greens are considered likely to experience any capacity issues, although the issues at Bilton Bowling Club and Wolvey Village Hall are projected to worsen.
- ◀ Whilst there are clearly some pressures on the greens, no clubs report any capacity issues, suggesting that supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, although it is also clear that each green requires protection.

Bowls – supply summary

- ◀ There are nine flat green bowling greens provided across the same number of sites.
- ◀ Each green is in use by at least one club (Oakfield Bowling Club is used by two).
- ◀ Tenure for clubs is generally secure, although the lease arrangements in place for both Oakfield BC and Thornfield BC are nearing expiry.
- ◀ Six greens are assessed as good quality, two as standard quality and one as poor quality.
- ◀ Three greens are serviced by good quality ancillary provision, whilst the remaining six greens are serviced by standard quality provision.
- ◀ No greens are serviced by sports lighting.

Bowls – demand summary

- ◀ There are 10 clubs using bowling greens.
- ◀ Of the seven clubs that have responded to consultation requests, there are a total of 366 members, equating to 229 senior men, 136 senior women and one junior.
- ◀ The average membership across the clubs is 52, which is comparatively high.
- ◀ Two clubs report that demand has increased in recent years, with these being Bilton BC and Thornfield BC, whereas only Wolvey BC reports a decrease in membership.
- ◀ Only one club reports that its green is available for pay and play (Caldecott Park BC).
- ◀ Four clubs (Bilton, Caldecott Park, Thornfield and Wolvey bowls clubs) express some level of future demand, with this equating to for 45 senior members but no increase in junior members.
- ◀ All clubs report that current and future membership levels can be accommodated on the current supply available to them.

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PART 9: TENNIS

9.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Rugby. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

Consultation

There are five tennis clubs in Rugby. Of these, three clubs responded to consultation requests whereas two did not, which represents a 60% response. The responsiveness of each club is summarised in the table below.

Table 9.1: Summary of tennis club consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Bilton TC	No
Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC	Yes
Grange TC	Yes
Rugby Lawn TC	Yes
Rugby Railway TC	No

9.2: Supply

There are a total of 61 tennis courts identified in Rugby across 19 sites. Of these courts, 36 are categorised as being available for community use at 12 sites compared to 25 that are unavailable at seven sites.

Table 9.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
North	2	1
South	4	8
Urban	30	16
Total	36	25

The Urban Analysis Area contains the largest number of available courts with 30, whilst only four are provided in the South Analysis Area and only two are provided in the North Analysis Area.

Most of the unavailable courts are located at school sites. The only exception to this is the single court at Gamecock Barracks, which is also unavailable due to the private nature of the site.

Disused provision

There is one disused tennis court identified in Frankton, along Bourton Road. This is now in a state of disrepair and has reportedly not been in a useable condition or maintained since 2011.

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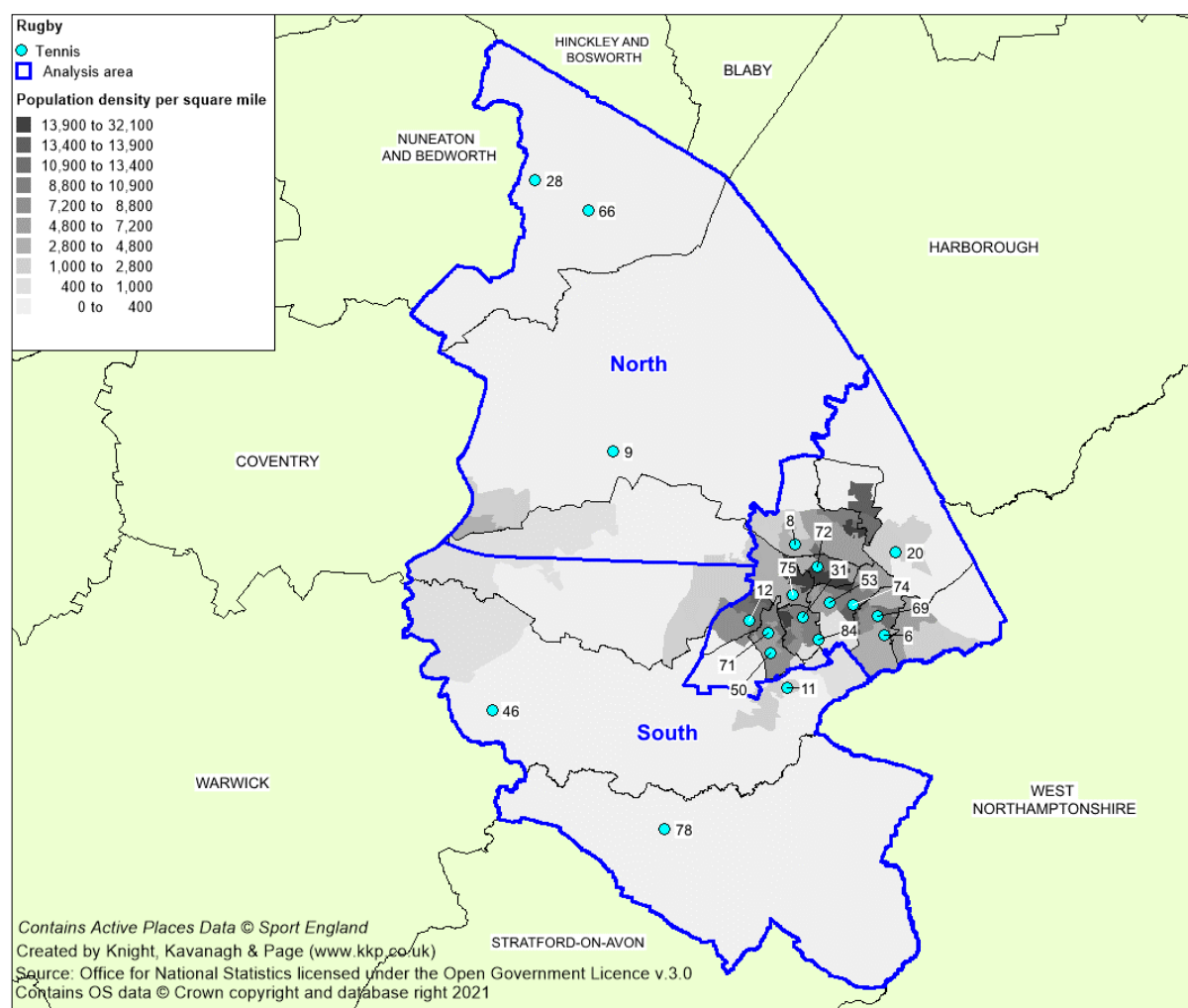
Future supply

A new David Lloyd Centre¹⁵ is to be opened soon on land near Crick Road which will offer a range of facilities including an indoor dome with three padel courts. Whilst this will increase the overall supply of tennis provision within Rugby, it must be noted that commercial facilities such as these are generally not considered to be available for community use as access is only granted via a wider membership scheme and the associated costs that come with this.

The operator of Rugby Railway Club reports that plans are in place to replace the two courts at its site with smaller sized 3G pitch provision. It reports that this is primarily because of a lack of usage. This would be a significant development due to the presence of Rugby Railway TC at the site.

Figure 9.1 shows the location of all outdoor courts currently servicing Rugby, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 9.3.

Figure 9.1: Location of tennis courts in Rugby



¹⁵ Planning application reference number: R22/0306

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Table 9.3: Tennis courts in Rugby

Site ID	Site name	Club user	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
6	Ashlawn School	-	CV22 5ET	Urban	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Standard
8	Avon Valley School	-	CV21 1EH	Urban	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Poor
9	Barr Lane Playing Field		CV23 0LU	North	Brinklow Parish Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
11	Bilton Grange School	-	CV22 6QU	South	School	No	8	No	Macadam	Standard
12	Bilton School	-	CV22 7JT	Urban	School	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Standard
20	Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Field	Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC	CV23 0BY	Urban	Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
28	Gamecock Barracks	-	CV11 6QN	North	Private	No	1	No	Macadam	Standard
31	Harris C of E Academy	-	CV22 6EA	Urban	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Good
46	Princethorpe College	-	CV23 9PX	South	School	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Standard
50	Rugby High School for Girls	-	CV22 7RE	Urban	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Poor
53	Rugby School Sports Centre					Yes	5	Yes	Macadam	Standard
							3	Yes	Artificial	Standard
							3	No	Macadam	Standard
66	Wolvey Playing Fields	-	LE10 3LA	North	Community	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam	Poor
69	The Grange Bowling Club	Grange TC	CV21 3UE	Urban	Sports club	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
71	Bilton Bowling Club	Bilton TC	CV22 7QH	Urban	Sports club	Yes	1	Yes	Artificial	Standard
72	Caldecott Park					Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
							1	No	Macadam	Poor
74	Rugby Railway Club	Rugby Railway TC	CV22 5AL	Urban	Sports club	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
75	Rugby Lawn Tennis Club					Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
							4	Yes	Artificial	Standard
78	Leamington Hastings Parish Hall	-	CV23 8DX	South	Leamington Hastings Parish Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
84	Rugby Free Secondary School	-	CV22 5PE	Urban	School	No	3	No	Macadam	Good

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Ownership/management

The table below highlights the ownership of tennis courts within Rugby. The majority are provided at school sites (42 courts), although only 36% of these are available for community use. In contrast, all the courts provided by clubs (11 courts) and the Council or parish councils (six courts), are available for community use.

Table 9.4: Tennis courts by ownership type

Community use	Number of courts			
	Club	Council	Education	Other
Available	11	6	15	1
Unavailable	-	-	27	1
Total	11	6	42	2

With only six courts being provided at council/parish-council sites (Barr Lane Playing Field, Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Field, Caldecott Park and Leamington Hastings Parish Hall), it must be noted that this is a relatively low amount compared to most other local authorities. Generally, more parks and recreation grounds have tennis courts than what is found within Rugby.

Security of tenure

Tenure for tennis clubs in Rugby is generally secure, although that is not considered to be the case for Rugby Railway TC given the proposals in place at Rugby Railway Club.

Both the Grange TC and Bilton TC form part of the ownership models at The Grange Bowling Club and Bilton Bowling Club, respectively, whilst Rugby Lawn TC has a lease agreement in place via the Council for use of Rugby Lawn Tennis Club. Similarly, Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC has a lease agreement in place for the use of the courts at Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Fields.

Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts in Rugby have a macadam surface, with 53 being of this type and 28 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continued to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

All remaining courts have an artificial surface and are available for community use, with these found at Bilton Bowling Club, Rugby School Sports Centre and Rugby Lawn Tennis Club albeit the latter two venues also have macadam courts. The estimated lifespan of an artificial court is similar to that of a macadam surface, although such provision generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is usually more expensive and more regular maintenance is required.

Sports lighting

Courts with sports lighting enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that floodlights allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

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In total, 16 tennis courts in Rugby are serviced by sports lighting, representing just 26% of the total provision, which is a low amount when compared to other local authorities nationally. However, all courts with sports lighting are available for a community use, which is beneficial as they provide increased capacity, especially outside of summer months.

A lack of sports lighting at other sites presents a key reason as to why many of the non-lit courts are unavailable for community use in Rugby, especially those at school sites. In that regard, many providers state that making them available for lettings would not be financially viable as usage would be limited, although the LTA does offer solutions to help overcome this i.e., Clubspark and Gate Access (detailed further on). Only 41% of non-lit courts are accessible to the community compared to 100% of the courts with sports lighting.

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for more usage of provision, which in turns can help to accommodate more members. As such, it is worth noting that in Rugby only two clubs have existing access to sports-lit courts, with these being Bilton TC and Rugby Lawn TC. The latter has an aspiration to upgrade its lighting in the near future to LED.

Clifton-upon-Dunsmore, Grange and Rugby Railway tennis clubs are not serviced by sports lighting at their sites, although Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC reports that it is looking to provide such provision. It identifies that this will enable it to undertake more activity and potentially grow membership.

Away from clubs, increasing the number of local authority courts with sports lighting is a strategic aim for the LTA due to the additional recreational demand and tennis programmes such provision can help accommodate. No council sites in Rugby are currently serviced.

Over markings

Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In Rugby, 38 courts are over marked by netball provision at nine sites, with these located at schools where curriculum activity makes this more appropriate. Courts with over markings are found at:

- ◀ Ashlawn School
- ◀ Bilton Grange School
- ◀ Harris C of E Academy
- ◀ Rugby Free Secondary School
- ◀ Rugby School Sports Centre
- ◀ Avon Valley School
- ◀ Bilton School
- ◀ Princethorpe College
- ◀ Rugby High School for Girls

Of these, only the courts at Bilton School, Princethorpe College and Rugby School Sports Centre are available to the community. For more information, see Part 10 of this report.

Quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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Of the courts in Rugby, 13 are assessed as good quality, 35 as standard quality and 13 as poor quality. Six of the good quality courts are available for community use, compared to 25 of the standard quality courts and five of the poor quality courts.

Table 9.5: Quality of community available tennis courts

Community use?	Quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	6	25	5
Unavailable	7	10	8
Total	13	35	13

Most of the good quality courts are located at sites in use, with such provision generally receiving more enhanced maintenance than courts that are operated by local authorities or schools. This applies to all the courts at Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Field and the Grange Bowling Club as well as two of the courts at Rugby Lawn Tennis Club. The remaining four courts at Rugby Lawn Tennis Club are assessed as standard quality, although the Club reports an intention to resurface these in the near future.

The above means that three clubs in Rugby are serviced by some good quality courts (Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC, Grange TC and Rugby Lawn TC) and the provision at the Grange Bowling Club is especially good given the recent court resurfacing. Bilton TC and Rugby Railway TC are serviced by standard quality courts at their sites.

In addition, the courts at both Harris C of E Academy and Rugby Free Secondary School are also assessed as good quality albeit they are not available for community use. The courts at the former have recently been resurfaced, whilst the courts at the latter were only installed in 2021.

In contrast, the courts at the following sites are assessed as poor quality:

- ◀ Avon Valley School
- ◀ Barr Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Caldecott Park
- ◀ Leamington Hastings Parish Hall
- ◀ Rugby High School for Girls
- ◀ Wolvey Playing Fields

At Barr Lane Playing Field, the main issue is from leaf fall from nearby trees, whilst at Caldecott Park, there are lots of loose stones as well as gravel covering the courts. This is also an issue at Leamington Hastings Parish Hall, although the main concern is with a large crack along one of the baselines.

The other two poor quality sites are school sites that are unavailable for community use. The main problem at both venues is with faded line markings and poor-quality netting, both of which suggest that maintenance is not of the required level.

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Renovation fund¹⁶

Improving park courts is a currently national priority for the LTA and sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so are of particular focus. This is especially the case if the courts are serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities, a café and sports lighting as such provision can help support a sustainable tennis programme. This, however, is not a necessity, especially in more rural areas.

Linked to the above, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Great Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA itself. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

No local authority courts in Rugby have received any recent investment from the LTA. However, Caldecott Park has been identified as being a potential site for improvement.

Ancillary provision

All of the tennis clubs in Rugby are serviced by ancillary facilities, which is evidenced via consultation. Furthermore, quality is generally good, although an exception to this is the provision at Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Field where the clubhouse is considered too small for purposeful use in addition to being dated. Furthermore, the site only provides minimal space for car parking which can cause further accessibility issues.

Rugby Railway TC longer use the facilities at Rugby Railway Club and instead shares the clubhouse at the Grange Bowling Club with Grange TC. This is an adequate facility although modernisation is required.

For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most of the sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service football/cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users. In some instances, quality is also poor.

Moreover, two council sites have been found to provide no changing facilities, with these being Barr Lane Playing Fields and Caldecott Park.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

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9.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There are five tennis clubs in Rugby. Across the three responding clubs there is an overall membership of 552, which broken down amounts to 361 senior members and 191 junior members. The average club membership is 184, representing substantial demand.

Table 9.6: Summary of tennis club demand

Club	Number of members	
	Senior	Junior
Bilton TC	Unknown	Unknown
Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC	148	60
Grange TC	54	13
Rugby LTC	159	118
Rugby Railway TC	Unknown	Unknown

Rugby Lawn TC is the largest club, catering for 277 members, followed by Clifton-Upon Dunsmore TC with 208 members and the Grange TC with 67 members.

Participation trends

All three clubs that responded to consultation requests report that their membership has increased in recent years, with Grange TC stating that it has seen an increase of 38 members and with Rugby Lawn TC and Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC reporting a growth of over 50 members.

The above correlates to a national picture of growing demand. The LTA reports that demand has increased significantly in recent years, especially since Covid-19 restrictions were lifted. It identifies that park courts are busier than ever and that some clubs have had to set up waiting lists for potential members.

Additional demand

The majority of clubs allow for pay and play usage from non-members, although take up is seemingly low throughout the Borough. Rugby Lawn TC reports the highest level of demand, partially due to its links with inspire2coach, which is a commercial operator that runs sessions for clubs and other court providers across the Country. It is also a partner of the LTA.

Away from club courts, usage can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored, especially at sites that are free to access as is the case at local authority sites in Rugby. Demand for such provision is generally at its highest during summer months, especially following events such as Wimbledon, but significant capacity is likely to exist outside of this.

Similarly, no other court providers report high levels of community access, including the various education providers. In fact, only Rugby School Sports Centre and Princethorpe College report any regular external tennis demand. It is believed by many of the others that a lack of demand is a direct result of quality issues and/or a lack of sports lighting, as well as other courts being available for free.

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The LTA has recently developed a package of support for providers to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation, with the products known as ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access established. In Rugby, Rugby Lawn TC and Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC utilise Clubspark but the products are not implemented at any other sites, including those managed by the Council.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◀ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

Rally

Rally is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Rally provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Gate Access

The LTA has developed two gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

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There are two gate options available; SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

Local Tennis Leagues

Recreational Tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which affiliates to the LTA. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

There are currently no leagues operating in Rugby, with the nearest being in Coventry and West Northamptonshire.

LTA Youth Start

This is a six week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, kids get coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

In Rugby, LTA Youth Start is in operation at Rugby Lawn Tennis Club and Clifton-upon Dunsmore Playing Field via the onsite clubs.

LTA Big Tennis Weekend

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (in May, July and September) that are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

In Rugby, Rugby Lawn TC hosts a Big Tennis Weekend.

Mini tennis

Mini tennis provides children with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. Designed for children aged between 4-10, mini tennis utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques.

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The game is split out into three levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ◀ Red (Stage 3): 4-8 year olds – serve, rally and score
- ◀ Orange (Stage 2): 8-9 year olds – develop a rounded game
- ◀ Green (Stage 1): 10 year olds – put skills to the test

No dedicated mini tennis courts have been identified in Rugby, suggesting that no demand is currently being catered for. That being said, full size courts can be utilised via the use of cones or other forms of temporary line markings.

Padel

The Padel Association (British Padel) is a members' association which was formed to govern the sport of padel throughout the UK. It is relatively new but is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. The game is a mixture of tennis, squash and badminton and takes place in an open air enclosed outdoor court.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, whereas there are now 153, with a projected growth to 250 by the end of 2022 and 450 in 2023. It is therefore envisaged that the infrastructure and participation in padel will increase significantly in the next five years.

Currently 90,000 people are reported as played padel more than once a year. At the same time in 2021, levels were at 15,000, representing a 493% year on year increase.

There are currently no padel courts in Rugby or in any neighbouring authorities (the closest are in Birmingham), meaning no activity is taking place within the Borough. However, given the growing popularity of the format, that is not to say that there is no demand as it is likely that take-up would be high if provision was established.

As mentioned previously, plans are in place to develop three padel courts at the new David Lloyd Centre when it opens; however, these will only be available to wider members of the site. They will not be able to meet any other community demand.

Latent/unmet demand

Nationally, latent demand for tennis is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low-quality facilities are addressed. As such, there is a potential opportunity in Rugby for the Council and other providers to address such barriers, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage.

In addition, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,709 people within Rugby, which represents approximately 1.9% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 1.7%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand is slightly higher than what would otherwise be expected.

In relation to clubs, no latent or unmet demand is identified in that each responding clubs states that its current and future demand can be met via the provision that is available to them, although Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC reports that sports lighting would be beneficial. This suggests that the latent demand that does exist is likely to be predominately for non-club activity i.e., for recreational and informal tennis.

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Future demand

Through the consultation process, two clubs express that they are aiming to increase their membership. Rugby Lawn TC has an aspiration to grow by 40 members and Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC has an aspiration to grow by 20 members.

Table 9.7: Summary of future tennis club demand (responsive clubs)

Club	Future demand (members)	
	Senior	Junior
Bilton TC	Unknown	Unknown
Clifton-Upon-Dunsmore TC	10	10
Grange TC	-	-
Rugby LTC	20	20
Rugby Railway TC	Unknown	Unknown

In addition, the LTA also expects future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club-environment.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

Club tennis

For club-based activity, the LTA suggests that a non-lit court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Using this, the table below identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs, taking into account both current demand and future demand.

Table 9.8: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Capacity	Current capacity balance	Future capacity balance
20	Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Field	2	No	80	128	148
69	The Grange Bowling Club	1	No	40	27	27
71	Bilton Bowling Club	1	Yes	60	Unknown	Unknown
74	Rugby Railway Club	2	No	80	Unknown	Unknown
75	Rugby Lawn Tennis Club	6	Yes	360	83	43

As evidenced, both Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Field and the Grange Bowling Club are operating over the recommended capacity limit and significantly so at Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Field. That being said, neither Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC nor the Grange TC report any current capacity concerns, although the sports lighting aspirations for the former are clearly merited.

Overall spare capacity exists at Rugby Lawn Tennis Club equating to 83 members currently and 43 members when factoring in future demand, whilst further interrogation is required in relation to Bilton TC and Rugby Railway TC to fully determine their situation. This is particularly key for Rugby Railway TC given the 3G conversion desires at Rugby Railway Club.

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Non-club tennis

For non-club courts, analysing supply and demand is difficult in Rugby as full usage figures are not known, particularly at local authority sites where access is free and therefore not monitored.

9.5: Conclusion

For club-based tennis, whilst there are clearly some pressures in Rugby, no clubs report any capacity issues, with all responding clubs suggesting that they can meet their current and future demand via existing provision. As such, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, although this can be further aided with quality improvements and through increasing the level of sports lighting. It is also imperative that the future of Rugby Railway TC is secured.

For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the large amount of unmet and latent demand evidenced both nationally and in Rugby. Whilst there is no clear evidence to suggest that an increase in quantity is required, there is need to improve the existing supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users.

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Tennis – supply and demand summary

- ◀ For club-based tennis, whilst there are clearly some pressures, no clubs report any capacity issues, suggesting that supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, although this can be further aided with quality improvements and through increasing the level of sports lighting.
- ◀ Away from clubs, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand as there is instead a clear need to improve the supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users.

Tennis – supply summary

- ◀ There are a total of 61 tennis courts identified in Rugby across 19 sites, with 36 courts for community use at 12 sites.
- ◀ There is one lapsed tennis court identified in Frankton, along Bourton Road.
- ◀ The operators of Rugby Railway Club report that plans are in place to replace the court at its site with a smaller sized 3G pitch.
- ◀ A new David Lloyd Centre is to be opened near Crick Road which will feature three indoor tennis courts.
- ◀ Most existing tennis courts have a macadam surface, with 53 being of this type (the remainder have an artificial surface).
- ◀ In total, 16 of the 61 tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing just 26% of the provision.
- ◀ Of the courts, 13 are assessed as good quality, 35 as standard quality and 13 as poor quality, with six of the good quality courts are available for community use, compared to 25 of the standard quality courts and five of the poor quality courts.
- ◀ Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities at Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Field, whilst such provision is also generally problematic at non-club sites.

Tennis – demand summary

- ◀ There are five tennis clubs in Rugby.
- ◀ Across the three responding clubs (Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC, Grange TC and Rugby Lawn TC) there is an overall membership of 552.
- ◀ All three clubs report that membership has increased in recent years.
- ◀ Rugby Lawn TC hosts a Big Tennis Weekend, whilst LTA Youth Start is in operation at Rugby Lawn Tennis Club and Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Playing Field via the onsite clubs.
- ◀ Away from club courts, no providers report high levels of community access.
- ◀ Latent/unmet demand for tennis is generally high, both nationally and locally, although the majority of this is seemingly for non-club activity given that no clubs report any capacity issues.
- ◀ Rugby Lawn TC has an aspiration to grow by 40 members and Clifton-upon-Dunsmore TC has an aspiration to grow by 20 members.
- ◀ In addition, the LTA also expects future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club-environment.

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PART 10: NETBALL

10.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided across the Country and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that a key challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility can also be problematic.

Consultation

To inform this section of the report, consultation has been undertaken with LMR Rugby NC and LMR Rugby Juniors NC as well as the Rugby Netball League. The League covers all other clubs playing within the Borough.

10.2: Supply

There are 63 netball courts identified in Rugby across 27 sites. However, of these, only 20 courts at six sites are considered to be available for community use and most of these courts are without sports lighting which can further limit usage.

Table 10.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Courts available	Courts unavailable
North	1	3
South	2	6
Urban	17	34
Total	20	43

The Urban Analysis Area provides the largest number of community available courts with 17, whilst only two are provided in the South Analysis Area and only one is provided in the North Analysis Area.

All the courts that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites. The courts that are available for community use are located at:

- ◀ Bilton School
- ◀ Princethorpe College
- ◀ Rugby Railway Club
- ◀ Houlton School
- ◀ Rugby School Sports Centre
- ◀ Wolvey Playing Fields

Indoor provision

This report only considers the supply of outdoor netball courts; however, it is recognised that a substantial amount of netball activity also takes place indoors via the use of courts that are marked out in sports halls, especially during winter months.

For a site-by-site breakdown of the outdoor courts supplied across Rugby, please refer to Table 10.2 and Figure 10.1 overleaf.

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 10.2: Netball courts in Rugby

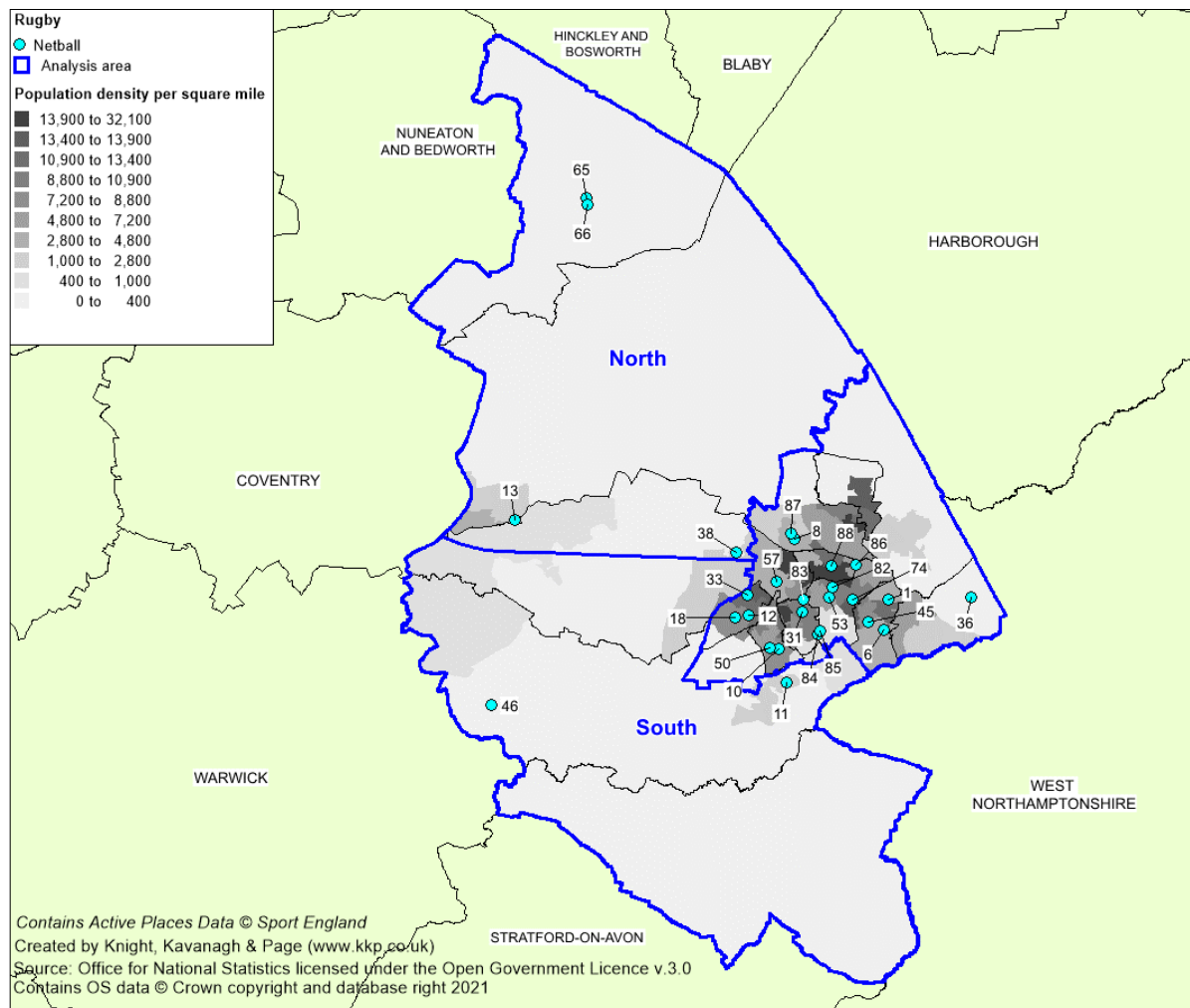
Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Over marked?	Court quality
1	Abbots Farm Junior School	CV21 4AP	Urban	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Standard
6	Ashlawn School	CV22 5ET	Urban	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Standard
						1	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
8	Avon Valley School	CV21 1EH	Urban	School	No	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
10	Bilton C of E School	CV22 6LB	Urban	School	No	3	No	Macadam	No	Standard
11	Bilton Grange School	CV22 6QU	South	School	No	6	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
12	Bilton School	CV22 7JT	Urban	School	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
13	Binley Woods Primary School	CV3 2QU	North	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Poor
18	Cawston Grange Primary School	CV22 7GU	Urban	School	No	2	No	Macadam	No	Poor
31	Harris C of E Academy	CV22 6EA	Urban	School	No	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Good
						3	No	Macadam	No	Standard
33	Henry Hinde Junior School	CV22 7HN	Urban	School	No	2	No	Macadam	No	Standard
36	Houlton School	CV23 0AS	Urban	School	Yes	3	No	Macadam	No	Good
38	Long Lawford Primary School	CV23 9AL	North	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Poor
45	Paddox Primary School	CV22 5HS	Urban	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Poor
46	Princethorpe College	CV23 9PX	South	School	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
50	Rugby High School for Girls	CV22 7RE	Urban	School	No	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
53	Rugby School Sports Centre	CV22 5DJ	Urban	School	Yes	5	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
						3	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
57	St Oswalds School	CV22 7DJ	Urban	School	No	2	No	Macadam	No	Standard
65	Wolvey C of E Primary School	LE10 3LA	North	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Standard
66	Wolvey Playing Fields	LE10 3LA	North	Community	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Poor
74	Rugby Railway Club	CV22 5AL	Urban	Sports club	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Over marked?	Court quality
82	Lawrence Sheriff School	CV21 3AG	Urban	School	No	2	No	Macadam	No	Standard
83	Oakfield Primary Academy	CV22 6AU	Urban	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Poor
84	Rugby Free Secondary School	CV22 5PE	Urban	School	No	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Good
85	Quest Academy	CV22 5PE	Urban	School	No	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
86	St Andrews Benn C of E School	CV21 3NX	Urban	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Standard
87	Riverside Academy	CV21 1EH	Urban	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Standard
88	Northlands Primary School	CV21 2SS	Urban	School	No	1	No	Macadam	No	Poor

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Figure 10.1: Location of netball courts in Rugby



Future supply

The operator of Rugby Railway Club reports that plans are in place to replace its two netball courts with smaller size 3G pitch provision. It reports that this is primarily because of a lack of usage.

Management

All but three outdoor netball courts in Rugby are operated by schools (95%). Of the courts that are not, two are operated by a sports club at Rugby Railway Club, whereas the other is operated by a community organisation at Wolvey Playing Fields.

There are no netball courts operated by the Council or a parish council.

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 10.3: Courts by management type

Community use	No. of courts			
	Club	Council	Education	Other
Available	2	-	17	1
Unavailable	-	-	43	-
Rugby	2	0	60	1

Court type

All outdoor netball courts in Rugby have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and the maintenance regime in place.

Other court surface types nationally include polymeric courts and artificial courts; however, there are none of these identified in Rugby. These courts generally have a similar lifespan to macadam courts but they can allow for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is usually more expensive and more regular maintenance is required.

Sports lighting

Despite 63 outdoor netball courts being provided in Rugby, only six are serviced by sports lighting, which represents a very low supply. These are located at Rugby School Sports Centre (five courts) and Wolvey Playing Fields (one court).

A lack of sports lighting on courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are with sports lighting throughout the Country (38%). Nevertheless, this still equates to a much higher percentage of courts when compared to those that are with sports lighting in Rugby (10%).

A lack of sports lighting presents a key reason as to why many courts are unavailable for community use in the Borough. Many providers of non-lit courts state that making them available would not be financially viable as usage would be significantly limited. This is evidenced by 100% of courts with sports lighting being available in contrast to only 13 of 56 non-lit courts (23%).

Over markings

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often over marked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision that is over marked tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand.

In Rugby, 35 of the courts are over marked. The only standalone courts are at:

- ◀ Abbots Farm Primary School
- ◀ Ashlawn School
- ◀ Bilton C of E School
- ◀ Binley Woods Primary School
- ◀ Crawston Grange Primary School
- ◀ Harris C of E Academy
- ◀ Henley Hinde Junior School
- ◀ Houlton School
- ◀ Lawrence Sheriff School
- ◀ Long Lawford Primary School
- ◀ Northlands Primary School
- ◀ Oakfield Primary Academy
- ◀ Paddock Primary School
- ◀ Riverside Academy
- ◀ St Andrews Benn C of E School
- ◀ St Oswalds School
- ◀ Wolvey C of E Primary School

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Most of these sites are primary schools that provide one or two courts. At primary schools, standalone courts are more common as they are generally marked on open area playgrounds, rather than being enclosed which is more of a regular occurrence at secondary schools. When enclosed, the courts are more likely to be dual use tennis courts.

Linked to the above, none of the standalone courts are serviced by sports lighting and only three standalone courts are available for community use, with all of these being provided at Houlton School. The unenclosed nature of most of the standalone courts is not conducive to the provision of sports lighting, which in turn is not conducive to community access.

Quality

The quality of netball courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering). For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the courts in Rugby, eight are assessed as good quality, 41 as standard quality and 14 as poor quality. Three of the good quality courts are available for community use, compared to 15 of the standard quality courts and one of the poor quality courts.

Table 10.4: Quality of community available courts by analysis area

Community use	Quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	3	16	1
Unavailable	5	25	13
Total	8	41	14

Good quality courts are located at both Houlton School and Rugby Free School, with these assessed as such as they have only recently been installed. The remaining good quality courts are at Harris C of E Academy, where resurfacing took place in 2021.

The large majority of the courts assessed as poor quality are rated as such due to worn line markings and the age of the surfaces, with little evidence of regular maintenance taking place. The only poor quality court that is available for community use is located at Wolvey Playing Fields and this is also the only poor quality court to be serviced by sports lighting.

The remaining poor quality courts are supplied at:

- ◀ Avon Valley School
- ◀ Cawston Grange Primary School
- ◀ Northlands Primary Academy
- ◀ Paddox Primary School
- ◀ Binley Grange Primary School
- ◀ Long Lawford Primary School
- ◀ Oakfield Primary School
- ◀ Rugby High School for Girls

Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for netball and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Moreover, given that most courts are located at schools, the facilities predominately service sports halls or grass pitches and are therefore not readily available or suited to netball court users. Access can also be limited even at sites that allow for community use as this may entail opening the main school buildings.

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Of the sites that enable community use, Rugby School Sports Centre and Houlton School have good quality changing facilities. Rugby Railway Club, Princethorpe College and Wolvey Playing Fields are serviced by adequate albeit dated provision.

10.3: Demand

Demand for outdoor netball tends to come in two forms; league and club-based netball that consists of matches and training, as well as various netball-based initiatives such as Back to Netball and walking netball.

Club demand

There are nine netball clubs based in Rugby. These are as follows:

- ◀ Gladiators NC
- ◀ Queen's Diamond NC
- ◀ LMR Junior NC
- ◀ Rebels NC
- ◀ Webb NC
- ◀ Oakley NC
- ◀ JWR NC
- ◀ LMR Rugby NC
- ◀ Storm NC

LMR Rugby NC is the only club in the Borough to play in the Coventry & Warwickshire Netball League, whilst the remaining clubs in Rugby play in the Rugby Netball League (otherwise known as RANA).

Across the clubs, there are currently 622 members, representing significant demand. The table below provides a summary of this by club.

Table 10.5: Summary of club membership

Clubs	Current membership
Gladiators NC	21
JWR NC	15
LMR Rugby NC	77
LMR Rugby Juniors NC	191
Oakley NC	119
Queens Diamonds NC	39
Storm NC	24
The Rebels NC	22
Webb A&B NC	114

As seen, the largest membership base is found at LMR Rugby Juniors NC, which provides 191 members. At the other end of the scale, Gladiators, JWR, Storm and The Rebels netball clubs are relatively small clubs with between 15 and 24 members.

The average membership across the clubs is 69.

Gladiators, JWR, LMR Rugby, LMR Rugby Juniors and The Rebels netball clubs all train at Rugby School Sports Centre, evidencing this as a key venue for the sport in the Borough. LMR Rugby Netball Club also utilises the courts at Rugby Railway Club, whereas the venues used by the remaining clubs is not known.

The Rugby Netball League also utilises Rugby School Sports Centre as a central venue for its fixtures. Matches are played on Sunday mornings and 18 teams are currently catered for (with two divisions of nine teams).

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Back to Netball

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport.

There are currently no Back to Netball sessions operating in Rugby. The nearest is in Meon Vale Leisure Centre, in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Walking netball

Walking netball is a slower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

There are currently no walking netball sessions in Rugby. There are several held in Stratford-upon-Avon and Nuneaton & Bedworth, which are the closest to the Borough.

Netball Now

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring.

There are no Netball Now sessions in Rugby, with the nearest held in Warwick at Wellesbourne Sports & Community Centre.

Bee Netball

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and teamwork, with each session managed by an England Netball accredited coach. Although there are currently no sessions operating in Rugby or the immediate area, it is still in its infancy so one may be established in the near future.

Unaffiliated demand

There is a relatively strong presence of unaffiliated netball demand in Rugby, with three commercial leagues operating within the Borough.

Totally Netball

Totally Netball operates commercial netball leagues across the Country, with no limitations on gender, age or ability, meaning anyone can register a team and compete. The rules are generally the same as affiliated netball, although quarters last 12 minutes rather than 15.

In Rugby, there are three leagues currently running, with a Monday evening league, a Tuesday evening league and a Thursday evening league (matches start at either 19:00 or 20:00). On Mondays and Thursdays, the outdoor courts at Houlton School are used, whilst on Tuesdays the outdoors courts at Rugby School Sports Centre are accessed.

The leagues are currently very popular, with 22 teams registered on Tuesdays, 16 on Mondays and 14 on Thursdays.

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Play Netball

Play Netball is a similar commercial venture and also operates a league in Rugby, with Houlton School again used and with fixtures played from 19:00-21:00 on Wednesdays. Matches last for 36 minutes.

Eight teams are currently signed up, although in the past, up to 12 teams have competed.

Powerplay

Powerplay also operates commercial netball leagues and has a presence in Rugby, accessing Bilton School on Mondays for 40-minute matches. Currently, five teams participate.

Exported/imported demand

Due to the presence of the Rugby Netball League and its use of a central venue system, there is relatively high levels of imported demand into the Borough. For example, both Lutterworth Robins NC and Lutterworth Phoenix NC are usually based outside of Rugby, in Harborough, but import into Rugby for fixtures. Combined, they cater for 205 members.

Some exported demand is also expressed by LMR Rugby NC, although this is for indoor provision. During the winter, the Club trains using an indoor facility at Warwickshire College due to a lack of similar provision and capacity in Rugby. The site is located in Warwick.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies minimal latent demand of 264 people within Rugby, which represents approximately 0.29% of the Borough's population, closely aligning to a national average of 0.28%.

In addition to the above, LMR Rugby NC and LMR Rugby Juniors NC also report latent demand, albeit unquantified, in that they state that significant future growth is not possible based on the level of provision currently available. This could be further impacted on for the former if it was to lose access to the courts at Rugby Railway Club.

Future demand

Both LMR Rugby NC and LMR Rugby Juniors NC report demand to grow in the future, although neither quantify their potential increases in membership terms due to existing capacity issues. The former hopes to field an additional team over coming seasons.

In addition, the Rugby Netball League reports an ambition to continuing growing and states that it has capacity to do this in terms of fixture arrangement.

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is high demand for netball in Rugby, as represented by nine clubs having a presence in the Borough as well as the Rugby Netball League and several commercial leagues. Despite this, play is heavily concentrated across a small number of venues, which is primarily due to a lack of good quality alternatives that are sports lit and available for community use. As a result, not all activity is being adequately met, leading to levels of unmet, latent and exported demand.

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Based on the above, it is clear that the existing facility stock is not sufficient to meet demand, predominately due to quality and accessibility issues. There is no clear evidence to suggest that an increase in quantity is required; however, there is need to improve the existing supply in ways that can better accommodate users.

Netball – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is high demand for netball in Rugby, as represented by nine clubs being based in the Borough; however, not all activity is being adequately met, leading to levels of unmet, latent and exported demand.
- ◀ It is clear that the existing facility stock is not sufficient to meet demand, predominately due to quality and accessibility issues (rather than quantity).

Netball – supply summary

- ◀ There are 63 netball courts identified across 27 sites, although only 20 courts at six sites are considered to be available for community use.
- ◀ All but three outdoor netball courts are operated by schools (95%).
- ◀ All courts have a macadam surface.
- ◀ A total of 35 of the courts are over marked by other provision, most commonly tennis courts.
- ◀ Only six of the courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing a significantly low amount.
- ◀ Of the courts, eight are assessed as good quality, 40 as standard quality and 14 as poor quality, with three of the good quality courts are available for community use, compared to eight of the standard quality courts and one of the poor quality courts.
- ◀ The operator of Rugby Railway Club reports that plans are in place to replace the court at its site with a smaller sized 3G pitch

Netball – demand summary

- ◀ There are nine netball clubs with a presence in Rugby.
- ◀ LMR Rugby NC is the only club in the Borough to play in the Coventry & Warwickshire Netball League, whilst the remaining clubs in Rugby play in the Rugby Netball League (otherwise known as RANA).
- ◀ Across the clubs, there are currently 622 members, representing significant demand.
- ◀ Most of the clubs utilise Rugby School Sports Centre for training, with some activity also identified at Rugby Railway Club despite its development proposals.
- ◀ The Rugby Netball League also utilises Rugby School Sports Centre as a central venue for its fixtures.
- ◀ No England Netball initiatives have a current presence in the Borough (e.g., Back to Netball, Bee Netball, Netball Now and Walking Netball).
- ◀ Five unaffiliated leagues, ran by three different commercial providers are operating in Rugby, with Bilton School, Houlton School and Rugby School Sports Centre accessed.
- ◀ Due to the presence of the Rugby Netball League and its use of a central venue system, there is relatively high levels of imported demand into the Borough, whereas LMR Rugby NC exports some training demand due to a lack of suitable provision.
- ◀ Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool identifies high levels of latent demand, whilst some is also expressed by both LMR Rugby NC and LMR Rugby Juniors NC.
- ◀ Both LMR Rugby NC and LMR Rugby Juniors NC report demand to grow in the future, as does the Rugby Netball League.

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PART 11: ATHLETICS

11.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics, which is the development and membership body for athletics and running clubs in England. It has a National Head of Clubs and Participation and a team of five club support managers across the Country, with one of these covering activity in Rugby.

Consultation

Two athletics clubs currently operate in Rugby, Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club and Rugby Triathlon Club, both of which responded to consultation.

Additionally, wider consultation also took place with England Athletics.

11.2: Supply

There is one purpose-built outdoor athletics track currently provided in Rugby at Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre. It provides an 8-lane, 400-metre track with a synthetic surface and sports lighting whilst also catering for the full complement of field events (e.g., via jumping pits and throwing cages/areas).

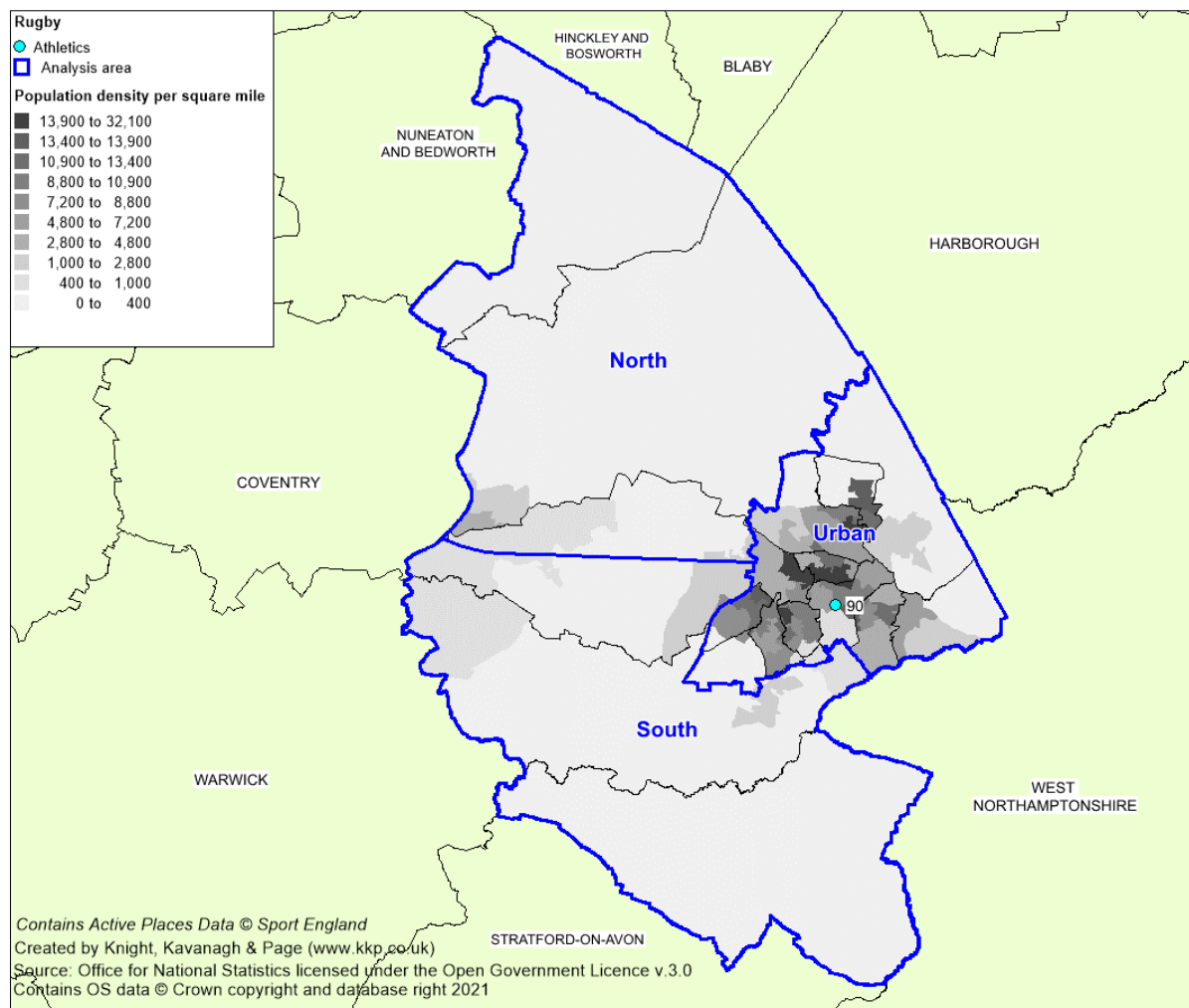
Table 11.1: Summary of athletics tracks in Rugby

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Length	Surface type	Sports lighting?
90	Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre	Urban	400-metre	Synthetic	Yes

The site is located in the Urban Analysis Area, meaning it is relatively central to the Borough. For its specific location, please see Figure 11.1 overleaf.

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Figure 11.1: Location of athletics tracks in Rugby



Management

The facilities at Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre are operated and maintained by the Council.

Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club are the principal users of the athletics track and hire out the facility from the Council in three-month instalments. In addition, Rugby Triathlon also hire out the athletics track via monthly slots.

Quality

The quality of the athletics track in Rugby has been assessed via a combination of a site visit (using a non-technical assessment) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. The non-technical assessment considers several attributes of a track, including surface damage, grip underfoot, line markings and the track edging. For further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2.

The provision at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre is assessed as good quality, with the track displaying no signs of damage to the surface and a strong grip underfoot. Maintenance is also seemingly carried out to a high level, although both Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club and Rugby Triathlon report that they occasionally have to undertake some minor work themselves, rather than relying on the Council.

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TrackMark

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

The track at Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre is fully accredited following a recent inspection. Re-testing is required every three years.

Ancillary provision

Given the wider facilities on offer at Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre, the ancillary supply is relatively all-encompassing, with changing facilities and social space provided in addition to catering provision. Quality is good.

In addition, Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club has its own small facility on site to provide it with a dedicated space. It reports no issues with this.

Future provision

Consultation with England Athletics reveals that, nationally, no new standard 400-metre athletics tracks are planned to be constructed. Focus is instead on the retention of existing 400-metre facilities and the development of new innovative, entry level facilities such as mini tracks and endurance loops, particularly if part of multi-sport developments with sports lighting.

Linked to the above, England Athletics is currently exploring three alternative approaches in designing new athletics provision. These three designs, outlined below, present alternative approaches to athletics provision as to offer more affordable and feasible means of creating athletics tracks.

Compact Track

The first of the three alternative designs is a 'compact track' featuring a 60-metre sprint straight with an accompanying jump lane and shot put space. This provision is the smallest of the three and is installed at sites with limited available land.

Mini Track

A 'mini track' features a four lane 140-metre oval track with a six lane 60-metre straight, as well as accompanying shot put and jumping provision. An advantage over the mini track design is that this leaves a large space in the centre of the track to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump, or alternatively for other sports/activities such as football pitches or an outdoor gym.

Mini track sites also feature a new design of shot put practice areas in which it creates a natural slope, with athletes then throwing into a hill in order to allow the shot to roll back. This therefore reduces the time spent retrieving after each throw.

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Active Track

Finally, an 'active track' is a synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance (similar to a formula one circuit). Instead, a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings, such as an existing park or school field. This is installed at sites where a 400-metre oval would not be feasible as it allows for adaptations to the shape in order to suit the land in its current state.

11.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which, are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club

Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club is a significantly large club currently catering for around 1,100 members from eight to 80 years old and from international athletes to recreational runners. It formed in 2002 via a merger of Rugby & District Athletics Club and Northampton Phoenix Athletic Club, both of which are over 100 years old.

The Club is based at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre, although it also uses a track in West Northamptonshire at Moulton College. Given the background of the former Northampton Phoenix Athletic Club, the merged club retains a significant base outside of Rugby and this therefore helps ensure that such demand is better accommodated.

It operates sessions at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre on Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's from 18:30 until 19:45, on Saturdays from 09:00 until 12:00 and on Sunday's from 10:00 until 12:00. At Moulton College, sessions operate from 18:30 until 20:30 on Tuesday's and Thursday's and from 10:00 until 11:30 on Saturday's.

The Club also operates a road running arm known as Rugby Runners. This group holds sessions each week on Saturday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday evenings, using the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre as a base and utilising the local road network. It has over 200 female and 200 male members and also operates a Back to Running initiative for non-members.

Rugby Triathlon Club

Rugby Triathlon Club is affiliated to Triathlon England but is also a member of England Athletics, holding numerous running sessions similar to those held by athletics and running clubs. It currently has over 150 members, covering both seniors and juniors, but states that numbers dropped following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and have not yet fully recovered. Prior to this, it was growing year-on-year.

The Club generally holds running sessions each week (in addition to cycling and swimming sessions). On Mondays, the track at Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre is accessed, whereas the local road network is used on Thursdays with Rugby School Sports Centre used as a starting point.

In addition, the Club also organises the annual Viridian Daventry Triathlon. This takes place at and around Daventry Leisure Centre, in West Northamptonshire, but attracts many members of the Club as well as other Rugby-based residents. It has capacity for 300 participants.

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Run Together

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

There are currently no Run Together groups in Rugby. However, a key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation programmes such as Run Together, meaning this could be something that is targeted moving forward.

Park Run

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events.

In Rugby, a Park Run event is held each week at Whinfield Recreation Ground. It has been held 219 times and averages 177.9 runners each week, with 6,554 unique participants registered as finishing. Nationally, some events average over 500 participants, although capacity can vary from site-to-site.

For those aged between 4 and 14, junior Park Run events are also available. In Rugby, this is the case at GEC Recreation Ground, with 116 events held, 942 unique participants registered and an average attendance of 70 runners.

Great Run Local

Great Run hosts numerous running events across the Country. However, none are identified as taking place in Rugby, with the nearest held in Birmingham.

Other events

Other running events are held in Rugby across the year, normally on an annual basis. This includes the Rugby Half Marathon, which attracted 725 runners in 2019 (more recent iterations have not been possible due to Covid-19 although it will be held in 2022). This utilises the local road network, beginning at Hartfield Sports Ground (Lawrence Sheriff School).

A six-mile road race also takes place in Rugby as part of an eight-race series across the Midlands. This begins at Ashlawn Recreation Ground and attracted 236 competitors in July 2022.

In addition, a 5km race known as “Ready Steady Fun Run” takes place annually in Rugby, starting and finishing at Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Centre.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

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Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in Rugby, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity.

Exported/imported demand

The nature of Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club splitting its demand across Rugby and West Northamptonshire results in levels of both exported and imported between the two authorities. However, there are no reported issues with this and the Club suggests that it enables a greater level of demand to be accommodated. It would not be appropriate for the demand to be amalgamated to one site given the roots of what were previously two separate clubs prior to them merging.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 1,961 people within Rugby, which works out at just over 2% of the population and aligns to the national average.

Notwithstanding the above, neither Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club nor Rugby Triathlon Club expresses latent or unmet demand. Both are open to accommodating new members, suggesting that most people wanting to participate in this form can do so. It is therefore likely that other barriers are preventing participation, rather than facilities or a lack of capacity.

Future demand

Both Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club and Rugby Triathlon Club report an aspiration to grow membership, although neither quantify a potential increase, stating that no interest will be turned away. Rugby Triathlon Club's primary aim is to return to its pre-pandemic levels of demand.

England Athletics also believes that demand for initiatives such as Park Run is likely to continue to increase in the future, although again to what extent is difficult to quantify.

11.4: Supply and demand analysis

With over 1,100 members, the presence of Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club provides substantial demand for athletics in Rugby and the wider area. However, this demand is currently being adequately met via the provision at Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre and outside of Rugby at Moulton College, with no capacity or other issues identified.

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Away from the formal track and field facilities, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in Rugby, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that exist. This, however, does not require dedicated provision.

Athletics – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is substantial demand for athletics in Rugby and the wider area; however, this is currently being adequately met.
- ◀ Away from the formal track and field facilities, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in Rugby, although this does not require dedicated provision.

Athletics – supply summary

- ◀ There is one purpose-built outdoor athletics facility provided at Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Centre, with a 400-metre, eight lane track with a synthetic surface provided.
- ◀ The site is operated by the Council and rented by Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club and Rugby Triathlon Club.
- ◀ The track is assessed as good quality and is TrackMark accredited.
- ◀ It is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.

Athletics – demand summary

- ◀ Two clubs have been identified in Rugby that have a focus on athletics and/or running activity.
- ◀ Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club is a large club with over 1,100 members and splits its demand across Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Centre and Moulton College (in West Northamptonshire).
- ◀ The Club also has a road running arm with circa 400 members.
- ◀ Rugby Triathlon Club has 150 members and utilises the track at Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Centre for some of its running sessions as well as the local road network.
- ◀ A Park Run event is held weekly in Rugby at Whinfield Recreation Ground, whilst a junior Park Run event is held at GEC Recreation Ground.
- ◀ There are several running events held annually, including the Rugby Half Marathon, a six-mile road race and a 5km race known as “Ready Steady Fun Run”.
- ◀ Sport England’s Segmentation Tool forecasts a latent demand of 1,961 people, although with no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, it is suggested that other barriers are preventing participation.
- ◀ Both Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club and Rugby Triathlon Club report an aspiration to grow membership, although neither quantify a potential increase, stating that no interest will be turned away.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

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In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

Recover and reinvent: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

Positive experiences for children and young people: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

Connecting with health and wellbeing: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents' (mix of full size and small sided provision, including multi-use games areas - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ Support testing of technology and innovation, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

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The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy investment priorities.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ Grow and nurture the core
- ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs
- ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for Counties and County Cricket Boards
- ◀ Invest in club facilities
- ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
- ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ Inspire through elite teams
- ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
- ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
- ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
- ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ Make cricket accessible
- ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
- ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
- ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
- ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
- ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ Engage children and young people
- ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
- ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
- ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ Transform women's and girls' cricket
- ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
- ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure

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- ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
- ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ Support our communities
- ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
- ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
- ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
- ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategy (2021-onwards)

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

Game Objectives:

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

Driving Objectives:

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ◀ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013)

The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

EH knows that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, it will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from its success and its occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH knows the importance of its volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and it is passionate about its role within the sport. It will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards its vision.

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As a governing body, EH wants to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in the game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our participation
- ◀ Deliver international success
- ◀ Increase our visibility
- ◀ Enhance our infrastructure
- ◀ For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

Club participation

The club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to EH to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey.

Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, EH has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in primary schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

England Hockey Strategy

The vision of the Strategy is for “every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players”, whilst its missions is for “More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.”

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- ◀ **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

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◀ **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**

The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. EH works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

◀ **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

EH has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

LTA Facilities Investment Strategy – Vision for the 2020 and beyond

The LTA has developed a programme of action based on seven core strategies. These are:

- ◀ Visibility – Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ◀ Innovation – Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ◀ Investment – Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
- ◀ Accessibility – Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
- ◀ Engagement – Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game.
- ◀ Performance – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ◀ Leadership – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.

The LTA Facilities Investment Framework sets out how it intends to deliver the investment to support community accessible tennis facilities. The focus will be on:

- ◀ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Park tennis
- ◀ Tennis clubs
- ◀ Schools and other educational establishments

The key principles of the framework are to:

- ◀ Help fund projects through interest free loans.
- ◀ Invest in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◀ Invest where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◀ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◀ Targeted investment that is demand-led.
- ◀ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

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England Netball – Adventure Strategy

In November 2021, England Netball launched a 10-year ‘Adventure Strategy’ for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation. This shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The ‘Adventure Strategy’ outlines the intention to:

- ◀ Accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite.
- ◀ Elevate the visibility of the sport.
- ◀ Lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so that netball better represents the rich diversity of the Country it proudly represents and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men’s and Mixed Netball Association to help develop and grow male participation in the game supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone’s reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

The elite game is in focus as well, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the “netball family”, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to ‘look like’ in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women’s sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

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Facility Development

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ◀ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ◀ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ◀ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.

For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within playing pitch strategies that:

- ◀ Facilitate informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play.
- ◀ Incorporate the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ◀ Protect and enhance netball facilities within all primary and secondary school environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ◀ Support the installation of sports lights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ◀ Facilitate the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ◀ Where appropriate, support the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

Fit for the Future' | Strategy 2021-26

Bowls is a sport steeped in tradition.

For centuries the simplest of pursuits has provided untold enjoyment across generations and the local bowling green has been a place of great jollity and togetherness. Yet, despite its colourful history and intrinsic qualities, the numbers of people playing bowls across England is in steady decline and the challenges our sport faces are significant.

Our 2021-26 Strategy 'Fit for the Future' frames a new and exciting course for our sport. We believe it will:

- Unite our sport behind a compelling vision, creating a sense of belonging and source of inspiration for our volunteers.
- Guide our staff team's activity allowing us to better allocate resources to the areas that matter most.
- Help put issues and problems into a broader context, engendering a can-do, optimistic culture.
- Build confidence and enthusiasm amongst current partners and act as a catalyst to forge new relationships.

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- Enable us to articulate with one voice why those outside our sport should care.

The five year plan, launched in August 2021, is designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing and enjoying our wonderful sport.

It sets out our vision for the sport, how we plan to achieve our objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get us to our target of **One Million Bowls Experiences** by 2026 are:

- **Building the brand of bowls** by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- **Ensuring the sport is truly accessible** to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- **Creating positive playing experiences for everyone** who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- **Putting volunteers first**, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- **Leading the sport with purpose** by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long-term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics has three strategic priorities:

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football							
Please complete one form per pitch							
Site reference:				Site Name:			
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s):			
Number of football pitches on site:				Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)		
Availability				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?			
				<i>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues</i>			
Weather at time of visit & date of visit							
Pitch Issues:							
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)							
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating			Guidance notes			Comments
Playing surface							
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%		Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No		See size chart below for recommended dimensions
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe		
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short		Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor		
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage		
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)							Section total
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No		
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No		
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No		
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No		
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No		
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No		
							Section total
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.							
				PITCH SCORE	0.0%	RATING	Poor

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Cricket pitch non-technical assessment

Element	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield					
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	CBEX falls below the ECB basic standard	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Usually 12mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even	Uneven		Poll should run without drainage or ramp	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	Yes, refer to water/care/safe message	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unauthorised use, kids kickabout etc. Yes, refer to water/care/safe message	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg from animals/vehicles - rabbit, gull and faeces etc may also wish to refer to water warning	
Artificial wickets					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes	No		There should be no trip points	
Evenness of wicket	Even	Uneven		There should be no anomalies in surface levels	
Stump holes	Yes	No		Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes	No		There should be none	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes	No		If "yes" - contact site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes	No		If "yes" - contact site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes	No			
Grass wickets					
Presence of line markings	Yes	No			
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes	No			
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes	No		3mm on each wicket/12mm rest of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes	No			
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes	No		CBEX falls below the ECB basic standard	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes	No			
Changing/ Pavilion					
Umpires provision	Yes	No			
Toilets	Yes	No			
Hot/cold water	Yes	No			
Heating	Yes	No			
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention		
NTP					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes	No			
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even	Uneven			
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes	No			
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes	No			
No rips or surface lifting	Yes	No			
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes	No			
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes	No			
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes	No			
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes	No			
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes	No			
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes	No			
Is appropriate safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes	No			

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Rugby pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union										
Please complete one form per pitch										
Site reference										
6 figure grid reference										
Date of assessment										
Number of pitches on site										
Availability										
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused										
Weather at time of visit										
General comments/observations										
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)										
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments			
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor			
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.			
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm			
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots					
GOALPOSTS										
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No							
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No							
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No							
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No							
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No							
ANCILLARY										
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No							
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No							
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No							
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below										
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never			
							Pitch Maintenance Score			
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0	
Natural (adequate) = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season Natural (inadequate) = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.										

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID						
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)			
Availability			Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused						
Type of pitch	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad) Sand Dressed		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm) Sand Filled		Short Pile 3G (40mm) Water based				
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating					Guidance notes	Site comments		
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No						
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No						
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No						
Maximum score	93		Scoring:	Poor <=50		Total Score	0		
				Standard 51-79		Potential Rating	Poor		
				Good 80+					

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Bowling green non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green

KKPref	<input type="text"/>
Site name:	<input type="text"/>
Number of greens	<input type="text"/>
Flat/crown	<input type="text"/> Community Use? <input type="text"/>

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating			Comments
About the greens				
Grass cover	Over 70% <input type="checkbox"/>	40-69% <input type="checkbox"/>	less than 40% <input type="checkbox"/>	
Evenness of surface	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	
Signs of wear and tear	None <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots <input type="checkbox"/>	
Condition of ditches/boardings	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots <input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots <input type="checkbox"/>	
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>	
Ancillary facilities				
Changing Accomodation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Toilets	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Car parking	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>	

General comments about the site:

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Athletics track non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks

KKPref	<input type="text"/>								
Site name:	<input type="text"/>								
Track surface	<input type="text"/>	Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify		Specify if 'Other'	<input type="text"/>				
No. of Lanes	<input type="text"/>	Length of track:	<input type="text"/>	Community Use:	<input type="text"/>				

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each track with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating						Comments
About the track facilities							
Damage to the track surface	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Grip underfoot	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Line markings - quality	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Track edging	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Disabled access	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Floodlighting	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Is the track fenced?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump							
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully	<input type="checkbox"/>	No-but adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	No-not adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Take off boards	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Landing mats	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Surface of throwing areas - shot, discuss, hammer	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Adequate safety margins - throws	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Throwing cages	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Access to facilities							
Access to toilets	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Changing accommodation	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Changing accommodation - quality	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Club room	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Car parking	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	

General Comments

ENTER Athletics

Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At_db !