



APPENDIX B

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT DECEMBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
AP	Active Partnership
ASC	All Stars Cricket
BAFA	British American Football Association
BC	Bowls Club
BE	Bowls England
CC	Cricket Club
CFA	County Football Association
CFS	County Facilities Strategy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media & Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EN	England Netball
FA	Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
GMA	Grounds Maintenance
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh & Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LMS	Last Man Stands
LRCF	Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MUGA	Multi use games area
NC	Netball Club
NGB	National Governing Body of Sport
NHS	National Health Service
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RDO	Rugby Development Officer
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Section 106 Agreement
SE	Sport England
TBTT	Transforming British Tennis Together
TC	Tennis Club

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been commissioned by North West Leicestershire District Council to undertake a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). This report (known as the Assessment Report, the first of two published documents) presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities within the District and is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports).

Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the proceeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing once the work has been adopted. This relates to the ongoing work that will be required when the PPOSS has been approved and adopted.

For "non-pitch" sports, Sport England's 'Assessing Needs & 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

The PPOSS will replace the previous PPS for North West Leicestershire which was completed in 2017. It should be noted that the PPOSS will follow the same structure as the previous study with the production of an Assessment Report and a Strategy & Action Plan.

The PPOSS is being completed in conjunction with an Indoor Built Facilities Strategy and Open Space Assessment. The inter-relationship between the studies needs to be recognised due to the crossovers that occur e.g., sports clubs using both outdoor and indoor facilities.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the strategy is being developed

The Council developed a Playing Pitch Strategy in 2017 (which has been refreshed), and a Built Sports and Recreation Facilities Framework (2017-2021). The Council is seeking to update these documents through a full review, with the addition of community facilities and open spaces, across the District. The intention is to understand current provision, where current and future gaps in provision are likely to be, and to cost and prioritise these.

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These studies will also provide an evidence base that identifies the infrastructure required to support the growth required by the emerging Local Plan (2024 to 2042); whether that is through onsite provision, S106 developer contributions or other funding streams.

The strategy is expected to address and respond to the following key objectives:

- ◀ To inform emerging planning policy under the review of the Local Plan.
- ◀ Assessment of current supply against demand and established best practice standards across the district and in specific localities having regard to the Settlement Hierarchy.
- ◀ Consideration of accessible facilities in neighbouring authorities.
- ◀ Identification of any current and projected shortfall across the District and within localities.
- ◀ Assessment of current stock condition.
- ◀ Assessment of future supply against demand, considering cross-boundary access – based on the location of proposed housing developments and growth in population (Local Plan).
- ◀ Options for increasing provision to meet current and future demand shortfalls.
- ◀ Prioritisation and costings for increasing provision.

Local context

North West Leicestershire Council Delivery Plan 2023 -2028

In summary, the NWL Council Delivery Plan 2023-2028 sets out a clear direction for council work over the next five years, focusing on key areas such as planning, economic growth, communities, the environment, and effective governance. It emphasises a collaborative approach and a commitment to delivering positive outcomes for the residents and businesses of the district. It serves as a roadmap for how the council will work towards its vision of making NWL a place where people and businesses feel they belong and are proud to call home.

Key priority areas:

- ◀ **Planning and regeneration:** this is about shaping the future development of the district, including housing, infrastructure, and economic growth. It may include policies related to land use, building regulations, and the creation of vibrant places.
- ◀ **Economic growth and the physical development of the district:** this focuses on fostering a thriving local economy, attracting businesses, and supporting job creation. It also encompasses the physical development of the area, potentially including commercial and industrial spaces.
- ◀ **Communities and housing:** this area centres on the well-being of residents, looking after council tenants, and ensuring community safety. It likely includes services related to housing provision, community support, and crime prevention.
- ◀ **Clean, green and zero carbon:** this priority emphasises environmental sustainability, aiming to protect and enhance the natural environment and work towards reducing carbon emissions. It could involve initiatives related to waste management, energy efficiency, and green spaces.
- ◀ **A well-run council:** this focuses on the internal workings of the council, ensuring efficient and effective service delivery, providing value for money, and maintaining sound financial management. It also includes a commitment to positive and friendly customer service.

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Overarching themes and principles:

- ◀ **Putting residents first:** the Council aims to act as a custodian of the district's welfare and prioritise the needs of its communities.
- ◀ **Creating the right environment for growth:** similar to the National Forest analogy used in the document, the Council intends to foster conditions that allow communities and businesses to thrive.
- ◀ **Working in partnership:** recognising that it cannot achieve its goals alone, the Council emphasises the importance of collaboration with various partners and communities.
- ◀ **Continuous improvement:** the Council is committed to monitoring its performance and striving for ongoing improvement in the services it provides.
- ◀ **Listening and responding:** the Council acknowledges the need to be better at listening to residents and responding to their feedback.

North West Leicestershire (NWL) Local Plan

This is a crucial document that sets out the long-term vision and framework for development within the district. It guides decisions on planning applications and aims to shape the future of the area by addressing various needs and challenges.

Purpose and scope:

- ◀ The current Local Plan (adopted in November 2017) covers the period 2011 to 2031. It outlines the current strategy for delivering homes, jobs, and infrastructure needed in the district.
- ◀ The Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan, to cover the 2024 to 2042 period. It will update existing policies and address changes in national planning policies and local circumstances.

Key elements and objectives (based on the ongoing review and existing plan):

- ◀ **Housing:** identifying the amount and location of new housing required to meet the needs of the growing population. The new Local Plan is currently being prepared to meet a housing requirement of 686 dwellings per year. The plan period has now been amended to cover the 2024 to 2042 period.
- ◀ **Employment:** planning for economic growth by allocating land for employment uses and supporting job creation.
- ◀ **Infrastructure:** ensuring that necessary infrastructure, such as transport links, schools, healthcare facilities, and utilities, is in place to support new development.
- ◀ **Sustainability:** promoting sustainable development principles, including addressing climate change through energy efficiency and renewable energy, protecting the environment, and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- ◀ **Settlement hierarchy:** defining a hierarchy of settlements within the district (e.g., principal town, key service centres, local service centres) to guide the location and scale of development.
- ◀ **Limits to development:** defining boundaries to manage urban sprawl and protect the character of existing settlements and the countryside.
- ◀ **Design quality:** ensuring that new development is of high-quality design and respects the local context.

The preparation and review of all policies should be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence. This should be adequate and proportionate, focused tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned. This document forms part of the Council's Local Plan evidence base.

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Current status and review process:

- ◀ The adopted Local Plan 2011-2031 forms part of the current development plan.
- ◀ The Council began reviewing the Local Plan shortly after its adoption.
- ◀ Several rounds of consultation have taken place as part of the new Local Plan's preparation, including on development strategy options (2022) and proposed policies and site allocations (February-March 2024).
- ◀ A consultation on additional proposed housing and employment site allocations took place between March and May 2025). The Council is working to submit the new Local Plan for examination before the end of December 2026.

In summary, the NWL Local Plan is a vital strategic document that guides development in the district and provides a framework for making decisions on planning applications. It is used by developers, landowners, residents, and the council to understand what kind of development is appropriate and where. Neighbourhood plans, prepared by local communities, must be in general conformity with the Local Plan.

Active Together

Active Together is the active partnership for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) which has the aim to make sport and physical activity not only more accessible but part of everyday life. It is one of 43 active partnerships in England which work with public and local partners to transform lives through sport and physical activity.

The Active Together Partnership Physical Activity Framework 2022-2031 is a ten-year strategy for LLR. It aims to increase physical activity levels and reduce health inequalities across the region, particularly for those who find it most challenging to be active. The stated vision is 'to make physical activity a part of daily life for everyone in LLR, leading to healthier and happier lives'.

National Context

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 eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 103 stating that:

"Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate."

Paragraph 104 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ 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; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Paragraphs 106, 107, and 108 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

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Management arrangements

A project team from North West Leicestershire District Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective. Its role is also to support, check and challenge the work of the project team. The Steering Group comprises representatives from the Council, Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPOSS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPOSS
Support implementation of the PPOSS and its recommendations and action plan.
Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPOSS
Ensure that the PPOSS is kept up to date and refreshed

Scope

The scope of the PPOSS will focus geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. The scope of work is as follows:

- ◀ Football.
- ◀ Football (3G pitches).
- ◀ Rugby union.
- ◀ Rugby league.
- ◀ Hockey (artificial grass pitches AGPs).
- ◀ Cricket.
- ◀ Tennis/padel/pickleball.
- ◀ Athletics.
- ◀ Crown/flat bowls.
- ◀ Netball.
- ◀ Other sports where appropriate (such as American football, lacrosse etc).

In addition, other grass pitch sports are also generally included where supply and/or demand has been recognised; however, none are currently identified within North West Leicestershire. Where a sport has not been included, this is because its presence has not been evidenced, although that is not to say that it is not played informally or that localised demand does not exist.

A section dedicated to third generation turf (3G) pitches is also included due to the number of sports such provision can accommodate. This predominately pertains to football but is also relevant to rugby and potentially other grass pitch sports.

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

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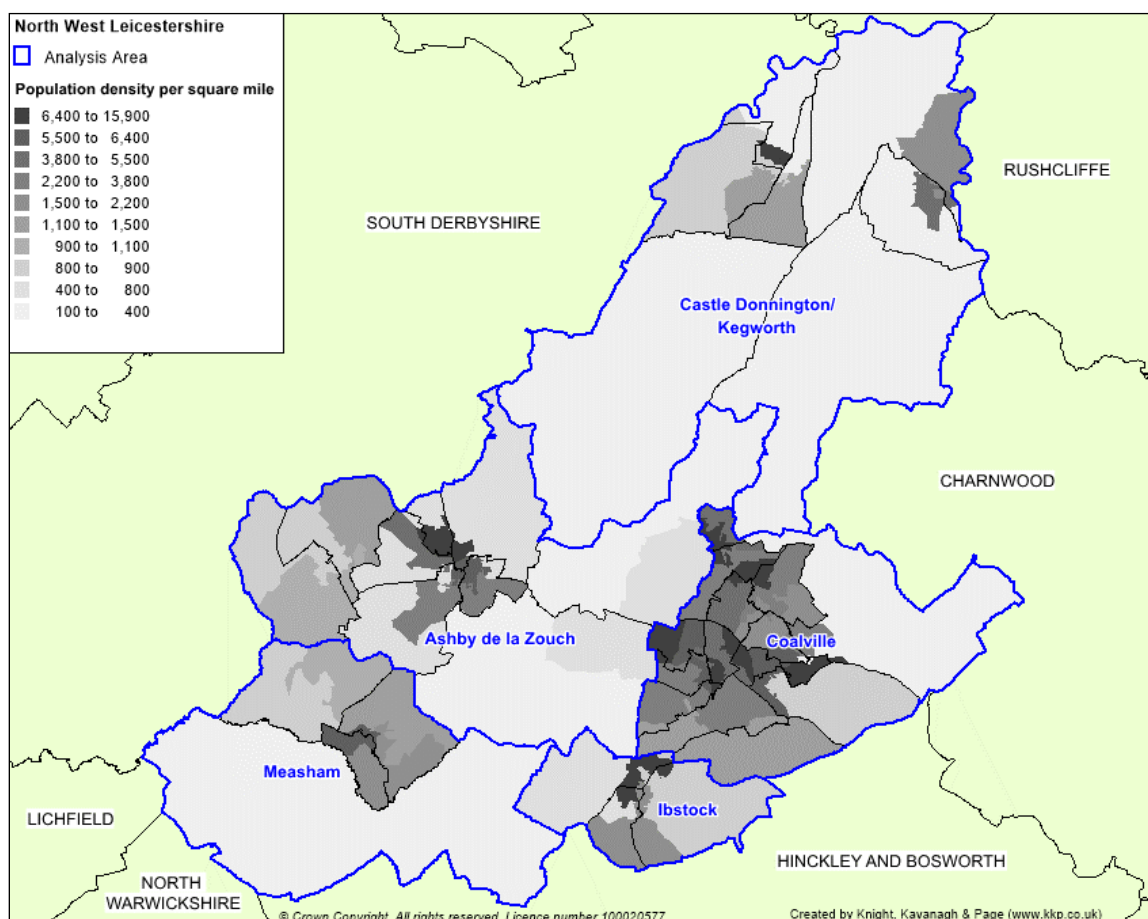
Study area

The study area comprises the whole local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis. For consistency and comparison purposes, the analysis areas have remained as per the previous study (taking into account any ward boundary changes), with the Steering Group content with this approach and reporting that they work well in terms of how sport is played in the District.

The sub-areas of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Castle Donington/Kegworth, Coalville, Ibstock and Measham can be seen via the table and figure below.

These analysis areas align to the previous PPS iteration and are further illustrated in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



It should be noted that the PPOSS also includes analysis on imported and exported demand to/from the District. This includes the surrounding local authorities of South Derbyshire, Rushcliffe, Charnwood, Hinckley and Bosworth, North Warwickshire, Lichfield and Erewash.

1.3: Stage B: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision

A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in North West Leicestershire needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is primarily achieved through consultation and site assessments, as further outlined below.

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Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using North West Leicestershire's previous PPOSS and 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.

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 of at least 0.2ha or more which encompasses at least one playing pitch

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, this study also takes into account smaller size sites that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch. This study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply and the definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the outdoor sports facilities within North West Leicestershire. However, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the PPOSS where provision is known to exist from other data sources). Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch does not mean that it 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 provision also influences actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams/members/individuals (depending on the sport).
- ◀ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used externally; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire or particularly poor quality.

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- ◀ **No community use** - facilities which are, as a matter of policy or practice, unavailable for external hire. This includes professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team of the host club.
- ◀ **Disused** – any sites where facilities were once provided but are no longer in place, yet they remain undeveloped and could therefore be brought back into use.

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 their 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.

It is not just the quality itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the outdoor sports facility and ancillary facilities will determine whether provision is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups, and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all outdoor sports facilities identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity 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. Facility age can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

Standard quality refers to playing provision that has, 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 waterlogging issues, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms with no showers (or communal showers), no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

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To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, site assessments for sports played in the winter are generally conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer are assessed between July and August. This also enables sufficient play to be carried out on the provision before the assessments take place by means of providing an accurate picture regarding the impact of demand.

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 feedback (thus establishing an “agreed quality rating”).

Furthermore, technical assessments have also been provided, where undertaken, such as those carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA), which now provides technical assessments across football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket (known as PitchPower reports). PitchPower reports where carried out have informed the quality assessments for the PPOSS to ensure the findings align (unless there is a clear reason for a differential e.g., recent improvements).

Gather demand information and views

Current demand

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for outdoor sports facilities (i.e. recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for outdoor sports facilities in North West Leicestershire tends to fall within the following categories:

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

Current and future demand for outdoor sports facilities 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.

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 club 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. This therefore includes North West Leicestershire-based demand that travels outside of the District to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the District (imported demand). This can often be linked to capacity and/or quality issues within an authority, although nationally some leagues and competitions operate a central venue system that can necessitate the displacement.

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A variety of consultation methods were used to collate such demand information. Firstly, face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including, 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 and special schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. One method for calculating this is by using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth to provide an estimate of the likely future demand for relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth via the use of team/member generation rates. This involves using an existing participation ratio and applying it to predicted growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

Other information sources 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 their 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 North West Leicestershire cover the period up until 2042, in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

1.4: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

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

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch 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 the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions could be accommodated.

Each pitch is then said to have potential spare capacity, be at capacity, or be overplayed – as follows:

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.	

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

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. It is further detailed in the table below.

Table 1.3: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		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
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

For other grass pitch sports (e.g. American football), no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that similar principles should be followed.

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.

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 District-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.

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.

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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 utilisation of the existing stock, such as via quality improvements or through improving community access.

Once current capacity is determined, future capacity can be calculated via incorporating the future demand identified plus 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 sport (or facility type). Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

1.5: Stage D: Develop the strategy

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).

It should be noted that Rugby league was included in the scope of this document with relevant consultation carried out with the RFL. As no dedicated demand or supply could be found within North West Leicestershire it has not been included in the sport by sport analysis below.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation responsible for the development of football in North West Leicestershire is the Leicestershire & Rutland County FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees and delivering national football schemes.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation (FF), which is a charity, linked to and funded by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England). Working in partnership with Leicestershire & Rutland County FA, the FF helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding.

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)	Recommended pitch size including runoff (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64	106 x 70
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55	97 x 61
Youth 11v11	U13s-U14s	82 x 50	88 x 56
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46	79 x 52
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37	61 x 43
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27	43 x 33

It should be noted that as of the 2026/27 season football grass pitch formats are changing, with the introduction of 3v3 games. More information relating to this can be found in the subsequent Strategy & Action Plan.

Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game 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 (FF) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

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Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game. 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 and disability football.

The LFFP for North West Leicestershire was updated in May 2025. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential FF 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. An LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

Consultation

In total there are 308 football teams from across 33 clubs based in North West Leicestershire. Following face to face and video consultation with key clubs and an electronic survey being sent to all others (distributed and supported by Leicestershire & Rutland County FA), a team response rate of 77% has been achieved (42% of clubs).

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 111 grass football pitches across 46 sites in North West Leicestershire. Of these, 102 pitches across 38 sites are identified as being available for community use at some level (although not necessarily used), as shown in the table below.

Table 2.2: Number of grass football pitches available for community use by analysis area

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	14	6	3	3	3	29
Castle Donington/Kegworth	10	-	3	4	4	21
Coalville	11	6	3	3	4	27
Ibstock	6	2	2	3	1	14
Measham	2	2	3	2	2	11
Total	43	16	14	15	14	102
2017 Total	46	8	19	16	14	103

As seen, most community available pitches can be found in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, with 29 pitches provided (28%). The Measham Analysis Area provides the least number of community available pitches with 11 (11%).

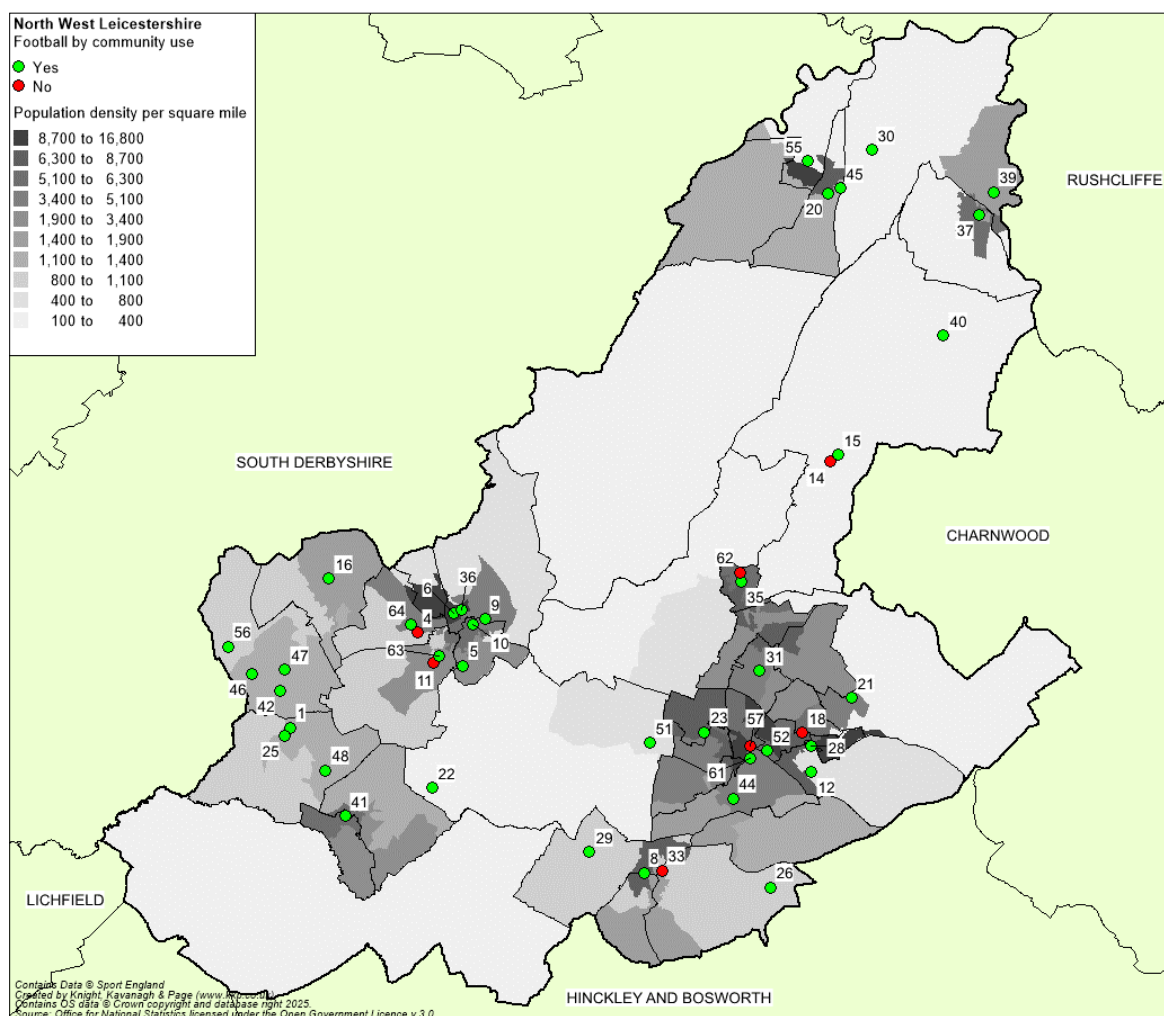
There are significantly more adult pitches (43) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which suggests high demand for adult football. However, it should be noted that youth 11v11 demand is significantly higher, despite there being fewer youth 11v11 pitches. This is common nationally, with many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, although this can be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.

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Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the overall number of pitches has decreased by 16 and the number of community available pitches across North West Leicestershire has decreased by one. Despite this, there has been some changes in the number of pitches, especially youth 11v11 pitches which have since doubled from the previous study, elsewhere adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches have decreased albeit a minimally. This is linked to some pitches no longer being actively marked which is outlined in greater detail below.

Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing North West Leicestershire, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 2.17.

Figure 2.1: Map of sites with football pitch provision within North West Leicestershire



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Future developments

As part of the PPOSS process, the feasibility of establishing a bespoke sporting hub site within the locality of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was explored. This included the relocation of clubs from their current sites to one dedicated facility.

During consultation the larger football clubs (Ashby Ivanhoe / Ashby United Community FC / Marlborough Rovers) expressed an interest in developing 3G pitch provision within the area, however, none suggest a desire to fully relocate from their current sites Ashby Ivanhoe FC, Western Park, Ashby School and Measham Road Recreation Ground respectively. In fact, Ashby Ivanhoe FC has planning permission to change the use of adjoining at land Ashby Ivanhoe Football Club (LE65 1TS) to recreation use including the formation of additional pitches, parking area and landscaping (22/01811/FULM).

Ashby United Community FC currently uses provision at Ashby School and aspires to improve the quality of pitches on the site rather than relocate. It also wants to gain greater access to 3G provision and potential work with Ashby RFC to create a 9v9 pitch on its land.

As outlined in greater detail below, pitch and ancillary provision is generally either standard or good quality, with some minor exceptions, with clubs such as Ashby Ivanhoe planning to improve its own clubhouse.

Disused/ unmarked provision

There are several grass football pitches which are disused in North West Leicestershire, either at sites where no formal sports pitches are now provided, or where sites have previously accommodated football pitches but now only accommodate other sports. In total, 13 pitches across 10 active sites that were previously provided within the District have been identified.

In addition, it should be noted that some pitches have also been lost at some school sites, primarily due to re-configuration; however, this is not included in the table as it does not represent disuse.

Table 2.3: Summary of disused/ unmarked provision within North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Format previously accommodated	Comments
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	(9v9)	Unmarked pitch – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	lboostock	(9v9)	Unmarked pitch – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
12	Bardon Hill Sports Ground	Coalville	(9v9)	Unmarked pitch – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
17	Bosworth Road Recreation Ground	Measham	(11v11)	Unmarked pitch – Site still in use, previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Format previously accommodated	Comments
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	Coalville	(9v9) (7v7)	Unmarked pitch – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches <i>circa 2018</i>
43	Melrose Recreation Ground	Coalville	Adult	Unmarked pitch – Site still in use, previously provided one adult pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
50	Parsonwood Hill	Coalville	(7v7)	Unmarked pitch – Site still in use, previously provided one mini 7v7 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	(9v9) (7v7) (5v5)	Unmarked pitch – Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	(9v9)	Unmarked pitch - Site still in use, previously provided an additional youth 9v9 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>
60	The Connery	Measham	(11v11)	Unmarked pitch – Site still in use, previously provided one youth 11v11 pitch <i>circa 2018</i>

Broken down this equates to one adult, two youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch.

The Council report that Melrose Recreation Ground is a currently disused site, however, work is being carried out to engage with the Football Foundations Home Advantage Programme to bring football back to this site and transfer on a 25 year lease to Ingles FC.

Management

Of the 103 community available pitches in North West Leicestershire, 40 are managed by sports clubs (39%), 23 are managed by parish councils (22%) 19 are managed by education sites (18%) whilst the District Council and other management types manage eight (8%) pitches each. The remaining five pitches (5%) are managed by town councils.

Table 2.4: Summary of pitch management (number of community available pitches)

Education	District Council	Parish Council	Town Council	Sports clubs	Other
19	8	23	5	40	8

Security of tenure

Clubs are generally considered to have secure tenure where they have freehold, leasehold or formally secured use of their site/s for the next three or more years (i.e., via a community use agreement). In addition, most council sites in North West Leicestershire ensure long-term security of tenure as part of their ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offering.

Based on the above, tenure of sites in North West Leicestershire is generally secure, with all council and club sites providing long-term access guarantees as well as several

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schools that have access arrangements secured via planning conditions. This is the case at Ivanhoe School, Castle Donington College and The Newbridge School.

Tenure is considered to be unsecure at the remaining education sites, In the main schools are able to state their own policies relating to community use, therefore making them more likely to restrict levels of access.

Pitch quality

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. In contrast, 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.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than local authority parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. Such provision is also likely to receive greater amounts of external investment. The maintenance of council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

The quality of football pitches across North West Leicestershire has been assessed via a combination of site visits (carried out in March 2025), PitchPower reports (see section 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).

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches. As seen, most pitches are assessed as standard quality (54 pitches or 52%), 27 pitches assessed as good quality (26%) and 22 assessed as poor quality (22%).

Table 2.5: Summary of pitch quality by pitch type (community available)

Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Adult	13	23	8
Youth 11v11	3	10	3
Youth 9v9	2	6	6
Mini 7v7	4	9	3
Mini 5v5	5	6	2
Total	27	54	22
2017 Total	4	70	29

The good quality community available pitches are located at:

- ◆ Ashby Ivanhoe FC.
- ◆ Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields).
- ◆ Ashby School and Sixth Form.
- ◆ Bardon Hill Sports Club.
- ◆ Ellistown FC.
- ◆ Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park).
- ◆ Hemington Sports Ground.
- ◆ Moira Dale Sports Ground.
- ◆ Spital Park.

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Despite being rated as good quality (as supported by the PP reports), Hemmington Hammers is seeking match funding from the Football Foundation for pitch drainage and reconstruction of pitches at Hemmington Sports Ground. The Club has already consulted with the Grounds Maintenance Association which recommend this due to undulations and existing poor drainage.

Coalville Town FC and Heather St Johns FC receive assistance from Leicester City Football Club for maintenance, including aeration to improve drainage on match pitches.

Since the previous study was completed, the number of good quality pitches across North West Leicestershire has increased significantly, whilst the number of poor quality pitches has reduced by six. Many clubs and operators state that this change is a result of increased pitch maintenance and the carrying out of more detailed PitchPower assessments and the associated/resultant funding.

In contrast, the poor quality pitches that have been identified are at:

- ◀ Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields).
- ◀ Belton Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Blackfordby Football Field.
- ◀ Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium).
- ◀ Greenhill Recreation Ground.
- ◀ King George V Playing Field (Kegworth).
- ◀ Measham Community and Recreation Centre.
- ◀ Measham Road Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Oakthorpe Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Scotland's Playing Fields.
- ◀ Spring Cottage Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Western Park.
- ◀ Westfields Recreation Ground.

In the main, poor quality pitches show significant signs of wear and tear, with many also having waterlogging problems. There is a mixture of management types which maintain these pitches including District, parish/town councils as well as sports clubs.

Coalville Town FC states that as a result of building a 3G pitch at its site (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) the 1st team pitch has subsequently suffered with drainage issues. The Club is also working with Leicester City Football Club to improve this, similar to Heather St Johns FC.

For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.16.

PitchPower

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the FF'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 improvements. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment.

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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 FF 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 at any time in the year, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: July - 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 FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 2.6: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

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

In North West Leicestershire, the following sites have received PitchPower reports (up to March 2025):

- ◀ Ashby Ivanhoe FC (Oakthorpe Recreation Ground) – *Poor*.
- ◀ Ashby Ivanhoe FC – *Good / Basic*.
- ◀ Bardon Hill Sports Club – *Good / Advanced*.
- ◀ Coalville Town FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) – *Basic / Poor*.
- ◀ Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds – *Basic*.
- ◀ Ellistown FC – *Good*.
- ◀ Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park) – *Good / Basic*.
- ◀ Hemmington Sports Ground – *Advanced*.
- ◀ King George V Playing Field (Kegworth) – *Poor*.
- ◀ Measham Community and Recreation Centre – *Basic*.
- ◀ Moira Dale Sports Ground – *Good / Advanced*.
- ◀ Spital Park – *Good / Advanced / Basic*.

The above have been accounted for within the PPOSS quality ratings to ensure the findings align, unless there is a clear reason for a difference (e.g., quality alterations since the PitchPower assessments took place). This is also supported through user consultation.

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It should be noted that Scotland's Playing Fields has recently received a PP (13th June 2025) which indicates that pitches range from basic (One youth 9v9 and two youth 11v11 pitches) to good quality (one youth 9v9 pitch). For the purposes of the Assessment report the quality score referenced below will be those of the non-technical assessment as these took place in the season. This will be updated within the Strategy & Action Plan.

The Leicestershire & Rutland County FA identifies that it would be beneficial for all local authority-managed sites to undergo an assessment in the near future.

Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the GPMF. As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues can apply to access funding to improve pitches to good quality or sustain them at good quality.

Once a PitchPower grass pitch assessment report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the GPMF, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help eligible organisations such as clubs and leagues enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the FF's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then organisations can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have the landowner's permission (as a minimum) and have received a PitchPower Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding stadia pitches used for National League System play), leagues, education establishments and parish and town councils.

In relation to the above, Hemmington Hammers is seeking match funding from the Football Foundation for pitch drainage and reconstruction at Hemmington Sports Ground. The Club has already consulted with the Grounds Maintenance Association which recommend this due to undulations and existing poor drainage. Hemmington Hammers aspire to be a community club.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities. Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- ◀ Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- ◀ A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- ◀ Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- ◀ Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.
- ◀ Separate provision for officials.

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Open planned changing rooms, toilets and particularly showers can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. As a result, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document.

The table below summarises the clubhouse and changing room quality across community available sites in North West Leicestershire (note some education sites are not included as access could not be achieved). As seen, many sites provide good and/or standard quality provision, although two sites provide poor facilities and two are without facilities.

Table 2.7: Ancillary provision of the clubs that responded to consultation

Site ID	Site name	Overall quality	Changing room quality	Playing formats accommodated
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Standard	Standard	5v5, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11 and adult
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	Good	Good	5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11
6	Hood Park	Standard	Standard	9v9, 11v11 and adult
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	Good	Good	5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Good	Standard	5v5, 9v9, 11v11 and adult
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Standard	Standard	5v5, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11 and adult
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	N/A	N/A	11v11
26	Ellistown FC	Standard	Standard	Adult
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	Good	Good	5v5, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11 and adult
30	Hemington Sports Ground	Good	Good	5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and adult
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	Standard	Standard	Adult
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	Standard	Standard	11v11
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Standard	Standard	11v11
44	Millfield Recreation Ground	Poor	Poor	11v11
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	Standard	Standard	11v11
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Standard	Poor	7v7, 9v9 and 11v11
63	Western Park	Poor	Poor	11v11
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	Poor	Poor	11v11

The poor quality ancillary facilities are found at Millfield Recreation Ground and Westfields Recreation Ground. The provision is rated as poor quality due to the condition of the provision being a container, with it also not meeting mixed gender usage requirements. In addition, there are six girls' teams playing across Millfield Recreation Ground and Scotland's Playing Fields as well Western Park, these sites would need to see significant quality improvements to ensure they are suitable for women's and girl's demand.

Ashby Ivanhoe has planning permission (REF:24/00754/VCU) and is currently in the process of extending its existing clubhouse to include raising the roof height to provide first floor accommodation, dormer windows and a balcony with the erection of a single storey building to provide changing room facilities.

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Heather St Johns FC has high quality clubhouse facilities including changing rooms, a manager's office, boardroom and bar, with this well equipped to accommodate match days. Despite this, changing rooms are primarily used by the first team and development team and U18s to avoid overcrowding with the younger age groups.

Hemmington Hammers is currently constructing a new clubhouse on its primary site at Hemmington Sports Ground which will include 220 square metres of changing rooms with cubicle showers, toilets, community room, fully equipped kitchen and parking facilities. It will also include disabled access facilities and official's room.

Ashby United Community FC states that the changing facilities at Hood Park are of a standard/ poor quality, with these not suitable for senior teams needing to access shower provision.

Coalville Town FC states that it is in the early planning stages of a new clubhouse at its primary site Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium), with the Club stating that it wishes to improve this for the youth teams to match the rest of the site.

Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds and Scotland's Playing Fields is without supporting ancillary facilities, the former with minimal demand whilst the latter accommodates 26 teams.

2.3: Demand

A total of 308 teams from 33 affiliated clubs are identified as playing in North West Leicestershire. As a breakdown, this equates to 50 adult teams, 98 youth 11v11 teams, 57 youth 9v9 teams, 56 mini 7v7 teams and 47 mini 5v5 teams. This is further summarised below.

It should be noted that the above demand references teams that are North West Leicestershire based and does not include imported or exported demand which is referenced later in the section.

Table 2.8: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in North West Leicestershire

Age group	No. of teams
Adult Men's 11v11 (18-45)	44
Adult Women's 11v11 (18-45)	6
Youth Boys 11v11 (12-17)	78
Youth Girls 11v11 (12-17)	20
Youth Boys 9v9 (10-11)	46
Youth Girls 9v9 (10-11)	11
Mini Mixed 7v7 (8-9)	56
Mini Mixed 5v5 (6-7)	47
Total	308

Football in North West Leicestershire is played predominately in the Coalville Analysis Area with a total of 99 teams (32%), followed by the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area with 83 teams (27%). The Ibstock and Measham analysis areas have the least amount of demand within the District with 41 and 40 teams (13%) respectively.

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Table 2.9: Summary of number of competitive football teams playing affiliation matches

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	10	28	17	14	14	83
Castle Donington/Kegworth	15	10	6	7	7	45
Coalville	13	38	18	16	14	99
Ibstock	5	10	7	12	7	41
Measham	7	12	9	7	5	40
Total	50	98	57	56	47	308
2017 Total	43	52	29	22	26	172

Participation trends

Since the previous study was completed in 2017, the number of teams within North West Leicestershire has increased from 172 to 308, representing a growth of 44% despite no change in community available pitch supply over the same period. Further broken down, the increase equates to an overall rise of seven adult, 46 youth 11v11, 28 youth 9v9, 34 mini 7v7 and 21 mini 5v5 teams.

In connection with the above, more clubs report a growth in demand in recent years compared to those reporting a decrease. Interestingly, 50% of responding clubs report an increase in their number of youth teams and mini teams whilst 43% reported an increase in adult teams. Only 21% of clubs report any form of decrease.

Women's and girls' demand

There are currently six women's teams and 31 dedicated girls' teams playing football in North West Leicestershire. This represents 12% of all demand across the District. Key clubs and organisations presently fielding female teams include Coalville Town Ravens, Heather Juniors, Ibstock United Juniors, Albert Village Junior, Ashby Ivanhoe, Castle Donington and Marlborough Rovers.

The FA currently has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation as part of its Inspiring Positive Change Strategy. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

National League System demand

The National League System (NLS) is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the Football League (from the National League at Step 1) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the system than at the top. The NLS has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation¹ 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 grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from Regional Feeder League. Please refer to the FA website² for the full specifications for each.

¹ <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

² <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

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Four teams from four clubs within North West Leicestershire play within the NLS as seen in the table below.

Table 2.10: Summary of teams playing within the NLS

Team	League	Level
Coalville Town FC First	United Counties Football League	Step 6
Heather St. John's First	Midland Football League	Step 6
Ashby Ivanhoe First	United Counties Football League	Step 5
Ingles First	Midland Football League	Step 6

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

Although women's clubs still need 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.

There are currently no women's team fielded by clubs within North West Leicestershire which are part of the system.

Walking football

Walking football³ is an alternate version of football than the format which is governed by The Walking Football Association. The sport has picked up popularity in recent years and has a typical demographic of over 50s for men and over 40s for women. It provides a less physically demanding version of the usual game due to the rules not allowing for any contact or fast-paced movement thus providing a more inclusive game for participants.

Whist the game is governed by The Walking Football Association, and it provides competitive structures through national cup competitions. Much of the activation work undertaken nationally for this activity type is promoted by professional football club community organisations or by leading community grassroots football clubs.

Walking football sessions take place at Ashby Leisure Centre & Lido on the smaller size 3G pitches on Wednesday mornings. Additional sessions are held at Coalville Town FC and Castle Donington College on Monday evenings.

Imported demand

Within North West Leicestershire, FCV Academy (LE67 5UG – Castle Donington / Kegworth Analysis Area) accommodates some imported demand from the neighbouring authority of Charnwood. The site, which was Grace Dieu Manor School until 2020, accommodates training demand from Shepshed Dynamo Youth & Junior FC.

The Club only uses the 3G pitch and will therefore not feature within the grass pitch supply and demand analysis below, however, it will be referenced in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

³ <https://thewfa.co.uk/who-plays-walking-football/>
<https://thewfa.co.uk/womens-walking-football/>

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Exported demand

In total, based on 2024/25 affiliation data, there are 27 teams which currently export their competitive demand outside of North West Leicestershire to surrounding local authorities, these are summarised in the table below.

Table 2.11: Summary of exported demand

Team	Format	Gender	Site	Authority
Albert Village Junior U12 Harriers	9v9	Male	Pingle Academy	South Derbyshire
Albert Village Junior U14 Hurricanes	11v11	Male	Shobnall Leisure Complex	East Staffordshire
Albert Village Junior U15 Vulcans	11v11	Male	Shobnall Leisure Complex	East Staffordshire
Albert Village Junior Albert Village Ladies	6v6	Female	Pingle Academy	South Derbyshire
Albert Village Junior Albert Village FC Ladies Whites	6v6	Female	Pingle Academy	South Derbyshire
Ashby Ivanhoe U13 Warriors	11v11	Mixed	Richard Wakefield C Of E Primary Academy	East Staffordshire
Coalville Town Ravens U8 Ravenettes Saturday	5v5	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Coalville Town Ravens U9 Ravenettes Saturday	7v7	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Coalville Town Ravens U10 Ravenettes Saturday	7v7	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Coalville Town Ravens U11 Ravenettes Saturday	9v9	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Coalville Town Ravens U11 Rookettes Saturday	7v7	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Coalville Town Ravens U12 Ravenettes Saturday	9v9	Female	Leisure United Derby Racecourse	Derby
Ibstock United Juniors U16 Phantoms	5v5	Male	Crown Hills Community College	Leicester
Ingles U7 Reds	5v5	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U8 Reds	5v5	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U9 Whites	7v7	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U10 Reds	7v7	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U11 Reds	9v9	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U12 Reds	9v9	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles U15 Reds	11v11	Mixed	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Ingles Veterans	11v11	Male	Little Haw Lane	Charnwood
Kegworth Imps U8	5v5	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe
Kegworth Imps U9	7v7	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe
Kegworth Imps U9 Kegworth Imps U9 Vikings	7v7	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe
Kegworth Imps U10	7v7	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe
Kegworth Imps U11	9v9	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe
Kegworth Imps U12	9v9	Mixed	Kegworth Imps Fc (Moor Lane)	Rushcliffe

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Through consultation it has been identified that demand from Ingles FC (Coalville Analysis Area), Albert Village Junior (Measham Analysis Area), apart from the two women 6v6 teams, and Ashby Ivanhoe (Ashby-de-la Zouch Analysis Area) would prefer to play their competitive fixtures within North West Leicestershire, if suitable provision could be found. This totals one adult men's, four youth 11v11, three youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 teams.

The remaining teams referenced either play at central venues or are located at sites within close proximity to their home venues and therefore access them as a matter of convenience such as Kegworth Imps at Kegworth Imps FC (Moor Lane) in Rushcliffe. This demand is likely to remain exported for the foreseeable future.

The exported demand referenced above will be factored into the supply and demand analysis below where relevant.

Latent/unmet demand

Nine responding clubs from North West Leicestershire report latent demand in that they report they could field more teams if certain facility-related issues were resolved. This is further summarised in the following table.

Table 2.12: Summary of latent demand

Club	Need for more match pitches	Need for more/better training facilities	Need for better/more appropriate changing provision
Ashby Ivanhoe FC	Yes	Yes	No
Ashby United Community FC	Yes	Yes	No
Heather St Johns FC	Yes	Yes	No
Hemmington Hammers FC	Yes	Yes	No
Whitwick Athletic FC	No	Yes	No
Bardon Hill Juniors FC	Yes	No	No
Kegworth Imps	Yes	Yes	No
Ibstock United Juniors & Youth	Yes	No	No
Coalville Town FC	Yes	Yes	No

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 additional demand that could arise from housing developments across North West Leicestershire.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2042 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth (using ONS-2018 based projections). 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.

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The table below shows the number of new football teams that are predicted to be generated by the population forecasts and the requisite match equivalent sessions that this will create. As seen, this amounts to 79 teams across the playing formats (39.5 match equivalent sessions).

Table 2.13: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent sessions per week ⁴
Adult Men's (18-45)	1:417	11.36	11	5.5
Adult Women's (18-45)	1:3,219	1.55	2	1
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:34	20.14	20	10
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:125	5.16	5	2.5
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:29	11.88	12	6
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:113	2.84	3	1.5
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:44	14.46	14	7
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:56	12.14	12	6

In total, future demand from population increases amounts to 13 adult, 25 youth 11v11, 15 youth 9v9, 14 mini 7v7 and 12 mini 5v5 teams. As the 79 teams expected to be generated (equating to 39.5 match equivalent sessions per week) are authority wide and not accredited to any analysis area.

When the above is broken down by analysis area this demand is marginally dissipated to represent the following:

Table 2.14: Team generation rates by Analysis Area in North West Leicestershire based on population projections

Analysis area	Adult	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	3.5	2	1.5	1.5
Castle Donington/Kegworth	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5
Coalville	1.5	4.5	2	2	1.5
Ibstock	0.5	1	0.5	1.5	0.5
Measham	0.5	1.5	1	0.5	0.5
Total	5	11.5	6	6	4.5

The figures in the table above will be added onto the overall supply and demand total for each pitch type within the 'Supply and demand analysis' section later.

Participation growth

Of responding clubs, seven report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 36 teams. This is summarised below.

⁴ 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 2.15: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Gender	Number of teams	Pitch size	MES per week ⁵
Ellistown FC	Ibstock	Men's	1	Adult	0.5
Ellistown FC	Ibstock	Girl's	1	9v9	0.5
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Men's	2	Adult	1
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Boy's	3	11v11	1.5
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Boy's	4	9v9	2
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Girl's	3	11v11	1.5
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Girl's	3	9v9	1.5
Coalville Town FC	Coalville	Mixed	5	5v5	2.5
Kegworth Imps	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Boy's	1	11v11	0.5
Kegworth Imps	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Mixed	2	5v5	1
Bardon Hill Juniors FC	Coalville	Boy's	1	9v9	0.5
Bardon Hill Juniors FC	Coalville	Mixed	2	5v5	1
Ibstock United Juniors & Youth FC	Ibstock	Mixed	1	5v5	0.5
Hemmington Hammers	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Mixed	2	5v5	1
Ashby Ivanhoe	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Boy's	2	9v9	1
Ashby Ivanhoe	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Mixed	2	7v7	1
-	-	Totals	36	-	18

The total future demand expressed by the clubs listed above amounts to 18 match equivalent sessions per week (as two teams equates to one match equivalent session per week playing on a home and away basis).

Broken down by pitch type, 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week are identified on adult pitches, 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches, 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches, one match equivalent session on mini 7v7 and six match equivalent session per week on mini 5v5 pitches.

In light of FA aspirations to increase female participation in football through the establishment and foreseen future effect of the FA Wildcats programme and Inspiring Positive Change Strategy, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girls' teams may exceed that shown through team generation rates.

To what extent is not currently quantifiable, however, this increase in female demand is likely to be captured within the club aspirational future demand figures expressed in Table 2.14.

In addition to participation growth via population increases, several clubs in North West Leicestershire report aspirations to increase their number of teams. As this is considered to be more aspirational than future demand identified above, it is not considered within this element of the PPOSS; however, it will be included in the proceeding Strategy as a scenario to determine facility requirements if it was to be realised.

⁵ 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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Similarly, the proceeding Strategy document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across North West Leicestershire.

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 affect 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 quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in North West Leicestershire:

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

Table 2.17 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
Overplayed	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Match equivalent sessions per week

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.

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the usage at such sites will need 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 onsite and whether there is access to an onsite AGP.

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is a 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 cuttings and line marking.

Table 2.17 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed because of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

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For school sites which are available for community use but that currently do not have any external hirers, one match equivalent session per week, per pitch has been accredited to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to them being completely unused.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In North West Leicestershire, peak time for all pitch types is Sunday mornings.

In the capacity analysis, please note that, on occasions, 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 what exists overall. This is because most of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period, therefore the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.

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 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 unsecured 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 capacity balance is represented in Table 2.17.

Table 2.16: Capacity balance examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	With a dash, this indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	Not highlighted with a number, this indicates that the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.

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Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.

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Table 2.17: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁶	Carrying capacity ⁷	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	DE12 7PY	Measham	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	DE12 7PY	Measham	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	4	2	-2	-	Pitch is overplayed by 2 match equivalent sessions.
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	DE12 7PY	Measham	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	4.5	2	-2.5	1	Pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	DE12 7PY	Measham	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3	4	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
4	Ashby Hill Top Primary School	LE65 2NF	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	LE65 1TS	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	4	6	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	LE65 1TS	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	4	2	-2	1	Pitch is overplayed by 2 match equivalent sessions.
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	LE65 1TS	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	4	6	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
6	Hood Park	LE65 1HU	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Everyone Active	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	3	2	-1	1	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
6	Hood Park	LE65 1HU	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Everyone Active	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	2	-0.5	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	LE67 6HB	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	3	4	1	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	LE67 6HB	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	LE67 6HB	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	-1	1	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	LE65 1DD	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult		2	Good	2	6	4	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
11	Ashby Willesley County Primary School	LE65 2QG	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	LE67 4BS	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	0	6	6	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	LE67 4BS	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	0.5	6	5.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

⁶ Match equivalent sessions per week

⁷ Match equivalent sessions per week, based on pitch quality - the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodated per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

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Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁶	Carrying capacity ⁷	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	LE67 4BS	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	4.5	8	3.5	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
14	Belton Church of England Primary School	LE12 9TS	Castle Donington/Kegworth	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
15	Belton Recreation Ground	LE12 9TS	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	0	0.5	Pitch is played to capacity.
15	Belton Recreation Ground	LE12 9TS	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
16	Blackfordby Football Field	DE11 8AW	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
18	Broom Leys Primary School	LE67 4DB	Coalville	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
20	Castle Donington College	DE74 2LN	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	2	4	2	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
21	Castle Rock High School	LE67 4BR	Coalville	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Standard	3	6	3	3	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
22	Champneys Springs	LE65 1TG	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Commercial Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	-1	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	4.5	2	-2.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	2	2	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Standard	4.5	8	3.5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	DE12 7PX	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	DE12 7PX	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
26	Ellistown FC	LE67 1GD	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Good	1	6	5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
28	Greenhill Recreation Ground	LE67 4HS	Coalville	Yes	District Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	LE67 2QJ	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	LE67 2QJ	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		4	Good	3.5	12	8.5	4	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

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Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁶	Carrying capacity ⁷	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	LE67 2QJ	Ibstock	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Good	5.5	12	6.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
30	Hemington Sports Ground	DE74 2RF	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	1	6	5	-	Pitch played to capacity at peak time.
30	Hemington Sports Ground	DE74 2RF	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	3	3	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	LE67 5FU	Coalville	Yes	District Council	Secure	Adult		3	Standard	1	6	5	3	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	LE67 6HN	Ibstock	No	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Unavailable for community use.
35	Ingles Football Club	LE67 8LL	Coalville	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2.5	2	-0.5	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	4.5	4	-0.5	0.5	Pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
37	Kegworth Primary School	DE74 2DA	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	DE74 2FH	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	LE12 5DF	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	DE12 7HR	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	DE12 7HR	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	2.5	2	-0.5	2	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	DE12 7HR	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	DE12 6AA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	DE12 6AA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch played to capacity at peak time.
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	DE12 6AA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	DE12 6AA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	4	1	-3	-	Pitch is overplayed by 3 match equivalent sessions.
44	Millfield Recreation Ground	LE67 2GB	Coalville	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	DE74 2PJ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Good	1.5	6	4.5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
46	Moira Miners Welfare	DE12 6BP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
47	Moira United Football Club	DE12 6DJ	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	DE12 7RG	Measham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	-1	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	LE67 2AU	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

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Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁶	Carrying capacity ⁷	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	LE67 3JD	Coalville	Yes	District Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	5	2	-3	2	Pitch is overplayed by 3 match equivalent sessions.
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	LE67 3JD	Coalville	Yes	District Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	5	2	-3	-	Pitch is overplayed by 3 match equivalent sessions.
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	LE67 3JD	Coalville	Yes	District Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3	4	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Standard	2.5	12	9.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Good	2	12	10	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Good	3	6	3	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	3	2	-1	1	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Good	2	8	6	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
56	Spring Cottage Recreation Ground	DE12 6ND	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
57	St Clares Primary School	LE67 3SF	Coalville	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
57	St Clares Primary School	LE67 3SF	Coalville	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch condition.
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	Education	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3	4	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2.5	2	-0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	4	4	0	2	Pitches are played to capacity.
62	Thringstone Primary School	LE67 8LJ	Coalville	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
63	Western Park	LE65 2FA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	3	2	-1	2	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	LE65 2LD	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	2	1	-1	1	Pitch is overplayed by 1 match equivalent sessions.

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Actual spare capacity

Actual spare capacity totals 37.5 equivalent sessions per week and is found across 42 pitches at 19 sites in North West Leicestershire. This is summarised on a site-by-site basis below.

Table 2.18: Summary of actual spare capacity by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	Ibstock	5v5	1	1
8	Ashby Road Playing Fields	Ibstock	7v7	1	1
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	7v7	1	1
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	5v5	1	0.5
20	Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Adult	2	2
21	Castle Rock High School	Coalville	11v11	3	3
22	Champneys Springs	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	1
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	5v5	2	2
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	Measham	11v11	1	0.5
25	Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds	Measham	Adult	1	1
26	Ellistown FC	Ibstock	Adult	2	2
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	Ibstock	Adult	4	4
29	Heather St Johns FC (St Johns Park)	Ibstock	7v7	2	1.5
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	Coalville	Adult	3	3
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Adult	1	1
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	5v5	1	1
44	Millfield Recreation Ground	Coalville	Adult	1	1
45	Moir Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Adult	2	2
46	Moir Miners Welfare	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	2	2
47	Moir United Football Club	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	1
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	2	2
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	7v7	3	0.5

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	5v5	2	0.5
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Adult	2	2
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	7v7	1	1
-	-	-	Total	43	37.5

Most actual spare capacity is found on adult pitches (24 match equivalent sessions per week), whilst none is evident on youth 9v9 pitches. The Coalville Analysis Area contains the most actual spare capacity (11.5 match equivalent sessions per week), whereas the Measham Analysis Area contains the least actual spare capacity with only a total of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.19: Summary of actual spare capacity (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	6	-	-	-	-	6
Castle Donington/Kegworth	7	-	-	0.5	0.5	8
Coalville	4	3	-	2	2.5	11.5
Ibstock	6	-	-	2.5	1	9.5
Measham	1	0.5	-	-	1	2.5
Total	24	3.5	-	5	5	37.5

Overplay

In North West Leicestershire, 23 pitches across 13 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 27.5 match equivalent sessions per week, as seen below.

Table 2.20: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	9v9	1	-2
1	Albert Village Junior Football Club	Measham	Adult	1	-2.5
5	Ashby Ivanhoe FC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	-2
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	-1
6	Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	11v11	1	-0.5
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	9v9	1	-1
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	9v9	1	-1
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	11v11	1	-2.5
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	9v9	1	-0.5

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per week)
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	11v11	2	-0.5
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	9v9	2	-0.5
42	Measham Road Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	11v11	1	-3
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	Measham	11v11	1	-1
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	Adult	2	-3
52	Scotland's Playing Fields	Coalville	9v9	1	-3
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Adult	1	-1
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	9v9	1	-0.5
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	2	-1
64	Westfields Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Adult	1	-1
-	-	-	Total	23	-27.5

Most overplay is situated in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area (10.5 match equivalent sessions per week) closely followed by Coalville Analysis Area (10 match equivalent sessions per week). By pitch type, overplay is mostly on adult pitches (11.5 match equivalent sessions per week), whilst none is found on mini 7v7 or mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 2.21: Summary of overplay (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	5	4	1.5	-	-	10.5
Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	-	-	-	-	1
Coalville	3	2.5	4.5	-	-	10
Ibstock	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measham	2.5	1	2.5	-	-	6
Total	11.5	7.5	8.5	-	-	27.5

Much of the overplay is generated from poor quality provision, with 7.5 of the overplayed pitches being assessed as such. Moreover, none are assessed as good quality.

2.5: 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 each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. As stated earlier, future demand, at this stage, is calculated based on what has been identified through population growth. Club exported demand has also been included where aspirations to return to the Authority are known.

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Adult pitch capacity

There is currently actual spare capacity of 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week on adult pitches in North West Leicestershire, with only the Measham Analysis Area showing a minimal shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. When factoring in future / exported demand, actual spare capacity reduces to seven match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.22: Summary and demand for adult pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	6	-5	1	1	-
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	7	-1	6	1.5	4.5
Coalville	4	-3	1	2 ⁸	-1
Ibstock	6	-	6	0.5	5.5
Measham	1	-2.5	-1.5	0.5	-2
Total	24	-11.5	12.5	5.5	7

Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

There is currently a shortfall of four match equivalent session per week on youth 11v11 pitches in North West Leicestershire, with this attributed to deficits in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Measham analysis areas. The Coalville Analysis Area provides minimal spare capacity.

When factoring in future / exported demand, the shortfall across youth 11v11 pitches increases to 17.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.23: Supply and demand for youth 11v11 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-4	-4	4 ⁹	-
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	-	-	-	1	-1
Coalville	3	-2.5	0.5	5 ¹⁰	-4.5
Ibstock	-	-	-	1	-1
Measham	0.5	-1	-0.5	2.5 ¹¹	-3
Total	3.5	-7.5	-4	13.5	-17.5

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

There is currently a shortfall of 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches in North West Leicestershire. This is due to shortfalls within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Coalville and Measham analysis areas whilst Castle Donington/ Kegworth and Ibstock analysis areas are at capacity.

When factoring in future / exported demand, shortfalls increase to 16 match equivalent sessions.

⁸ Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

⁹ Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

¹⁰ Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

¹¹ Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand

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Table 2.24: Supply and demand for youth 9v9 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-1.5	-1.5	2	-3.5
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Coalville	-	-4.5	-4.5	3 ¹²	-7.5
Ibstock	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Measham	-	-2.5	-2.5	1.5 ¹³	-4
Total	-	-8.5	-8.5	7.5	-16

Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Mini 7v7 pitches are currently operating with actual spare capacity of five match equivalent sessions existing within the Castle Donington/ Kegworth, Coalville and Ibstock analysis areas. When factoring in future / exported demand, a small shortfall is created, with this totalling two match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.25: Supply and demand for mini 7v7 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-
Coalville	2	-	2	3 ¹⁴	-1
Ibstock	2.5	-	2.5	1.5	1
Measham	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Total	5	-	5	7	-2

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

There is currently a minimal actual spare capacity equating to five match equivalent sessions per week on mini 5v5 pitches in North West Leicestershire. When factoring in future / exported demand, a minor spare capacity of one match equivalent session remains.

Table 2.26: Supply and demand for mini 5v5 pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-
Coalville	2.5	-	2.5	1 ¹⁵	1.5
Ibstock	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Measham	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Total	5	-	5	4	1

¹² Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand

¹³ Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand

¹⁴ Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand

¹⁵ Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand

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2.6: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall North West Leicestershire analysis by pitch type. As seen, there are currently shortfalls across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whereas spare capacity exists on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Overplay on youth 11v11 pitches is significant with this also applying to the actual spare capacity on adult pitches.

When incorporating future / exported demand, spare capacity is reduced on adult and mini 5v5 pitches whereas shortfalls worsen in the case of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. Elsewhere, shortfalls are established across mini 7v7 pitches.

Table 2.27: Summary of analysis for grass football pitches (match equivalent sessions)

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch					
Adult	6	-5	1	1	-
Youth 11v11	-	-4	-4	4 ¹⁶	-4
Youth 9v9	-	-1.5	-1.5	2	-3.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	1.5	-1.5
Castle Donington/Kegworth					
Adult	7	-1	6	1.5	4.5
Youth 11v11	-	-	-	1	-1
Youth 9v9	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Mini 7v7	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-
Mini 5v5	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-
Coalville					
Adult	4	-3	1	2 ¹⁷	-1
Youth 11v11	3	-2.5	0.5	5 ¹⁸	-4.5
Youth 9v9	-	-4.5	-4.5	3 ¹⁹	-7.5
Mini 7v7	2	-	2	3 ²⁰	-1
Mini 5v5	2.5	-	2.5	1 ²¹	1.5
Ilstock					
Adult	6	-	6	0.5	5.5
Youth 11v11	-	-	-	1	-1
Youth 9v9	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Mini 7v7	2.5	-	2.5	1.5	1
Mini 5v5	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Measham					
Adult	1	-2.5	-1.5	0.5	-2
Youth 11v11	0.5	-1	-0.5	2.5 ²²	-3
Youth 9v9	-	-2.5	-2.5	1.5 ²³	-4

¹⁶ Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand.

¹⁷ Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand.

¹⁸ Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand.

¹⁹ Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand.

²⁰ Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand.

²¹ Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand.

²² Includes one match equivalent sessions of exported demand.

²³ Includes 0.5 match equivalent sessions of exported demand.

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Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future / exported demand	Future total
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	0.5	-0.5
Mini 5v5	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
North West Leicestershire					
Adult	24	-11.5	12.5	5.5	7
Youth 11v11	3.5	-7.5	-4	13.5	-17.5
Youth 9v9	-	-8.5	-8.5	7.5	-16
Mini 7v7	5	-	5	7	-2
Mini 5v5	5	-	5	4	1

When findings are compared to the previous PPOSS study completed in 2017, the supply and demand picture is worse. Current spare capacity previously existed on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches whereas a significant shortfall is now calculated for both.

Table 2.28: Comparison of analysis from previous PPOSS (match equivalent sessions)

Pitch type	2017 findings (current total)	2025 findings (current total)
Adult	2.5	12.5
Youth 11v11	1	-4
Youth 9v9	1.5	-8.5
Mini 7v7	3.5	5
Mini 5v5	0.5	5
Total	9	10

The overall reduction in spare capacity is likely to be a combination of increasing demand levels with not enough supply levels to accommodate.

Supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity totals 37.5 equivalent sessions per week and is found across 43 pitches at 19 sites in North West Leicestershire, whilst overplay equates to match equivalent sessions 27.5 across 23 pitches and 13 sites.
- There are currently shortfalls across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whereas spare capacity exists on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- When incorporating future demand, spare capacity is reduced on adult pitches whereas shortfalls worsen in the case of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. Elsewhere, shortfalls are established across mini 7v7 pitches.
- When findings are compared to the previous PPOSS study completed in 2017, the supply and demand picture is worse. Current spare capacity previously existed on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches whereas a significant shortfall is now calculated for both.

Supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 111 grass football pitches across 46 sites in North West Leicestershire. Of these, 102 pitches across 38 sites are identified as being available for community use
- Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the overall number of pitches has decreased by 14 and the number of community available pitches has decreased by one.
- Ashby Ivanhoe FC has planning permission to change the use of adjoining at land Ashby Ivanhoe Football Club (LE65 1TS) to recreation use including the formation of additional pitches, parking area and landscaping (22/01811/FULM).
- A total of 13 pitches across 10 active sites that were previously provided within the District have been identified.

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- ◀ Of the 103 community available pitches in North West Leicestershire, 40 are managed by sports clubs (39%), 23 are managed by parish council's (22%) 19 are managed by education sites (18%) whilst the District Council and other management types manage eight (8%) pitches each. The remaining five pitches (5%) are managed by town councils.
- ◀ Within North West Leicestershire, most pitches are assessed as standard quality (54 pitches or 52%), 27 pitches assessed as good quality (26%) and 22 assessed as poor quality (22%).
- ◀ Across the District, many sites provide good and/or standard quality provision, although two sites provide poor facilities.

Demand summary

- ◀ A total of 308 teams from 33 affiliated clubs are identified as playing in North West Leicestershire. As a breakdown, this equates to 50 adult teams, 98 youth 11v11 teams, 57 youth 9v9 teams, 56 mini 7v7 teams and 47 mini 5v5 teams.
- ◀ There are currently six women's teams and 31 dedicated girls' teams playing football in North West Leicestershire. This represents 12% of all demand across the District
- ◀ Since the previous study was completed in 2017, the number of teams within North West Leicestershire has increased from 172 to 308, representing a growth of 44%.
- ◀ Five teams from five clubs within North West Leicestershire play within the NLS, Coalville Town FC (Step 6), Heather St John's FC (Step 6), Ashby Ivanhoe FC (Step 5), Ingles FC (Step 6).
- ◀ Within North West Leicestershire, FCV Academy (LE67 5UG – Castle Donington / Kegworth Analysis Area) accommodates some imported demand from the neighbouring authority of Charnwood. The site, which was Grace Dieu Manor School until 2020, accommodates training demand from Shepshed Dynamo Youth & Junior FC.
- ◀ In total, based on 2024/25 affiliation data, there are 27 teams which currently export their competitive demand outside of North West Leicestershire to surrounding local authorities
- ◀ Nine responding clubs from North West Leicestershire report latent demand in that they report they could field more teams if certain facility-related issues were resolved.
- ◀ Future demand from population growth (to 2042) predicts an increase of 79 teams across the playing formats (39.5 match equivalent sessions). Totalling 13 adult, 25 youth 11v11, 15 youth 9v9, 14 mini 7v7 and 12 mini 5v5 teams.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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 3G 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 union, more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for the sport. The artificial surface standards identified allows contact training and 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.

Other sports that are suitable to be accommodated on 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse. 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.

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: Supply

The recommended dimensions for an 11v11 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres, extending to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included (these dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adult, youth 11v11 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches e.g., the marking out of two youth 9v9 pitches for U11/12s). For rugby union, the required dimensions are a maximum of 100 x 70 metres and a minimum of 98 x 64 metres, with ideally a 5-metre run off area and a 6-metre in goal area.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions for the relevant sport/s, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered e.g., a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked youth 9v9 pitches.

Across North West Leicestershire, there are currently four 11v11 size 3G pitches, all of which are sports lit and available for community use. This equates to two in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area and two in the Coalville Analysis Area, as summarised below.

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Table 3.2: Summary of 11v11 size 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Com use?	Sports lit?	Size (metres)	FA approved?
20	Castle Donington College	DE74 2LN	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Yes	Yes	91 x 55	31/05/2028 (FIFA)-
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	LE67 3DA	Coalville	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	31/05/2027
27	FCV Academy	LE67 5UG	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Yes	Yes	100 x 67	31/05/2027
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	Yes	98 x 65	31/05/2027

In addition to the 11v11 3G pitches, there are also eight smaller size 3G pitches within the District, two of which are each located within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Measham analysis areas, one within the Coalville Analysis Area and three within the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area. Similarly to the 11v11 3G pitches, all of the smaller size pitches are available for community use and are serviced with sports lighting although are not on the FA pitch register.

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 on the FA Pitch Register (see further detail below), of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas. More commonly, however, they are used to accommodate commercial football leagues and social/recreational play.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches

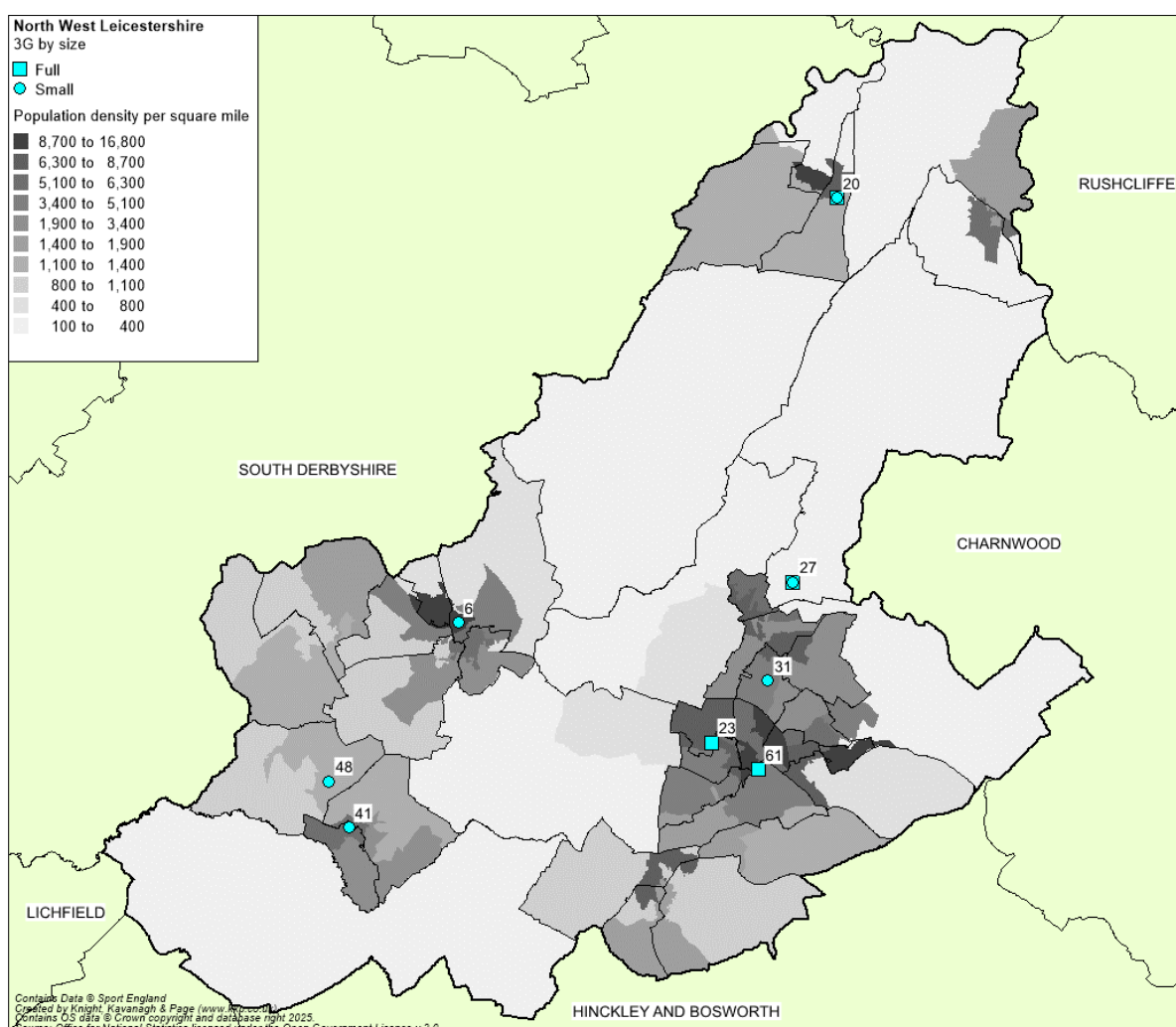
Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	No of pitches	Com use?	Sports lit?	Size (metres)
6	Hood Park	LE65 1HU	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2	Yes	Yes	36 x 18
20	Castle Donington College	DE74 2LN	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2	Yes	Yes	36 x 18
27	FCV Academy	LE67 5UG	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Yes	Yes	50 x 37
31	Hermitage Recreation Ground	LE67 5FU	Coalville	1	Yes	Yes	88 x 42
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	DE12 7HR	Measham	1	Yes	Yes	35 x 35
48	Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	DE12 7RG	Measham	1	Yes	Yes	40 x 20

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Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the number of 11v11 and smaller sized 3G pitches within North West Leicestershire have both increased by two.

Figure 3.1 overleaf shows the location of all 3G pitches within North West Leicestershire, regardless of size.

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire



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: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.

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.

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For pitches used by affiliated grassroots football clubs (below regional feeder leagues) and clubs in the women's football pyramid (Tier 3), the minimum requirement of testing is the FA Register Test. However, matches played at Step 1 to 6 of the men's national league system must follow more stringent testing, with this including a minimum pitch size of 100 x 64 metres, a run-off area of between 1.83 metres (Step 2-6) and 2.25 metres (Step 1), a consistent playing surface shade of green and line markings must be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. In addition, FA testing must take place annually rather than every three years. As for 3G pitches used in the women's football pyramid - at Tier 1, matches cannot be played on a 3G pitch, whilst existing 3G pitches at Tier 2 must be accredited to the FIFA Recommended Quality performance 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 reassessed 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.

In North West Leicestershire, all four 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA's 3G pitch register, with Castle Donington College being FIFA certified, whilst none of the smaller sized 3G pitches on the pitch register.

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 and full contact training must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance. There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire.

Management

The 11v11 3G pitches at Castle Donington College, FCV Academy and The Newbridge School are all managed by education providers. Elsewhere the pitch at Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) is managed in house by the sports club.

Availability

Where known, three of the four 11v11 size 3G pitches are widely accessible throughout the week, as summarised in the following table.

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
20	Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Available to the community 18:00 until 21:00 Monday – Friday and 09:00 until 17:00 Weekends.
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	Available to the community 17:00 until 21:00 Monday – Friday and 09:00 until 17:00 Weekends.

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
27	FCV Academy	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	<i>Unknown</i>
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	Available to the community 17:00 until 21:00 Monday – Thursday, 17:00 until 20:00 Friday and 09:00 until 17:00 Weekends.

Due to the commercial/private management of FCV Academy, information relating to its availability and usage figures were not obtained.

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 are put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

In North West Leicestershire, three of the four pitches are within their recommended lifespan. As such, they are all assessed as good quality, with no major issues identified. The pitch at The New bridge School has surpassed its recommended lifespan, however, is still on the FA pitch register with no notable issues identified through consultation and is rated as standard quality.

Table 3.5: Age and quality of 11v11 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality (2017)	Quality (2024)
20	Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2025	-	Good
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	2024	-	Good
27	FCV Academy	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2024	-	Good
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	2024	Good	Good

Ancillary facilities

The changing rooms at Coalville Town FC have been rated as standard quality, through consultation the Club states that the youth clubhouse is dated and needs investment. These include four changing rooms with self-contained showers and toilets as well as an official's changing room with the same facilities.

No issues have been identified elsewhere, although the remaining pitches located at education sites are tailored towards accommodating curricular demand.

3.3: Demand

The 3G pitch stock currently servicing North West Leicestershire is operating at or close to capacity at peak times, particularly during midweek and especially in winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This applies to both mid-week training demand and weekend usage given that the full-size community available stock is also FA approved to host competitive matches.

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Currently, it is considered that all of the community-based activity on the 3G pitches is football related. Most of the 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).

The above is particularly intensive at Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) due to it being operated by a large club. Coalville Town FC has 79 teams that have access to its pitch. This leaves little capacity for other users.

The table below summarises usage levels of the 11v11 3G provision in North West Leicestershire based on information and/or booking sheets supplied by the operators. This is compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM), which applies an overall peak period of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). During midweek timeslots, availability is considered to exist if any booking slots are available, either for a whole pitch or part of a pitch (based on how pitches are divided), whilst weekend availability is based on whole pitch availability as this is more likely to be required to support match play.

Table 3.6: Current usage of 11v11 3G pitches during peak time across North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
20	Castle Donington College	14	<i>Unknown</i> ²⁴	16	<i>Unknown</i>
23	Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	18	18	16	14
27	FCV Academy	<i>Limited</i> ²⁵	<i>Limited</i>	<i>Limited</i>	<i>Limited</i>
61	The Newbridge School	18	18	16	16
-	Total	50	36	48	30

In the case of the 11v11 3G pitch at Castle Donington College, usage figures are currently unknown due to the pitch being constructed in the spring of 2025, further information relating to the booking information of this pitch will be required to populate the table above.

Due to the commercial/ private management of FCV Academy, information relating to the availability and usage figures were not able to be obtained.

Football

As mentioned in Part 2: Football, there are aspirations in Ashby-de-la-Zouch from the local clubs to establish at least one 11v11 3G pitch within the area to support training and match play demand. Potential site options for this will be explored in greater depth in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

Albert Village Junior FC based in the Measham Analysis Area currently exports demand outside of the District to access 11v11 3G pitch provision. The Club wishes to retain its demand within Measham, however, there are currently no 11v11 3G pitches within this Analysis Area.

²⁴ The pitch is not operational, with bookings not available until September.

²⁵ The pitch receives training demand from community clubs however exact usage is unknown. Due to private nature of the site it is seen to be limited with accessibility.

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Heather St Johns FC which plays within the Ibstock Analysis Area aspires for an 11v11 3G pitch to be provided at St Johns Park with supporting changing and storage facilities. The Club states that this could accommodate more training sessions and alleviate overplay on its grass pitches. In addition to club utilisation, it states that this would be a welcomed community asset as schools, and the college already use the site for some fixtures.

Rugby union

Ashby RFC states that it aspires to lay down a World Rugby compliant 11v11 3G pitch at its site, the Club is currently in the process of planning for this with the recent upgrade of its clubhouse and additional car parking area as well as liaising with Ashby Town Council.

Castle Donington RFC has been in contact with Castle Donington College and Sport England regarding the installation of a shock pad to the 11v11 3G pitch which has recently been installed at the college; however, the cost was deemed too high to make it World Rugby compliant.

When the training area is unavailable at Spital Park, the Club uses the Castle Donington College's indoor sports hall and small 3G football pitches for training.

Discussed in greater detail in Part 4: Rugby Union, Coalville RUFC uses the 11v11 size 3G pitch at Coalville FC for non-contact training demand as it is not WR complaint.

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.

Across North West Leicestershire, seven football clubs that responded to the consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with this representing a proportion of unmet demand although it is relatively minimal compared to other local authorities. Some of the clubs with unmet demand are training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all of their teams, or do not have access at preferred times. Others are not training on 3G pitches at all and are instead using sand-based or grass pitches either at their home grounds or elsewhere.

Across the clubs, 107 teams are represented that are without existing 3G pitch access. The clubs expressing this demand are as follows:

- ◀ Ashby Ivanhoe FC.
- ◀ Ashby United Community FC.
- ◀ Coalville Town FC.
- ◀ Heather St Johns FC.
- ◀ Hemmington Hammers FC.
- ◀ Kegworth Imps FC.
- ◀ Whitwick Athletic FC.

No unmet or latent 3G demand has been identified for any sport other than football.

Exported/imported demand

There is some anecdotal evidence provided by clubs during consultation which indicate travelling to 3G pitches in neighbouring authorities, however, this has not been quantified. This being said the exported demand referenced in Part 2: Football of 27 teams has been included in the analysis below.

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There are also known levels of imported training demand, primarily by Shepshed Dynamo Youth & Junior FC at FCV Academy. This has not been factored into the scenario below. The recent Local Football Facilities Plan for Charnwood (where the club is based) recommends a 3G development within the locality of Shepshed to cater for the club's demand. Therefore, the inclusion of its demand within North West Leicestershire would inflate the need for 3G provision when aspirations are for it to return to its original local authority.

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, potential growth from population projections equates to 66 football teams to 2042 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan). If this growth was realised, and if all additional teams wanted or needed to train on 3G provision, it will increase demand for 3G pitches. However, it should also be noted that the ONS projections do not account for the potential for future demand to be higher, which could be the case particularly if recent growth trends continue. Further increases will therefore be subject to scenarios in the Strategy document.

In addition, although no rugby union demand currently accesses 3G pitches (with non-suitable for such activity), it is clear that future access could provide a solution to the deficits identified in Part 4 of this report as well as accommodating midweek training demand.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

Training demand

To quantify the 3G pitch shortfalls for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity also built in for other forms of demand). This is based on an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch.

For the model, in addition to 11v11 size pitches being included, nationally some smaller sized pitches are also incorporated as many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. The contribution each pitch makes towards the modelling in North West Leicestershire is therefore summarised in the table below, which then informs the proceeding modelling tables, tables 3.8 and 3.9.

Table 3.7 Summary of 11v11 3G adult pitch equivalents

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	11v11 adult pitch equivalents
<i>11v11 size</i>				
Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	91 x 55	Available for community use	1
Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium)	Coalville	100 x 64	Available for community use	1

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Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	11v11 adult pitch equivalents
FCV Academy	Castle Donington/Kegworth	100 x 67	Limited community availability.	0.5
The Newbridge School	Coalville	98 x 65	Available for community use	1
Smaller size				
Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	36 x 18	Discounted due to size.	-
Hood Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	36 x 18	Discounted due to size.	-
Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	36 x 18	Discounted due to size.	-
Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	36 x 18	Discounted due to size.	-
FCV Academy	Castle Donington/Kegworth	50 x 37	Limited community availability.	-
Hermitage Recreation Ground	Coalville	88 x 42	Available for community use	0.75
Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	35 x 35	Discounted due to size.	-
Oakthorpe Recreation Ground	Measham	40 x 20	Discounted due to size.	-
-	-	-	Total	4.25

With current demand in North West Leicestershire totalling 335 teams, it is feasible that 9.25 11v11 size 3G pitches could be required (rounded down to the nearest 0.25 from 8.91). This means that there is an existing theoretical shortfall of five pitches.

Table 3.8: Current shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
335 ²⁶	9.25	4.25	-5

When considered by analysis area, the potential shortfall equates to 2.25 pitches in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, 1.25 pitches in both the Ibstock and Measham analysis areas and 0.25 in the Coalville Analysis Area. Elsewhere the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area is sufficiently serviced by 3G pitches.

Table 3.9: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	84	2.25	0	-2.25
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	51	1.5	1.5	-
Coalville	113	3	2.75	-0.25
Ibstock	42	1.25	0	-1.25

²⁶ This figure includes the 27 exported teams referenced in Part 2: Football

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Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Measham	45	1.25	0	-1.25

When factoring in future demand from population increases, the overall need is projected to increase to 10.5 11v11 3G pitches, meaning a potential shortfall of 6.25 pitches.

Table 3.10: Future shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Analysis area	Future demand (number of teams)	Potential 11v11 pitch requirements	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Potential 11v11 pitch shortfall
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	103	2.75	0	-2.75
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	59	1.5	1.5	-
Coalville	136	3.5	2.75	-0.75
Ibstock	50	1.25	0	-1.25
Measham	53	1.5	0	-1.5

When compared to the previous study completed in 2017, the overall need has increased due to a growth in the number of football teams.

Match play demand

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is one the FA 3G Pitch Register, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

In North West Leicestershire, three of the four 11v11 size 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches, with 19 affiliated teams identified as using the provision currently. there are likely to be opportunities for it to be further increased, particularly if accreditation could be achieved at Castle Donington College.

In addition, as the number of 3G pitches increases in line with meeting training demand shortfalls, so should the number of teams utilising the provision for matches, which in turn should further relieve grass pitches of use. As such, whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training (as they would not be sustainable without midweek usage), maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.

The use of 3G pitches for matches also emphasises the importance of maintaining good quality pitches. Should pitches become poor quality, they will likely lose accreditation to accommodate fixtures. This will then result in all teams using the provision needing to transfer to grass pitches, adding to their usage, reducing their capacity and further diminishing their quality.

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The role of sand/water-based pitches

The above section assumes that all football demand should take place on 3G pitches. However, in practice, there is a national need for a proportion of football training demand to be retained on hockey suitable AGPs to maintain the financial and commercial sustainability of such provision. This is particularly the case in North West Leicestershire given that the sand-based pitch at Castle Rock High School receives minimal community hockey demand (see Part 5).

Rugby union

There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within North West Leicestershire, meaning no rugby union activity takes place across the stock of pitches. However, given the shortfalls identified in Part 4 of this report, evidence exists to suggest a full-size World Rugby compliant pitch would be beneficial in better meeting demand in the District. Moreover, through consultation it has been identified that on occasions Castle Donington RUFC utilise the smaller sized 3G pitches at Castle Donington College to accommodate some training demand during adverse weather conditions and will utilise the recently installed 11v1 3G pitch here.

As mentioned above, there are clear aspirations from both Ashby RFC and Castle Donington RFC to access WR compliant 3G provision. It is known through information provided by the Football Foundation and RFU, that Coalville RFC access the 3G pitch at Coalville FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) to meet some of its training demand.

Linked to the above, It has been confirmed by the Technical Project team at the Football Foundation, FA and the RFU that the 11v11 3G pitch at Coalville is not WR22 Compliant. The Football Foundation would strongly advise that pitch is not used for contact Rugby moving forwards, strengthening the position that a World Rugby compliant 11v11 3G pitch is required within North West Leicestershire to accommodate training demand.

Other sports

With no other activity identified in North West Leicestershire that could feasibly utilise the 3G pitch stock, no other sporting requirements for access are identified or need to be considered at this time.

3.5: Conclusion

There is a current shortfall of 3G pitch provision within North West Leicestershire to meet requirements, as evidenced through the levels of unmet demand identified for football and via using the FA training model. As such, an increase in the number of pitches is clearly required, in particular within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch area which is supported by demand and club aspirations. Options for future 3G developments will be explored in greater detail in the Strategy & Action Plan.

Away from football, no clear demand has been identified. However, the provision of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch could provide a resolution to rugby union shortfalls given the large grass pitch deficits that have been identified.

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3G – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 3G pitch provision within North West Leicestershire to meet football requirements, meaning a clear need to develop additional pitches.
- ◀ 3G provision for rugby union may be warranted to provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches.
- ◀ With no other activity identified that could feasibly utilise the 3G pitch stock, no other sporting requirements for access are identified or need to be considered at this time.

3G - supply summary

- ◀ The audit identifies four 11v11 size 3G pitches, all of which are sports lit and available for community use. This equates to two in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area and two in the Coalville Analysis Area.
- ◀ There are also eight smaller size 3G pitches within the District, two of which are each located within Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Measham analysis areas, one within Coalville Analysis Area and three within the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area. Similarly to the 11v11 3G pitches, all of the smaller size pitches are available for community use and are serviced with sports lighting.
- ◀ There are clear aspirations from both Ashby RFC and Castle Donington RFC to access WR compliant 3G provision. As Coalville RFC did not respond to consultation its ambitions are unknown, however, due to its proximity to Ashby-de-la-Zouch it would be able to potentially access any future provision created by Ashby RFC to alleviate any grass pitch shortfalls.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, three of the four 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA's 3G pitch register (Castle Donington College is not), whilst none of the smaller sized 3G pitches are on the pitch register.
- ◀ No pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, three of the four pitches are within their recommended lifespan, As such, they are all assessed as good quality, with no major issues identified. The pitch at The New Bridge School has surpassed its recommended lifespan, however, is still on the FA pitch register with no notable issues identified through consultation and is rated as standard quality.
- ◀ The changing rooms at Coalville Town FC have been rated as standard quality, through consultation the Club states that the youth clubhouse is dated and needs investment. These include four changing rooms with self-contained showers and toilets as well as an official's changing room with the same facilities.

3G - demand summary

- ◀ The 3G pitch stock currently servicing North West Leicestershire is operating at or close to capacity at peak times during midweek, especially in winter months for training demand.
- ◀ All demand is currently football-related, with it being particularly intensive at Coalville Town FC (Mander Cruickshank Solicitors Stadium) with the Club having 79 teams.
- ◀ A total of seven football clubs report that they require additional access to 3G provision, with these representing 107 teams (no unmet demand is identified from other sports).
- ◀ Using population forecasts to 2042, an additional 79 football teams are expected to be generated that could require access to 3G provision.
- ◀ In addition, although no rugby union demand currently accesses 3G pitches, it is clear that future access could provide a solution to the grass pitch deficits identified.

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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. It 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.

For traditional rugby union, there are generally three playing formats, based on the age of the players involved. These are now known as age grade mixed rugby (previously mini), age grade boys/girls rugby (previously junior) and senior rugby.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are three rugby union clubs in North West Leicestershire. Consultation with Ashby RFC and Castle Donington RFC has been undertaken whilst Coalville RFC has been unresponsive to requests to engage.

4.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of nine senior rugby union pitches located across four sites within North West Leicestershire, all of which are available for community use (although are not necessarily used).

Table 4.1: Supply of rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of age grade pitches	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	4	-	4
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	1	-	1
Coalville	4	-	4
Ibstock	-	-	-
Measham	-	-	-
Total	9	-	9

Since the previous study was completed, there has been the reduction of seven senior and six age grade pitches. This is because pitches located at Castle Donington College, Ivanhoe College and The Newbridge School are no longer formally marked out. Moreover, the closure of Grace Dieu Manor School has resulted in the loss of three age grade pitches.

As seen, the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coalville analysis areas have the greatest number of pitches with four, whilst the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area has one. No grass rugby union pitches are located within the Ibstock or Measham analysis areas.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches that are serviced by goalposts. However, nationally, there are some additional spaces that are used, without goalposts, particularly for age grade rugby. It is also common for age grade matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones. Recommended pitch dimensions for all formats of play are shown in the table below.

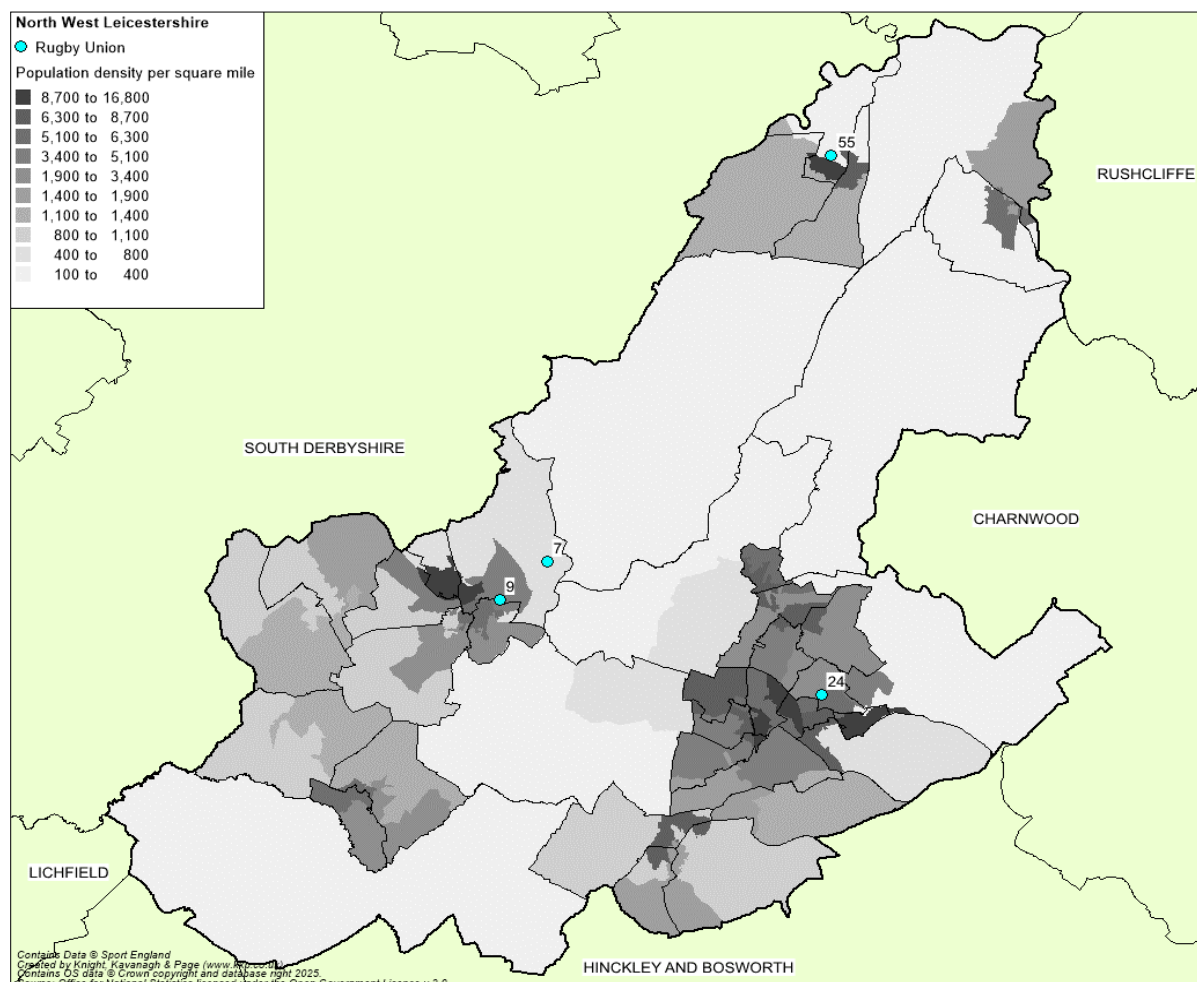
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Table 4.2: Pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ²⁷
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	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U15	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U16	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U17	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U18	Colts	100 x 70
Senior	Senior	100 x 70

Figure 4.1 shows the location of all rugby union pitches within North West Leicestershire, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 4.12.

Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches within North West Leicestershire



²⁷ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

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Future developments

As part of the PPOSS process, the feasibility of establishing a bespoke sporting hub site within the locality of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was explored. This included the relocation of clubs from their current sites to one dedicated facility.

Regarding rugby, the relevant club (Ashby RUFC) during consultation express an interest in developing World Rugby compliant 3G provision within the area, however, do not suggest a desire to fully relocate from its site. As outlined in greater detail below, pitch and ancillary provision is generally either standard or good quality, with some minor exceptions.

Security of tenure

Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC are both considered to have security of tenure at their home sites with both clubs having a freehold.

Ashby RFC states that it has established a long-term lease agreement with Ashby Town Council for the use of Ashby Memorial Grounds with the Club marking these out for formal use in the coming seasons.

Castle Donington RFC has a long-term agreement with Castle Donington Parish Council for use of the senior rugby pitch at Spital Park, whilst also allowing them to train on the sports lit area. On match days, the Club uses the pitch and changing rooms.

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 4.3: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether 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 installed in the last five years.

Table 4.4: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated, as seen in the following table.

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Table 4.5: 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.

In North West Leicestershire, there are currently eight standard quality pitches and one poor quality pitch, with this located at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields). No pitches are rated as good quality.

Table 4.6: Quality of rugby union pitches in North West Leicestershire

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	3	1
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	-	1	-
Coalville	-	4	-
Ibstock	-	-	-
Measham	-	-	-
Total	-	8	1
2017 total	-	11	8

Ashby RFC states that it allocates a budget for an external contractor to maintain the pitches at its site. General maintenance consists of cutting, line marking, aeration, seeding and post season remedial work. Notwithstanding this, the Club is clearing out the current drainage to improve this as during wet weather conditions, surface water collects and floods. There are also issues relating to overplay of the pitches identified.

Castle Donington RFC states that the pitch at Spital Park is undergoing a drainage assessment. It suspects the existing French drain is blocked and consultants are being brought in to reassess and improve the drainage system to prevent future flooding issues. Castle Donington Parish Council uses external contractors for pitch maintenance which carry out spiking, irrigating and reseeding. There is a routine maintenance plan in place to ensure the pitch remains in a playable condition.

In relation to a separate area that Castle Donington RFC utilise for training demand, the Club states that this suffers from overuse, especially during winter months. It is the only sports lit grass area in Castle Donington, used by multiple teams across a number of sports every night of the week, leading to damage and occasional restrictions by the Council to allow recovery.

For a site-by-site summary of pitch quality, see the table overleaf.

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PitchPower assessments

Launched in 2020 for football and re-launched in 2022 with functionality for cricket, rugby league and rugby union pitches, PitchPower is a digital self-assessment tool that allows reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors. The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

In North West Leicestershire, the following sites have received PitchPower reports (up to January 2025):

- ◀ Ashby RFC – *Basic*.
- ◀ Coalville RFC – *Basic*.

The above have been accounted for within the PPOSS quality ratings to ensure the findings align, unless there is a clear reason for a difference (e.g., quality alterations since the PitchPower assessments took place). This is also supported through user consultation.

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Table 4.7: 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
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Unsecure	Education	Yes (Unused)	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Secure	Parish Council	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard

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Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouses, changing rooms, car parking, and dedicated official and spectator facilities. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for rugby clubs as they can assist with income generation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women's and girls', disability and junior/mini demand.

Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- ◆ Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- ◆ A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- ◆ Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- ◆ Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open planned changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience. As a result, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document.

In North West Leicestershire, the quality of the ancillary provision at the three club sites is generally of a good/ standard quality. Further detail regarding these sites is provided below (other sites have not been included as no community demand exists).

Table 4.8: Ancillary provision of clubs within North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
7	Ashby RFC	Ashby RFC	Good	Good	The Club has recently invested in upgrades to the clubhouse onsite which has improved accessibility for women's and girl's teams as well as modernising its facilities. The clubhouse includes a large social space, bar and kitchen. There are six multi-sex changing rooms with self-contained shower and toilet facilities as well as three officials changing rooms and a physio room.

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Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality	Comments
24	Coalville RFC	Coalville RFC	Good	Good	Coalville RFC has six spacious changing rooms in their clubhouse. Two of the largest have their own showers, and there's a large open-planned shower room for the rest. Additional facilities include a bar/ kitchenette, function room. weights room, referees' room, physio room and viewing balcony.
55	Spital Park	Castle Donington RFC	Good	Good	The Spital Pavilion includes a small kitchenette and a projector. The changing rooms have been recently refurbished and of good quality. They are suitable for the club, accommodating a match day squad of 20 with individual showers and sufficient space. The club uses a local pub, the Cross Keys, for post-match food and drinks, as the pavilion does not serve as their clubhouse.

4.3: Demand

Competitive play

There are currently three clubs operating in North West Leicestershire fielding a total of 35 teams. These are Ashby RFC (Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, Castle Donington RFC (Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area) and Coalville RFC (Coalville Analysis Area). Broken down this equates to five senior men's, two senior women's, 14 age grade boys, four age grade girls and ten age grade mixed teams.

Both Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC accommodate 17 teams each, with both clubs having dedicated female participation with a total of two senior women's and four age grade girls' teams, as well as a full age grade mixed section.

At the other end of the scale, Castle Donington RFC fields only one senior men's team.

Table 4.9: Summary of club demand

Club	Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed	Total
Ashby RFC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2	1	5	4	5	17
Castle Donington RFC	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	1	-	-	-	-	1

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Club	Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed	Total
Coalville RFC	Coalville	2	1	5	4	5	17
	Total	5	2	10	8	10	35
	2017 total	6	1	9	6	12	34

Since the previous study, there has been overall growth of one team, with this being the introduction of a senior women's team at Ashby RFC, elsewhere demand levels have remained relatively similar.

Training demand

Throughout the Country, many rugby union 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.

In North West Leicestershire, Ashby RFC has one sports-lit pitch at its home site and use it for training activity. Coalville has a sports-lit training area provided by backlighting off the fully lit pitch. Also, Coalville RFC uses the artificial pitch at Coalville Town FC for age-grade training; it is not WRReg22 and only accommodates non-contact activity.

Elsewhere Castle Donington RFC has a sports lit training area, although this is not formally marked out.

Similar to the above, Ashby RFC has a sports lit training area at its site which the Club utilise to accommodate its junior demand.

Use of artificial pitches

An alternative to training on sports-lit grass pitches is via a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, although none are currently provided within the District. For an AGP to be suitable for contact rugby, it must have a 3G surface and must be approved by World Rugby. 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.

As mentioned in greater detail above there are clear ambitions to create a World Rugby compliant 11v11 3G pitch by Ashby RFC. Castle Donington RFC additionally has been in contact with Castle Donington College and Sport England regarding the installation of a shock pad to the 11v11 3G pitch which has recently been installed at the college; however, the cost was deemed too high to make it World Rugby compliant.

Despite this, the Club will continue to use the 11v11 3G pitch at the college when the training pitch is unavailable. When the training area is unavailable at Spital Park, the Club uses the Castle Donington College's indoor sports hall and small 3G football pitches for training. See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Exported / imported demand

There is no imported or exported demand relating to grass pitch usage.

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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 additional demand that could arise from housing developments across North West Leicestershire.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2042 for North West Leicestershire (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth (using ONS-2018 projections as a base). This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how many new teams will be established.

The table below shows the number of new teams predicted to be generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions that this will create. As seen, it anticipates a growth of one senior men's, one senior women's, four age grade boys, one age grade girl's and one age grade mixed teams across North West Leicestershire.

Table 4.10: District-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 ²⁸
Men (19-45yrs)	1:753	1.29	1	0.5
Women (19-45yrs)	1:2,000	0.52	1	0.5
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:72	3.62	4	2
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:237	1.03	1	0.5
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:379	1.29	1	0.25

When studied on an analysis area basis, no new teams are predicted due to how dispersed the population growth is. It is therefore considered more likely that any increases will be absorbed within existing teams.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. As such, increased future growth is still considered possible despite population projections indicating that there will only be minimal growth. A growth in women and girls' rugby is thought to be particularly likely given current RFU aspirations and due to the upcoming 2025 Rugby World Cup.

Women's Rugby World Cup 2025

For the first time ever, the expanded showcase event will be hosted across eight venues and cities around England (Brighton & Hove, Bristol, Exeter, London, Manchester, Northampton, Sunderland and York) with 16 teams competing to be crowned world champions. The countrywide format makes it the most accessible Women's Rugby World Cup ever, offering an unparalleled opportunity for fans to see, engage with and support the stars of the women's game in towns and cities around England.

²⁸ 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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Based on current demand and ancillary facilities, it is considered that any growth in women and girls demand in North West Leicestershire is likely to arise at Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC.

Participation increases

Ashby RFC states that it aspires to add a third senior men's teams as well as grow the women's and girl's section of the Club, with it hopeful that through the increased access to provision this can be achieved.

Castle Donington RFC aspires to field a second senior men's team from the 26/27 season, with the Club putting emphasis on recruiting players for this.

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 whilst peak time for mini and junior 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 pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side
- ◀ Use of school pitches by schools increases demand by one match equivalent session
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- ◀ From U13 upwards, all teams use a full pitch
- ◀ Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch
- ◀ 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 traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away)
- ◀ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch
- ◀ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons
- ◀ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings
- ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels

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

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Table 4.11: 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

Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

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Table 4.12: Capacity table for community available rugby union pitches in North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	No. pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Actual spare capacity at peak time	Comments
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	1	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	3	-2	1	Overplayed.
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1.5	-	0.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
7	Ashby RFC	LE65 1DP	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	4	-	-2	0	Overplayed
9	Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields)	LE65 1EB	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Unsecure	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	1	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	-	7	-5	1	Overplayed.
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1.5	-	0.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2.5	-	-0.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
24	Coalville RFC	LE67 5PF	Coalville	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2.5	-	-0.5	0	Played to capacity within the peak period.
55	Spital Park	DE74 2NQ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Secure	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity within the peak period.

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Actual spare capacity

In North West Leicestershire only one pitch is considered to have actual spare capacity with this coming from the pitch at Spital Park with 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity.

All remaining pitches are at capacity or have potential spare capacity; however, this has been discounted due to poor quality and/or unsecure tenure. Furthermore, none of the sites are likely to receive community demand due to the club-centric nature of existing activity.

Overplay

Five pitches across two sites in North West Leicestershire are overplayed by a total of ten match equivalent sessions per week. This is summarised further in the table below.

Table 4.13: Summary of overplay on rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Number of pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
7	Ashby RFC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Senior	1	-2
7	Ashby RFC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Senior	1	-2
24	Coalville RFC	Coalville	Senior	1	-5
24	Coalville RFC	Coalville	Senior	1	-0.5
24	Coalville RFC	Coalville	Senior	1	-0.5
-	-	-	Total	5	-10

The Coalville Analysis Area accommodates the largest amount of overplay, equating to six match equivalent sessions at Coalville RFC. The remaining four match equivalent sessions of overplay take place in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area at Ashby RFC. This overplay is due to a substantial amount of demand with limited capacity due to pitch quality.

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.14: Overall supply and demand balance for rugby union (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁹	Overplay	Current total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-4	-4
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	0.5	-	0.5
Coalville	-	-6	-6
Ibstock	-	-	-
Measham	-	-	-
Total	0.5	-10	-9.5

As seen, there is a current shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand. This can be attributed to overplay in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coalville analysis areas as a result of heavy usage at Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC, both of which therefore require solutions.

²⁹ In match equivalent sessions per week

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The future picture is harder to ascertain, with small growth predicted from population increases equating to 3.75 match equivalent sessions and because some aspirations from clubs has not been quantified. However, it is clear that the existing deficits are likely to worsen without action being taken.

When compared to 2017 findings, the shortfalls have increased substantially, with a deficit of two match equivalent sessions previously identified. This is due to factoring in midweek training demand from clubs within the District.

4.6: Conclusion

There is a substantial shortfall of rugby union capacity based on current supply and demand levels, with this resulting in the overuse of pitches by both Ashby and Coalville rugby clubs, primarily a consequence of large levels of demand and pitches being used to accommodate both match play and training activity.

A solution for both clubs is therefore required with options to create additional capacity further explored in the proceeding strategy document with focus upon maintenance and drainage improvements as well as increased access to sports lighting and potential World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision.

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- ◀ In North West Leicestershire only one pitch is considered to have actual spare capacity with this coming from the pitch at Spital Park with 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity.
- ◀ Five pitches across two sites in North West Leicestershire are overplayed by a total of ten match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ The Coalville Analysis Area accommodates the largest amount of overplay, equating to six match equivalent sessions at Coalville RFC. The remaining four match equivalent sessions of overplay take place in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area at Ashby RFC. This overplay is due to a substantial amount of demand with limited capacity due to pitch quality.

Rugby union – supply summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of nine senior rugby union pitches located across four sites within North West Leicestershire, all of which are available for community use
- ◀ Since the previous study was completed, there has been the reduction of seven senior and six age grade pitches. This is because pitches located at Castle Donington College, Ivanhoe College and The Newbridge School are no longer formally marked out. Moreover, the closure of Grace Dieu Manor School has resulted in the loss of three age grade pitches, elsewhere these are no longer marked out with this activity likely to take place on senior pitches.
- ◀ Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC are both considered to have security of tenure at their home sites with both clubs having a freehold. Ashby RFC states that it has established a long-term lease agreement with Ashby Town Council for use of Ashby Memorial Grounds with the Club marking these out for formal use in the coming seasons.
- ◀ Castle Donington RFC has a long-term agreement with Castle Donington Parish Council for use of the senior rugby pitch at Spital Park, whilst also allowing them to train on the sports lit area. On match days, the Club uses the pitch and changing rooms.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, there are currently eight standard quality pitches and one poor quality pitch, with this located at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields). No pitches are rated as good quality.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, the quality of the ancillary provision at the three club sites is generally of a good/ standard quality with all clubs having access to good quality ancillary provision.

Rugby union – demand summary

- ◀ There are currently three clubs operating in North West Leicestershire fielding a total of 35 teams. These are Ashby RFC (Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, Castle Donington RFC (Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area) and Coalville RFC (Coalville Analysis Area).

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- ◀ Broken down this equates to five senior men's, two senior women's, 14 age grade boys, four age grade girl's and ten age grade mixed teams.
- ◀ Both Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC accommodate 17 teams each, with both clubs having dedicated female participation with a total of two senior women's and four age grade girls' teams, as well as a full age grade mixed section.
- ◀ Since the previous study, there has been overall growth of one team, with this being the introduction of a senior women's team at Ashby RFC, elsewhere demand levels have remained relatively similar.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, Ashby RFC has one sports-lit pitch at its home site and use it for training activity. Coalville has a sports-lit training area provided by backlighting off the fully lit pitch. Also, Coalville RFC uses the artificial pitch at Coalville Town FC for age-grade training; it is not WRReg22 and only accommodates non-contact activity.
- ◀ Future demand from population projections forecast a growth of one senior men's, one senior women's, four age grade boys, one age grade girl's and one age grade mixed teams across North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Ashby RFC states that it aspires to add a third senior men's teams as well as grow the women's and girl's section of the Club, with it hopeful that through the increased access to provision this can be achieved.
- ◀ Castle Donington RFC aspires to field a second senior men's team from the 26/27 season, with the Club putting emphasis on recruiting players for this.

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PART 5: HOCKEY

5.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Leicestershire and Rutland Hockey Association.

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 third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

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

Category	Surface	Essential Playing Level	Desirable Playing Level
1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	International hockey (training and matches).	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (performance centres and upwards).
2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (academy centres and upwards).	All adult and junior league hockey; Intermediate or advanced school hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools.
3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	All adult and junior club training and league hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools; Intermediate or advanced school hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level).
4	All 3G surfaces	No hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

For senior teams, a full-size 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 & 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.

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 requires access to a pitch and floodlights.

Consultation

One hockey club is identified as playing hockey in North West Leicestershire: Ashby HC and has been consulted to inform this section of the report.

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Since the previous study was completed in 2017, there has been a loss of two hockey clubs within the District which are no longer identified as fielding teams, including Coalville Town HC and Rangers HC.

5.2: Supply

The audit identifies two full-size hockey suitable AGPs with North West Leicestershire, of which, both are sports lit and available for community use with one pitch located within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area at Ivanhoe School, whilst the second pitch is located within the Coalville Analysis Area at Castle Rock High School.

Table 5.2: Full size hockey suitable pitches in North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports-lit?	Size (metres)
21	Castle Rock High School	LE67 4BR	Coalville	Yes	Yes	91 x 55
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Yes	91 x 55

In addition, the audit also identifies two smaller size hockey suitable AGPs at Ibstock Leisure Complex and Ibstock Miners Welfare, both of which are located within the Ibstock Analysis Area, available for community use and sports lit.

Since the previous study was completed in 2017, the former smaller size AGPs at Castle Donington College and Oakthorpe Recreation Ground have since been converted to 3G surfaces.

Notwithstanding the above, the smaller size pitches do not currently cater for any community hockey demand and are not conducive to such activity due to their size. As such, they are discounted from this point forward, although it is noted that they can meet some curricular needs as well as being used for other sporting purposes.

Future developments

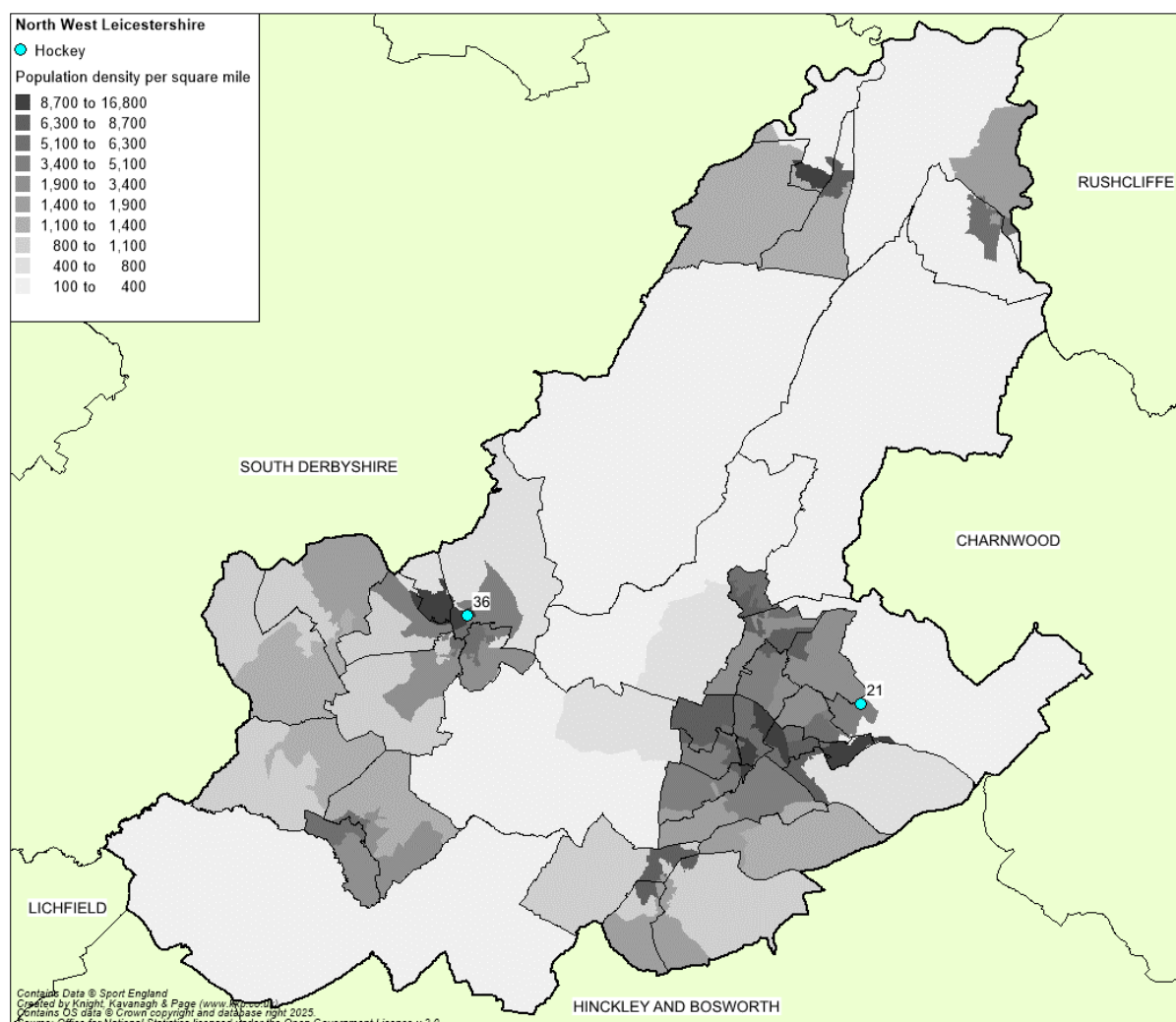
As part of the PPOSS process, the feasibility of establishing a bespoke sporting hub site within the locality of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was explored. This included the relocation of clubs from their current sites to one dedicated facility.

Regarding hockey, Ashby HC did not indicate any aspirations to relocate from its main site at Ivanhoe School. However, this pitch is at capacity with options needed to explore how to support the Club with its future demand. This will be explored further in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of full-size hockey suitable AGPs currently servicing North West Leicestershire.

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Figure 5.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in North West Leicestershire



Management and security of tenure

The AGPs at Castle Rock High School and Ivanhoe School are both managed internally by the respective schools.

Ashby HC has a community use agreement in place with Ivanhoe School for the usage of the AGP which provides security of tenure. The Club also utilise Castle Rock High School on occasions to accommodate some match demand, however, this is more informal with the Club renting this on an ad-hoc basis.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (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). Using this, both pitches in North West Leicestershire have good availability with these available for use at all times within the peak period.

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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 many providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed.

In North West Leicestershire, the AGP at Castle Rock High School has been assessed as standard quality with this significantly surpassing the recommended life span, despite this, no quality issues are reported. Elsewhere, the AGP at Ivanhoe School is rated as good quality, with this resurfaced in the last three years.

Quality is further summarised on a site-by-site basis below.

Table 5.3: Age and quality of full-size AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
21	Castle Rock High School	Coalville	2005	Standard
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2022	Good

A planning application has been submitted REF: [24/00732/FULM](#) for the redevelopment of Castle Rock High School, in line with this, it has been speculated that as part of the redevelopment the AGP will be resurfaced.

In relation to the quality of smaller size AGP provision with North West Leicestershire, the pitch at Ibstock Leisure Complex is rated as good quality (Installed in 2019) whereas the pitch at Ibstock Miners Welfare Site is identified as standard quality (Installed in 2005). No quality issues in relation to either pitch have been identified, although no hockey demand exists on either pitches.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision accompanying the full-size hockey suitable AGPs within North West Leicestershire is provided by both education sites, with this often tailored towards curricular demand rather than a sports club with multiple teams. Ashby HC has access to two changing rooms as well as male, female and accessible toilets at Ivanhoe School, with these located in the school sports centre next to the pitch. The Club states that two changing rooms isn't enough, with these often given to travelling away teams on match days, additionally these are not accessible on Sunday's.

Ashby HC states that it has no specific clubhouse to access on match days with it known to share the Ashby RUFC's clubhouse, which has recently been refurbished. Despite this, the rugby club is up to a ten minute drive from where the AGP is located and comes at a cost. The Club has also used public houses for post-match hospitality, although found it is not suitable.

Changing room and toilet facilities are currently available at Castle Rock High School, however, pending it redevelopment these will not be accessible for teams utilising the AGP.

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5.3: Demand

There is currently one club identified as playing hockey within North West Leicestershire. Ashby HC fields four senior men's, four senior women's, four junior boys and four junior girls as well as two mixed teams.

All the Club's training demand takes place on the AGP at Ivanhoe School, with senior men's activity on Thursday evenings and senior women's activity on Tuesday evenings both of which have two hour sessions. Junior activity is then split across Wednesday's, Thursday's and Sundays.

For matches, the majority take place at Ivanhoe School. However, Castle Rock High School is also used as an overspill venue due to one pitch being insufficient to accommodate all demand.

In the previous PPOSS, Coalville Town HC and Rangers HC were also identified as playing hockey within North West Leicestershire. This is no longer the case, with both folding (both clubs used the AGP at Castle Rock High School).

Participation trends

Membership and team figures at Ashby HC have stayed at similar levels since the previous PPOSS, with current membership at 285 and 18 teams. Despite this, due to the loss of Coalville Town HC and Rangers HC, this suggests an overall decline of hockey demand within the District which EH reports that the reduction is primarily due to a loss of junior members.

Table 5.4: North West Leicestershire hockey affiliate demand figures

Club	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Total
Ashby HC	72	51	84	78	285

Imported/exported demand

It has been identified that Charnwood Forest HC of Charnwood Borough and Sutton Bonnington HC from the Rushcliffe Local Authority, import one team each for match demand to Castle Rock High School. This has not displaced any hockey demand from Ashby HC which also utilise this as an overspill venue.

No exported team demand from Ashby HC has been identified through consultation, notwithstanding this there is potential for some exported player demand to clubs in neighbouring authorities.

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, Ashby HC would like to grow the number of its teams, however, states that limitation of slots available on the AGP at Ivanhoe School restricts this growth. The Club states that 5-aside football also takes place on the AGP and has struggled to negotiate more training slots with the school.

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Additional demand

In addition to club-based hockey activity, there are also various initiatives for hockey which are promoted by EH. These can add to the demand in a local authority and also necessitate the need for further pitch capacity. They include:

- ◀ Back to hockey.
- ◀ Flyerz Hockey.
- ◀ Hockey Heroes.
- ◀ In2Hockey.
- ◀ Quicksticks.
- ◀ Rush Hockey.
- ◀ Walking Hockey.

In North West Leicestershire, Ashby HC offers Walking Hockey sessions on Thursday evenings from. However, no other initiatives are currently known to be in operation.

Other demand

Nationally, many hockey suitable AGPs are widely used to accommodate football training demand, which can be both a positive and a negative. Often, football usage helps with the financial sustainability of the provision where limited hockey demand is received; conversely, it can impact on availability for hockey demand when levels are high.

In North West Leicestershire, the AGP located at both Castle Rock High School and Ivanhoe School are also used for recreational and training demand from local football teams. As previously mentioned, Ashby HC states that it competes with football demand from Ashby Ivanhoe for evening slots to accommodate its club training demand.

Peak time demand

For matches, all senior hockey matches in North West Leicestershire take place on a Saturday, whereas most junior activity occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is considered to be any midweek evening, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays due to Mondays and Fridays being too close to matchday activity.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

The below examines both match play and training demand across North West Leicestershire considering both current and future levels of demand.

Match play analysis

It is suggested that a full-size hockey suitable, sports lit AGP can accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one pitch 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).

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there are currently two full size hockey suitable pitches in the District, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 16 senior teams at peak time across the Authority.

The table below therefore further explores the level of capacity provided, for senior hockey (i.e., on a Saturday).

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Table 5.4 Summary of hockey pitch capacity for peak time match play (Saturday)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Potential capacity in teams	Actual capacity in teams	Number of hockey teams using the provision at peak time	Capacity balance
21	Castle Rock High School	Coalville	1	8	8	4	4
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	8	8	8	-
-	-	-	2	16	16	12	4

Given that there are currently ten senior men's and women's teams fielded by Ashby HC and two teams imported by Charnwood HC and Sutton Bonnington HC, there is a need for two full-size pitches. With two pitches currently provided, supply is therefore considered to be sufficient to meet demand in quantitative terms. Notwithstanding this, it should be noted that the AGP at Ivanhoe School is currently played to capacity and whilst this has recently been resurfaced and can accommodate minimal levels of overuse, this is not recommended by England Hockey and as such should be monitored to ensure that this is sustainable.

For junior hockey, the provision of two full-size AGPs is also considered sufficient to accommodate match play demand. This is because there are fewer junior teams and because there is no conflict with senior demand as matches are mostly played on a Sunday. Furthermore, some of the younger aged participants only require half of a pitch, meaning multiple matches can be played at the same time should demand increase to a point where that becomes necessary.

5.5: Conclusion

There are two full-size hockey pitches required in North West Leicestershire to meet demand from Ashby HC and imported demand by Charnwood HC and Sutton Bonnington HC, with this currently being met by the supply of two facilities. Based on this, it is important for the existing supply of hockey suitable pitches to be protected to meet current and future levels of demand.

As a result of the above, options for the refurbishment of the pitch at Castle Rock High School need to be explored as a matter of importance, in order to explore if this can be included within the rebuild of the wider facility.

The above position remains relatively unaltered from the previous PPOSS, although some pressure has been alleviated via the loss of two clubs in the District. Option on how best to accommodate future demand will be explored in the Strategy & Action Plan.

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Hockey – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Given that there are currently ten senior men's and women's teams fielded by Ashby HC and two teams imported by Charnwood HC and Sutton Bonnington HC, there is a need for two full-size pitches. With two pitches currently provided, supply is therefore considered to be sufficient to meet demand in quantitative terms.
- ◀ Based on this, it is important for the existing supply of hockey suitable pitches to be protected to meet current and future levels of demand.

Hockey – supply summary

- ◀ The audit identifies two full-size hockey suitable AGPs with North West Leicestershire, of which, both are sports lit and available for community use with one pitch located within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area at Ivanhoe School, whilst the second pitch is located within the Coalville Analysis Area at Castle Rock High School.
- ◀ In addition, the audit also identifies two smaller size hockey suitable AGPs at Ibstock Leisure Complex and Ibstock Miners Welfare, both of which are located within the Ibstock Analysis Area, available for community use and sports lit.
- ◀ Since the previous study was completed in 2017, the former smaller size AGPs at Castle Donington College and Oakthorpe Recreation Ground have since been converted to 3G surfaces.
- ◀ The AGPs at Castle Rock High School and Ivanhoe School are both managed internally by the respective schools.
- ◀ Ashby HC has a community use agreement in place with Ivanhoe School for the usage of the AGP which provides security of tenure. The Club also utilise Castle Rock High School on occasions to accommodate some match demand, however, this is more informal with the Club renting this on an ad-hoc basis.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, the AGP at Castle Rock High School has been assessed as standard quality with this significantly surpassing the recommended life span, despite this, no quality issues are reported. Elsewhere, the AGP at Ivanhoe School is rated as good quality, with this resurfaced in the last three years.
- ◀ A planning application has been submitted REF: 24/00732/FULM for the redevelopment of Castle Rock High School, in line with this, it has been speculated that as part of the redevelopment the AGP will be resurfaced.
- ◀ Ashby HC states that it has no specific clubhouse to access on match days with it known to share the Ashby RUFC's clubhouse, which has recently been refurbished. Despite this, the rugby club is up to a ten minute drive from where the AGP is located and comes at a cost. The Club has also used public houses for post-match hospitality, although found it is not suitable.

Hockey – demand summary

- ◀ There is currently one club identified as playing hockey within North West Leicestershire. Ashby HC fields four senior men's, four senior women's, four junior boys and four junior girls as well as two mixed teams.
- ◀ All the Club's training demand takes place on the AGP at Ivanhoe School, with senior men's activity on Thursday evenings and senior women's activity on Tuesday evenings both of which have two hour sessions. Junior activity is then split across Wednesday's, Thursday's and Sundays.
- ◀ In the previous PPOSS, Coalville Town HC and Rangers HC were also identified as playing hockey within North West Leicestershire. This is no longer the case, with both folding (both clubs used the AGP at Castle Rock High School).
- ◀ Membership and team figures at Ashby HC have stayed at similar levels since the previous PPOSS, with current membership at 285 and 18 teams. Despite this, due to the loss of Coalville Town HC and Rangers HC, this suggests an overall decline of hockey demand within the District
- ◀ In relation to club aspirations, Ashby HC would like to grow the number of its teams, however, states that limitation of slots available on the AGP at Ivanhoe School restricts this growth. The Club states that 5-aside football also takes place on the AGP and has struggled to negotiate more training slots with the school.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, Ashby HC offers Walking Hockey sessions on Thursday evenings from. However, no other initiatives are currently known to be in operation.

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PART 6: CRICKET

6.1: Introduction

The Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation (LRCF) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including North West Leicestershire. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs as well as other appropriate agencies. 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 also currently working with the ECB on delivering its refreshed Strategy, Inspiring Generations.

For senior cricket in North West Leicestershire, 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, although Sunday activity is also common.

County Facilities Strategy

The Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation (LRCF) produced a County Facilities Strategy in 2024. These are being produced by individual county cricket boards across the Country, unique to their geographic areas and based upon inputs from diverse representation. They are viewed as long-term plans and involve engagement with key stakeholders, including clubs, leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England.

The County Facilities Strategy (CFS) is an investment strategy of priority projects for potential investment for cricket; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. It cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

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

- ◆ Traditional facilities (pitches, outfielders, 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 priorities, ensuring that decision-making processes are clearly explained before a list of priority projects is produced. To inform this process, each strategy will utilise findings from PPOSS-related work, where in place, as a 'high quality' evidence base.

Consultation

The audit identifies that there are ten cricket clubs located in North West Leicestershire. Of these, all have responded to consultation requests to date, resulting in a 100% response rate.

In order to help secure responses from clubs, Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation has assisted with sending out surveys on behalf of KKP.

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Table 6.1: Summary of consultation

Club	Analysis area	Club response
Appleby Magna CC	Measham	Yes
Ashby Hastings CC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes
Bardon Hill CC	Coalville	Yes
Broomleys CC	Coalville	Yes
Castle Donington CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes
Grace Dieu Park CC	Coalville	Yes
Ibstock Town CC	Ibstock	Yes
Kegworth Town CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes
Long Whatton CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes
Packington CC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes

6.2: Supply

In total, there are ten grass wicket cricket squares in North West Leicestershire across ten sites all of which are available for community use. There are also seven non-turf pitches (NTPs) across North West Leicestershire all of which are also available for community use with exception to the NTP at The Newbridge School. Of these, four accompany grass wicket squares, whilst the remaining three are standalone NTPs.

As seen in the table below, both the Castle Donington/Kegworth and Coalville analysis areas have the greatest number of squares with three each (30%), the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area has two squares (20%), whilst the Ibstock and Measham analysis areas have one square each (10%).

Table 6.2: Summary of all cricket provision

Analysis area	No. of squares	No. of NTPs
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2	2
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	3	2
Coalville	3	1
Ibstock	1	1
Measham	1	1
Total	10	7
2017 Total	12	7

Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

As previously stated, there are seven NTPs identified across North West Leicestershire located across as many sites. Of these, four accompany grass wicket squares at Appleby Magna Recreation Ground, Bath Grounds, Ibstock Town Cricket Club and King George V Playing Field (Kegworth). Whereas the remaining three are standalone NTPs, located at:

- ◆ Hemmington Sports Ground.
- ◆ Ivanhoe School.
- ◆ The Newbridge School.

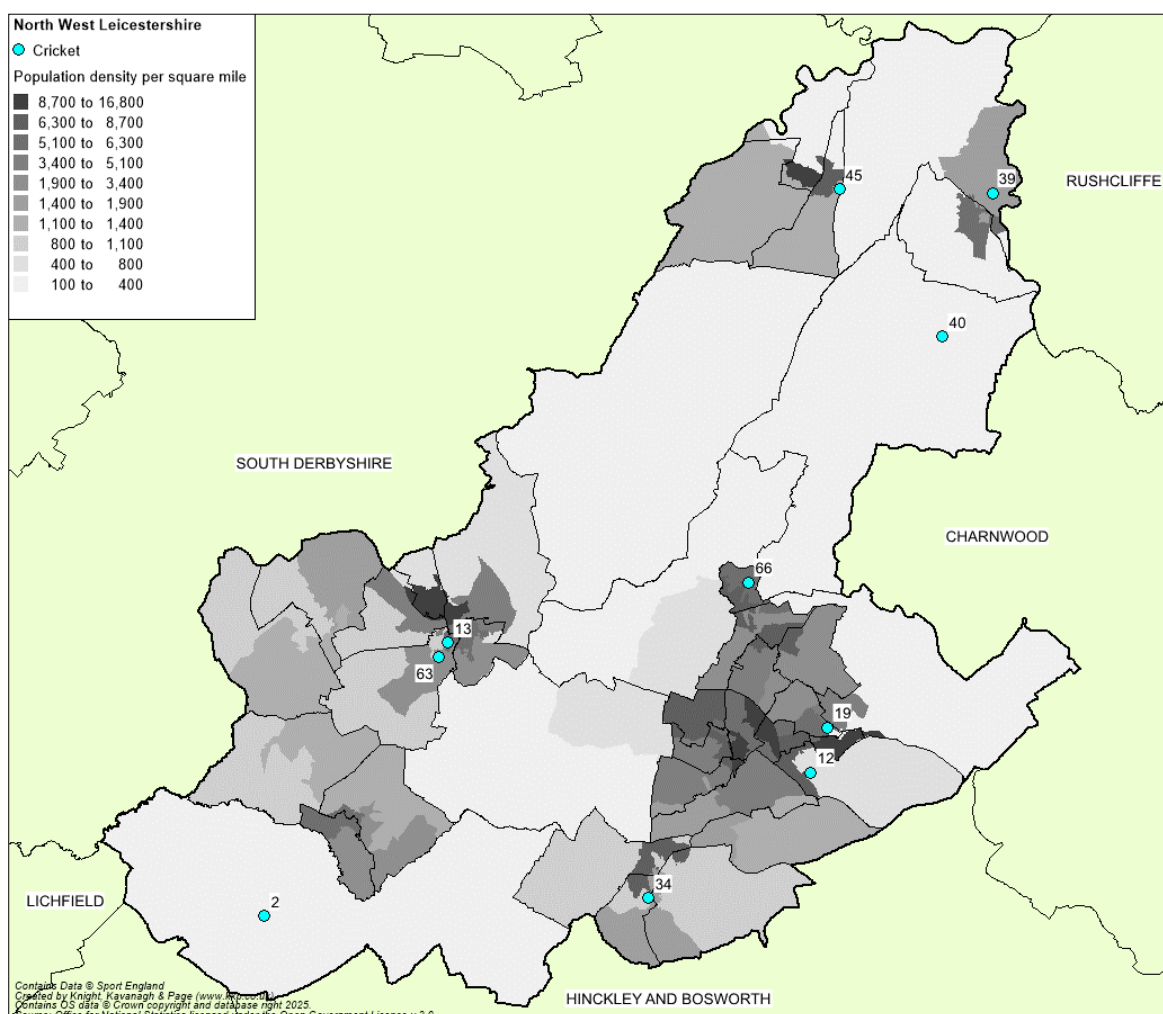
NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

NTPs, particularly when located at club sites, can also 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. NTPs are also frequently used for junior matches across the country, and there are some instances of this in North West Leicestershire.

From a school perspective, NTPs provide a reliable cricket offer, without the need for specific cricket preparation to be taken on natural turf playing field. In many instances, schools do not have the resource or expertise to prepare natural turf wickets so NTPs provide a resource to ensure cricket can remain a key element of curricular sport.

The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares (grass and non-turf) currently servicing North West Leicestershire. See Table 6.3 for a key.

Figure 6.1: Location of cricket pitches in North West Leicestershire



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Table 6.3 Key to map of cricket provision within North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	No. of NTPs
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	DE12 7BE	Measham	Yes	1	8	1
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	LE67 4BS	Coalville	Yes	1	12	
13	Bath Grounds	LE65 2GL	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	1	17	1
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	LE67 4RN	Coalville	Yes	1	10	-
30	Hemington Sports Ground	DE74 2RF	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	-	-	1
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	LE67 6NN	Ibstock	Yes	1	10	1
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	-	-	1
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	DE74 2FH	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	1	14	1
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	LE12 5DF	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	1	6	-
45	Moir Dale Sports Ground	DE74 2PJ	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	1	10	-
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	-	-	1
63	Western Park	LE65 2FA	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	1	8	-
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	LE67 8LR	Coalville	Yes	1	8	-

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Unused provision

Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, it has been identified that two sites formerly provided grass cricket provision with one square each at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields) and Long Whatton Cricket Club. It should be noted that the latter still has one active square onsite.

Future developments

As part of the PPOSS process, the feasibility of establishing a bespoke sporting hub site within the locality of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was explored. This included the relocation of clubs from their current sites to one dedicated facility.

Regarding cricket, Ashby Hastings CC did not indicate any aspirations to relocate from its main site at Bath Grounds. This will be explored in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

Security of tenure

The table below outlines the tenure agreements of the ten cricket clubs at their primary sites across North West Leicestershire. Where provision is managed by parish/town councils and either rented or leased to clubs, unless otherwise known, it is considered that this provision is secure and will be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

The position in North West Leicestershire is that all clubs operate with security of tenure at their respective grounds. It should be stated that in many cases clubs have been accessing their sites for several years and despite not having long term agreements in place the understanding is the site shall continue to service cricket for the foreseeable future (and as a minimum over the lifespan of the PPOSS). This is detailed club-by-club in the following table.

Table 6.4: Summary of club tenure arrangements (North West Leicestershire)

Club	Site	Tenure	Security of tenure	Management
Appleby Magna CC	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Lease agreement with Appleby Parish Council. Next review date is in 2030.	Secure	Parish Council
Ashby Hastings CC	Bath Grounds	Lease agreement with Ashby Town Council for 50 years.	Secure	Town Council
Bardon Hill CC	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Lease agreement from Bardon Quarry for 20 years.	Secure	Sports Club
Broomleys CC	Broomleys Cricket Club	Owned by the Club.	Secure	Sports Club
Castle Donington CC	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Rented from Castle Donington Parish Council.	Secure	Parish Council
Grace Dieu Park CC	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Owned by the Club.	Secure	Sports Club
Ibstock Town CC	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Owned by the Club.	Secure	Sports Club
Kegworth Town CC	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Lease agreement with Kegworth Parish Council.	Secure	Parish Council

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Club	Site	Tenure	Security of tenure	Management
Long Whatton CC	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Lease agreement with Whatton Estate for seven years (with renewals).	Secure	Sports Club
Packington CC	Western Park	Rented from Ashby Town Council.	Secure	Town Council

Pitch quality

The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out in August 2025 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) user consultation and ground grading scores provided by the LRCF to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. The full assessment criteria can be seen via Appendix 2.

Maintaining high square 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 grass wicket squares in North West Leicestershire found eight (80%) squares to be good quality and two (20%) to be standard quality. No squares are rated as poor quality within North West Leicestershire.

Table 6.5: Summary of quality for grass wicket squares

Good	Standard	Poor
8	2	-

Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the quality of squares across North West Leicestershire has improved, with the poor quality square at Western Park eradicated as well as an increase to five good quality squares.

Despite the square at Ibstock Town Cricket Club being rated as good quality, the Club states that it is at capacity and needs access to a second square should it wish to grow. Additionally, it also states that quality has overall quality has decreased upon previous seasons because of the number of games played.

Appleby Magna Cricket Club states that despite the pitch being located within a public area, the local community respect the square and outfield by and large. Notwithstanding this, the Club consider the outfield undersized, despite it meeting minimum requirements.

All clubs responded to consultation stating that there have been fixture cancellations during the 24/25 due to weather conditions, mainly relating to these matches being rained off.

Table 6.6: Quality ratings for grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality	Outfield quality
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	1	Good	Good
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	1	Good	Good
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Good	Good
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Coalville	1	Standard	Good

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality	Outfield quality
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	1	Good	Good
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Good	Good
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Good	Good
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Good	Standard
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Standard	Poor
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Coalville	1	Good	Good

Grass Pitch Improvement Fund⁶⁰

To coincide with the utilisation of PitchPower (PP) for cricket the ECB in partnership with Sport England and National Lottery has released the Grass Pitch Improvement Fund (GPIF). The GPIF aims to tackle inequalities by providing improved access to good quality, safe playing facilities for targeted groups.

The Sport England Lottery Fund will provide funding for projects in England with projects in Wales supported by the England and Wales Cricket Trust. Priority will be given to applications which support cricket for the following groups:

- ◀ Women's and girls' cricket.
- ◀ Cricket in diverse communities.
- ◀ Disability cricket.
- ◀ Low socio-economic groups (LSEG).

Investment will be targeted into three main areas:

- ◀ Improving the quality of squares and outfield (for grass pitches rated 'unsuitable' or 'basic' to improve to at least 'good').
- ◀ Creating sustainable management of sites (through irrigation and machinery improvements).
- ◀ Installing hybrid pitches to increase playing capacity.

The fund will run until March 2027, or whenever the funding is full allocated, whichever is sooner.

PitchPower Assessment

PitchPower (a technical assessment of quality) for cricket began to be used in 2024 with the initial reports being produced towards the end of the season. More information surrounding PitchPower, and its functionality is available in Part 2: Football. The main difference for the analysis of cricket is that both the outfield and square are assessed for quality.

The outfield focusing on analysing grass height, grass coverage, weed coverage, root depth, thatch depth, undesirable grasses, surface debris and percentage of pest and disease. In comparison the square evaluation includes most of the above in addition to surface evenness, core profile, root break, worm casts, pitch markings and post-match repairs.

⁶⁰<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/07/23/a754a60b-a11a-4dee-aa7e-06fbdc040297/GPIF-guidance-notes.pdf>

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

Table 6.7: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PitchPower ratings

PitchPower Rating	PPOSS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

PitchPower assessments will be implemented into the PPOSS process moving forward and as they come on board, and it is likely they will supersede non-technical assessments as they are more comprehensive and can provide detailed strategic recommendations on how facilities can be improved.

As a result, quality scores for cricket and recommendations within the PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan should be reviewed and updated as part of the Stage E process to reflect new technical assessments evidence and information when available.

Non-turf wickets

In relation to NTPs across North West Leicestershire, three are assessed as good quality and four are assessed as poor quality, no NTPs are rated as standard quality within the District. This is summarised by site, below.

Table 6.8: Summary of NTPs within North West Leicestershire

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of NTPs	Position	NTP quality
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	1	Square	Good
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Standalone	Poor
30	Hemington Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Standalone	Good
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	1	Square	Good
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Standalone	Poor
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Square	Good
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	1	Standalone	Poor

Whilst rated as poor quality, the NTP at Appleby Magna Recreation Ground this is due to be resurfaced in spring 2026, subject to funding allocation from the ECB.

The estimated lifespan of an NTP is around ten years, depending on levels of use, and a sinking fund should be put into place for refurbishment beyond this timeframe.

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Ball strike

Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly where there is a development which may prejudice the use of an existing cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the affected or at-risk clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken. Further information can be provided by the ECB.

Ancillary facilities

The extent of ancillary facilities required differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas this is often not required for junior and short format senior matches, where the need is more for access to suitable changing and/or toilet facilities.

Quality and access to required match day and preparatory facilities across the District is varied, with clubs playing at privately managed or sports club sites generally better served than those playing at community managed provision.

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high-quality ancillary facilities is a key aspect of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls, South Asian and BAME communities and All Stars and Dynamos cricket (detailed later in the section).

The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in North West Leicestershire determines that three (30%) are accompanied by good quality provision, five (50%) are accompanied by standard quality provision and two (20%) are serviced by poor quality provision. The table overleaf provides a site by site breakdown, together with comments from consultation with the clubs.

None of the ancillary facilities at sites within North West Leicestershire are currently considered suitable to accommodate women's and girl's demand. The LCRF state that in order for a clubs' facilities to be suitable it must meet the following criteria;

- ◀ Separate changing room(s) additional to the two existing rooms (for females who play "open" senior cricket with men).
- ◀ Lockable shower rooms or cubicles.
- ◀ Separate female toilets (ideally in close proximity to female changing spaces).
- ◀ Female sanitary products & hygienic bins available in female toilets.

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Table 6.9: Changing room quality by site

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Ancillary facility quality	Comments
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	1	Good	Appleby Magna CC states that its clubhouse facilities are of a good quality including changing rooms and toilets. In addition, one official's changing room is available. However, it states that it has issues with vandalism of its covers and sightscreens. Despite being good quality, these facilities are not suitable for women's and girl's demand.
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	1	Good	Bardon Hill CC states that the overall clubhouse facilities are of a good quality including changing rooms and toilets, although are not considered suitable for women's and girls' demand. Official's changing is not available at this site.
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Standard	Ashby Hastings CC states that the overall clubhouse facilities are of a standard quality including changing rooms and toilets, although these are not suitable for women's and girls' demand. Officials changing is also available. Particular issues related to the overall look of the clubhouse which is in need of development which the Club are hopeful of completing.
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Coalville	1	Good	Broomleys CC identifies that the clubhouse facilities are of a good quality although are not considered suitable for women's and girls' demand. Notwithstanding this, the Club highlights that it would like to carry out some work to the toilets and changing rooms. Officials changing is also available.
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	1	Standard	Ibstock CC states that the overall clubhouse and social area is of a good quality, however, the condition of the toilets and changing rooms are standard, with these not suitable for women's and girls. The clubhouse also includes one official's changing room.
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Standard	Kegworth Town CC states that overall clubhouse facilities are standard across the board including changing rooms and toilets, although not suitable for women's and girls. Official's changing is also available.
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Standard	Long Whatton CC states that the overall clubhouse facilities are of a good quality however the changing rooms are not considered to be suitable for women's and girls' demand as well as no official's changing being available.
45	Moir Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	Standard	Castle Donington CC states that the overall clubhouse is of a standard quality, however its social space needs updating. The changing rooms and toilets are of a standard quality also, although not suitable for women's and girls' demand. The Club states its had issues with vandalism of its covers and sightscreens.
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	Poor	Packington CC states that the overall clubhouse is of a poor quality. Similarly, the toilet facilities on site are also rated as poor. Despite having four changing rooms and official's changing, these are rated as standard. The Club also report damage to its sightscreens. Facilities are not considered suitable for women's and girls'
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Coalville	1	Poor	Grace Dieu Park CC states that the overall clubhouse and facilities within it such as toilets and changing rooms are of a poor quality. No officials changing is available at the site and the facilities are not considered suitable for women's and girl's demand despite having a senior women's team.

From the table shown above, the main concerns across the sites within North West Leicestershire are the lack of suitable facilities for women and girls', poor or standard quality of ancillary facilities at several locations, absence of officials' changing rooms at some sites and recurring issues with vandalism and damage to equipment including covers and sightscreens. These issues could impact participation, especially for female players and highlight areas for investment and improvement in club infrastructure.

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Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences, whilst during the season, outdoor training provision supplies most of the use. In North West Leicestershire, the table below summarises the sites that currently contain fixed-lane practice nets. In total, there are seven sites supplying 13 bays.

Table 6.10: Summary of training facilities

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Practice nets?	Number of bays?	ECB approved?
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	No	-	-
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	Yes	2	Yes
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	2	Yes
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Coalville	Yes	2	Yes
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	Yes	2	Yes
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	2	Yes
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	2	Yes
45	Moirra Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	No	-	-
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	-	-
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Coalville	Yes	1	Yes

Notwithstanding the above, according to the ECB Coaches Safety Pack, fixed lane practice nets should ideally have between 6-8 participants. Taking that into account clubs ideally should look to have at least three lanes if they have two or more senior teams. Within North West Leicestershire Ashby Hastings CC, Bardon Hill CC, Broomleys CC, Ibstock CC, Kegworth CC and Long Whatton CC all have two or more teams. Therefore, the clubs may need to increase the number of its fixed lane practice nets.

Based on consultation feedback, the following clubs report demand for new, improved and/or additional training facilities:

- ◀ Appleby Magma CC
- ◀ Castle Donington CC.
- ◀ Ibstock Town CC.
- ◀ Kegworth Town CC.
- ◀ Long Whatton CC.

Table 6.11: Summary of demand for additional training facilities

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Appleby Magma CC	Club has expressed desire to have two fixed-lane practice nets at the site with recent conversations held with the LCRF to discuss where these should be located on site.

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Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock Town CC	Club aspire to have an additional mobile cage or one extra lane on its fixed-lane practice nets.
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Kegworth Town CC	Club aspire to have an additional lane on its fixed-lane practice nets
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Long Whatton CC	Club aspire to refurbish its fixed-lane practice nets
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington CC	Club aspire to have an additional mobile cage

All remaining responsive clubs report that they are satisfied with their current practice provision, although some report a need for access or improved access to indoor facilities for winter training purposes. Whilst this falls outside the remit of this study, it is something that should be considered moving forward, with many clubs reporting that they do not have access to sports halls or must access them at undesirable times.

Indoor facilities

Whilst the PPOSS only considers outdoor playing pitches, a cricket training programme includes accessing indoor net facilities over winter months in preparation for the start of the season. More information on this can be found in the Indoor Built Facilities Report being carried out in parallel to this study. The table below highlights the clubs that utilise indoor provision and where this takes place.

Table 6.12: Summary of indoor provision accessed by clubs

Club	Access indoor provision?	Name of site(s) used
Appleby Magna CC	Yes	Ivanhoe School
Ashby Hastings CC	No	-
Bardon Hill CC	No	-
Broomleys CC	No	-
Castle Donington CC	Yes	Sinfin Moor School
Grace Dieu Park CC	Yes	Grace Dieu Manor Castle Rock High School
Ibstock Town CC	Yes	Ibstock Leisure Complex
Kegworth Town CC		Loughborough Grammar School ECB National Performance Centre – Loughborough University
Long Whatton CC	Yes	ECB National Performance Centre – Loughborough University
Packington CC	Yes	Ashby School

Seven clubs within North West Leicestershire currently access indoor nets, while three do not. Notably, all clubs without indoor access do have fixed-lane practice nets available.

6.3: Demand

There are ten clubs in North West Leicestershire which collectively provide 61 teams. When broken down this equates to 32 senior men's, three senior women's, 22 junior boys and four junior girls' team.

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Ibstock CC is the largest club within the District with 12 teams, whilst Castle Donington CC and Packington CC are the smallest with one senior men's team each.

Table 6.13: Summary of number of competitive teams by club

Club name	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	Total
Appleby Magna CC	Measham	3	1	3	1	8
Ashby Hastings CC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	3	-	5	-	8
Bardon Hill CC	Coalville	4	-	-	-	4
Broomleys CC	Coalville	5	1	1	1	8
Castle Donington CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1	-	-	-	1
Grace Dieu Park CC	Coalville	3	1	2	-	6
Ibstock Town CC	Ibstock	5	-	6	1	12
Kegworth Town CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	3	-	3	1	6
Long Whatton CC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	4	-	2	-	6
Packington CC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1	-	-	-	1
-	Total	32	3	22	4	61
-	2017 Total	23	1	27	0	51

As seen in the table below, the Coalville Analysis Area accommodates the most demand with 17 (29%) teams identified. The area with the least amount of cricket demand is the Measham Analysis Area with eight teams (14%).

Table 6.14: Summary of number of competitive teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	4	-	5	-	9
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	8	-	5	1	14
Coalville	12	2	3	0	17
Ibstock	5	-	6	1	12
Measham	3	1	3	1	8
Total	32	3	22	3	60

Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the overall number of teams has increased by eight representing a 14% increase. Half of this figure is represented by a growth of women's and girl's demand with the increase of two senior women's teams and three junior girls' teams. Contrastingly, junior boys' demand has decreased by five teams.

It should be noted that The Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket League have recently updated their criteria for playing in their top two divisions and that those teams must have an active (playing matches that are recorded on the ECB Play-Cricket website) girls' team.

Exported demand

Through completing the audit, it has been identified that there is no exported demand from North West Leicestershire to neighbouring authorities.

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Additional activity

The ECB run several 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. The most relevant initiatives currently being delivered are detailed below.

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 delivers programmes which 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 five- to eight-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 and volunteers to follow and play the game.

The table below details the 2025 participation figures.

Dynamo's cricket

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos programme for 8–11-year-olds. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All-Stars programme and will develop the pathway to retain juniors which progress. It should be noted that this can also be conducted as a girl's only program.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamo's 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.

The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a short format competition which also launched in 2022. The table below details the 2025 participation figures.

Softball cricket

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase female participation in cricket.

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. The table below details the 2025 participation figures.

Table 6.15: Summary of All Stars, Dynamos and Softball participation

Club	All Stars participation figures (2025)	Dynamos participation figures (2025)	Softball participation figures (2025)
Appleby Magna CC	7	8	18
Ashby Hastings CC	-	20	-

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Club	All Stars participation figures (2025)	Dynamos participation figures (2025)	Softball participation figures (2025)
Broomleys CC	24	23	16
Grace Dieu Park CC	-	-	12
Ibstock Town CC	20	12	17
Kegworth Town CC	35	30	-
Long Whatton CC	20	15	-
Total	106	108	63

As shown in the table above, across North West Leicestershire a total of seven clubs offer either All Stars, Dynamos or Softball participation.

Disability cricket

The ECB wishes to support cricket clubs to deliver cricket opportunities for those with disabilities and has setup the Disability Cricket Champion Club Programme to support clubs through guidance, resource and equipment. This is to enable them to welcome individuals with additional needs and varying abilities to support them to play, follow, officiate and volunteer.

There are currently no Disability Cricket Champion clubs in North West Leicestershire. It is, however, suggested that this could be targeted moving forward.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through club ambitions and using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development plans within North West Leicestershire.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2042 (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for cricket pitches that will arise from any growth (using ONS-2018 based projections). 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.

The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 6.16: Team generation rates based on population growth (2042)

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure
Senior Men's (18-55)	1:780	8.26	8
Senior Women's (18-55)	1:8,705	0.77	1
Junior Boys (7-18)	1:354	5.68	6

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Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure
Junior Girls (7-18)	1:3,674	0.52	1

The total amount of future growth is anticipated to equate to eight senior men's, one senior women's, six junior boys' and one junior girl's teams. As these figures cannot be accredited to any one analysis area, they will be added onto the overall supply and demand total for each pitch type.

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 suggest. For example, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of women and girl's participation in cricket in North West Leicestershire is likely as it is currently a national priority. This also applies to potential increased growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

Participation growth

Through consultation only three clubs express their desire to increase the number of teams they field by a total of four teams, one within each category. Details of a breakdown of this potential growth is listed in the table below.

Table 6.17: Future demand expressed by clubs (in teams)

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
Ibstock Town CC	Ibstock	1	-	-	1
Kegworth Town CC	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	-	1	-	-
Bardon Hill CC	Coalville	-	-	1	-
-	Total	1	1	1	1

In addition to the above, from the 2026 season, Ashby Hastings CC will have a Super 8s (hardball) & a softball team playing league cricket in the East Midlands Women's League

As seen in the table above, aspirational club growth is dispersed across the Castle Donington/ Kegworth, Coalville and Ibstock analysis areas. No future demand is identified within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch or Measham analysis areas.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational. This is to avoid any potential double counting and also factors in that some club context is unquantified.

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised. It will also take into account the expected rise in women's and girls' activity.

Peak time demand

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An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in North West Leicestershire is Saturday, although several teams also play on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both are considered within the supply and demand analysis later in the section. For junior cricket, peak time is considered to be midweek.

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 competitive match equivalent sessions per season per square that is available and that currently takes place.

For good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity 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.

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 10 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

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

Please note that NTPs have been discounted from the analysis by means of not distorting the findings. This is because no NTPs are currently being used more than their recommended capacity, which is 60 match equivalent sessions per season (0 match equivalent sessions when poor quality). With no NTPs being overused, this translates to overall actual spare capacity for junior play.

However, this is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior weekend cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

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With regard to midweek capacity, a maximum capacity rating of 36 match equivalent sessions per season has been set for one square. This is calculated on the understanding that a square is to be rested at least two days during the week in order to enable necessary maintenance and reduce overplay. Therefore, on a home and away basis of three nights a week, a square has been set the capacity of six sessions per season for midweek play, multiplied by six (the average number of matches a junior team plays). Any square showing potential spare capacity for midweek demand shall be allocated six match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity per season, due to the fewer number of fixtures within a junior calendar.

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Table 6.17 Capacity analysis of grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community availability	Users	Security of tenure	Pitch quality	Type of wicket	No. of grass wickets ³¹	Capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Current use (match equivalent sessions)	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential spare capacity/availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/availability for midweek cricket
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	Yes	Appleby Magna CC	Secure	Good	Senior	8	40	29	11	No	No	Yes
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	Yes	Bardon Hill CC	Secure	Good	Senior	12	60	27	33	No	Yes	Yes
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Ashby Hastings CC	Secure	Good	Senior	17	85	39	46	No	Yes	Yes
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Coalville	Yes	Broomleys CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	10	40	53	-13	No	No	Yes
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	Yes	Ibstock Town CC	Secure	Good	Senior	10	50	61	-11	No	No	No
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Kegworth Town CC	Secure	Good	Senior	14	70	24	46	No	No	Yes
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Long Whatton CC	Secure	Good	Senior	6	30	43	-13	No	No	Yes
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Yes	Castle Donington CC	Secure	Good	Senior	10	50	10	40	Yes	Yes	Yes
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Packington CC	Secure	Standard	Senior	8	32	21	11	Yes	Yes	Yes
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Coalville	Yes	Grace Dieu Park CC	Secure	Good	Senior	8	40	33	7	No	No	Yes

³¹ Please note the number of wickets indicated are those which have been identified for actual competitive usage.

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Actual spare capacity

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage during a particular peak period, has security of tenure and is at least standard quality. Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format.

Notwithstanding the above, it should 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.

Taking the above into consideration the square at Moira Dale Sports Ground has potential capacity to accommodate further demand.

Potential spare capacity for additional cricket demand on a Saturday has been discounted at Western Park (at capacity).

Table 6.18: Site by site breakdown of spare capacity (Saturday demand)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (MES)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period (MES)
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	40	1	12

The total of actual spare capacity on Saturday equates to 12 match equivalent sessions per season with this falling in the Castle Donington/ Kegworth Analysis Area.

Table 6.19: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	12
Coalville	-
Ibstock	-
Measham	-
Total	12

Sunday cricket

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.

Similar to Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is not already used by two teams at this time, has secure tenure and is not over, at, or close to capacity. Taking this into consideration, there are three squares across the same sites in North West Leicestershire that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand.

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Potential spare capacity for additional cricket demand on a Saturday has been discounted at Western Park (at capacity).

Table 6.20: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (MES)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period (MES)
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	33	1	12
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	46	2	24
45	Moira Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	40	2	24

Total actual spare capacity on a Sunday equates to 60 match equivalent sessions per season. The Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Castle Donington/Kegworth analysis areas have the most actual spare capacity totalling 24 match equivalent sessions a season each.

Table 6.21: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	24
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	24
Coalville	12
Ilstock	-
Measham	-
Total	60

Junior cricket (midweek)

For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, the presence of junior wickets at certain sites, as well as NTPs, provide further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for midweek cricket, it must have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have more than six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play. However, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars and Dynamos).

Taking the above into consideration there are seven squares across seven sites in North West Leicestershire that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek.

Potential spare capacity for additional cricket demand midweek has been discounted at Broomleys Cricket Club (overplayed and Long Whatton Cricket Club (overplayed).

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Table 6.22: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (MES)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period (MES)
2	Appleby Magna Recreation Ground	Measham	11	1	6
12	Bardon Hill Sports Club	Coalville	33	4	24
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	46	4	24
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	46	4	24
45	Moir Dale Sports Ground	Castle Donington/Kegworth	40	6	36
63	Western Park	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	11	1	6
66	Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club	Coalville	7	1	6

The total actual spare capacity midweek equates to 126 match equivalent sessions a season with most of this being located in the Castle Donington/Kegworth Analysis Area with 60 match equivalent sessions a season.

Table 6.23: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (MES)
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	30
Castle Donington/Kegworth	60
Coalville	30
Ibstock	-
Measham	6
Total	126

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.

Table 6.24: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Type of wicket	Overplay (MES)
19	Broomleys Cricket Club	Coalville	Senior	13
34	Ibstock Town Cricket Club	Ibstock	Senior	11
40	Long Whatton Cricket Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Senior	13

In North West Leicestershire, three squares are overplayed across three sites equating to 37 match equivalent sessions per season. The Castle Donington/Kegworth and Coalville analysis areas have the most amount of overplay with 13 match equivalent sessions per season each.

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For all three sites, demand from the respective clubs, Broomley CC, Ibstock Town CC and Long Whatton CC is the main reason for the overplay, although Broomley CC square is rated as standard which impacts its overall capacity.

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 grass wicket 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 Saturday and Sunday and eight matches for midweek junior teams).

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 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.

Table 6.25: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday) in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Donington/Kegworth	12	-13	-1	-	-
Coalville	-	-13	-13	-	-
Ibstock	-	-11	-11	-	-
Measham	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12	-37	-25	96	-121

As seen in the table above, there is overplay of grass wicket squares in North West Leicestershire on Saturday's amounting to 25 match equivalent sessions per season. This is located in the Castle Donington/Kegworth Coalville and Ibstock analysis areas.

After considering future demand of eight senior men's team derived from population growth, the Authority wide shortfall worsens significantly to 121 MES of overplay. As the future demand has not been broken down by Analysis Area it has been applied to the entire Authority.

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.

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Table 6.26: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Sunday cricket in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	24	-	24	-	-
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	24	13	11	-	-
Coalville	12	13	-1	-	-
Ibstock	-	11	-11	-	-
Measham	-	-	-	-	-
Total	60	37	23	12	11

As seen in the table above, there is a current overall spare capacity of grass wicket squares in North West Leicestershire on Sunday's amounting to 23 match equivalent sessions per season.

After considering future demand of one senior women's team derived from population growth, the Authority wide actual spare capacity reduces to 11 match equivalent sessions per season. As the future demand has not been broken down by analysis area it has been applied to the entire District.

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 6.27: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for midweek cricket in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	30	-	30	-	-
Castle Donington/Kegworth	60	13	47	-	-
Coalville	30	13	17	-	-
Ibstock	-	11	-11	-	-
Measham	6	-	6	-	-
Total	126	37	89	42	47

As seen in the table above, there is a current spare capacity of grass wicket squares in North West Leicestershire for midweek cricket amounting to 89 match equivalent sessions per season, despite a shortfall in the Ibstock Analysis Area.

After considering future demand derived from population growth, the spare capacity lessens to 47 match equivalent sessions per season once the growth of six junior boys' and one junior girls' teams is accounted for.

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6.6: Conclusion

Based on the supply and demand analysis provided above, there are shortfalls of natural turf cricket squares to meet demand within North West Leicestershire. When broken down and assessing each analysis area, there is overplay within Castle Donington/Kegworth, Coalville and Ibstock analysis areas.

Table 6.28: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares summary in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	12	37	-25	96	-121
Sunday	60	37	23	12	11
Midweek	126	37	89	42	47

When looking at the peak periods, there is currently an insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet demand especially in the case of Saturday cricket, this is as a result of overplayed sites whereas actual spare capacity exists for additional Sunday and midweek demand. When factoring in future demand, shortfalls for Saturday cricket worsen significantly and spare capacity is reduced but still present for Sunday and Midweek cricket albeit minimal in the case of Sunday.

In comparison to the previous study completed in 2017, the picture for cricket remains the same with shortfalls for the Saturday peak period. In addition, there is exported demand from North West Leicestershire, which is likely to want to return, this will be explored further in the Strategy & Action Plan.

The subsequent Strategy and Action Plan will provide scenarios and recommendations for how best to alleviate these shortfalls, accommodate exported demand and ensure appropriate provision for cricket exists for the future in North West Leicestershire.

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- Based on the supply and demand analysis, there are shortfalls of natural turf cricket squares to meet demand within North West Leicestershire. When broken down and assessing each analysis area, there is overplay within Castle Donington/Kegworth, Coalville and Ibstock analysis areas.
- When looking at the peak periods, there is currently an insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet demand especially in the case of Saturday cricket, this is as a result of overplayed sites whereas actual spare capacity exists for additional Sunday and midweek demand.

Cricket – supply summary

- In total, there are ten grass wicket cricket squares in North West Leicestershire across ten sites all of which are available for community use.
- There are also seven non-turf pitches (NTPs) across North West Leicestershire all of which are also available for community use. Of these, four accompany grass wicket squares, whilst the remaining three are standalone NTPs.
- Both the Castle Donington/Kegworth and Coalville analysis areas have the greatest number of squares with three each (30%), the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area has two squares (20%), whilst the Ibstock and Measham analysis areas have one square each (10%).
- Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, it has been identified that two sites formerly provided grass cricket provision with one square each at Ashby School (Range Road Playing Fields) and Long Whatton Cricket Club. It should be noted that the latter still has one active square onsite.
- The position in North West Leicestershire is that all clubs operate with security of tenure at their respective grounds.

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- ◀ The audit of grass wicket squares in North West Leicestershire found eight (80%) squares to be good quality and two (20%) to be standard quality. No squares are rated as poor quality within North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the quality of squares across North West Leicestershire has improved, with the poor quality square at Western Park eradicated as well as an increase to five good quality squares.
- ◀ In relation to NTPs across North West Leicestershire, four are assessed as good quality and three are assessed as poor quality, no NTPs are rated as standard quality within the District.
- ◀ In total, seven sites supply a total of 13 fixed-lane practice net provision.

Cricket – demand summary

- ◀ There are ten clubs in North West Leicestershire which collectively provide 61 teams. When broken down this equates to 32 senior men's, three senior women's, 22 junior boys and four junior girls' team.
- ◀ Ibstock CC is the largest club within the District with 12 teams, whilst Castle Donington CC and Packington CC are the smallest with one senior men's team each.
- ◀ Coalville Analysis Area accommodates the most demand with 17 (29%) teams identified. The area with the least amount of cricket demand is the Measham Analysis Area with eight teams (14%).
- ◀ Since the previous PPOSS was completed in 2017, the overall number of teams has increased by eight representing a 14% increase. Half of this figure is represented by a growth of women's and girl's demand with the increase of two senior women's teams and two junior girls' teams.
- ◀ The total amount of future demand based on ONS population projections is anticipated to equate to eight senior men's, one senior women's, six junior boys' and one junior girl's teams.

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PART 7: TENNIS

7.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis as well as Padel and administers the sport locally across North West Leicestershire. The LTA has recently restructured its strategic approach to target a number of national focus areas, with a priority on developing park sites, covered courts, sports lighting and Padel courts.

Consultation

Three tennis clubs have been identified within North West Leicestershire. Of these clubs, Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs have responded to consultation requests, resulting in a 67% response rate. Kegworth TC has been unresponsive to consultation requests.

Table 7.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	Yes
Kegworth Tennis Club	No
Oaks & District Tennis Club	Yes

7.2: Supply

There are 32 tennis courts identified in North West Leicestershire across 12 sites. Of these, 31 courts across 10 sites are available for community use (the court at St Hardulph's C of E Primary School is unavailable for community use).

The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area contains the most courts with 12 (39%) whilst the Ibstock Analysis Area has the least number of courts with two (5%). The Measham Analysis Area has no courts.

Table 7.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

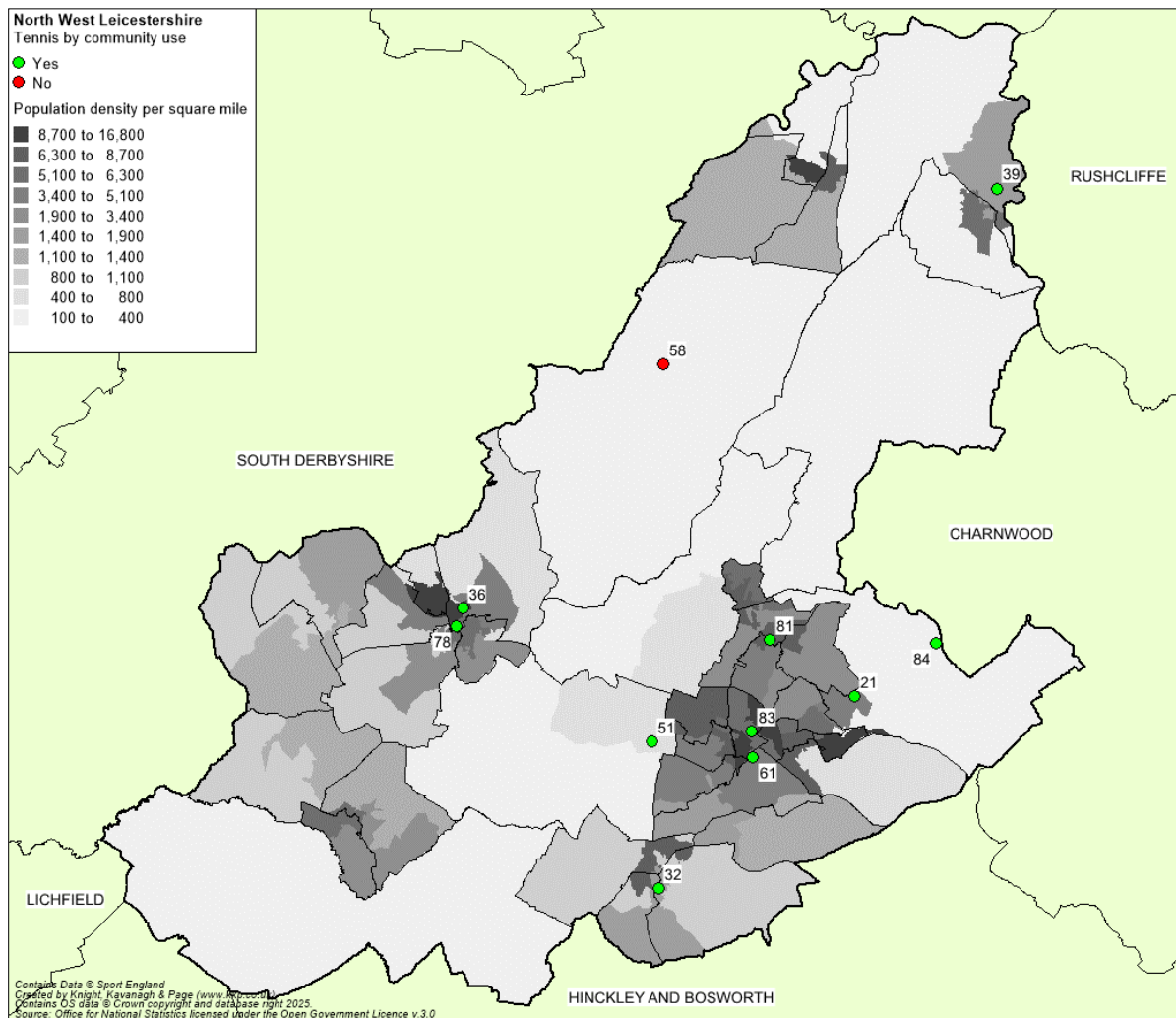
Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use	Total
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	12	-	12
Castle Donington/Kegworth	6	1	7
Coalville	11	-	11
Ibstock	2	-	2
Measham	-	-	-
Total	31	1	32

Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both).

The mapping below identifies the location of the courts currently servicing North West Leicestershire. For a key to this, see Table 7.3.

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Figure 7.1: Location of tennis courts in North West Leicestershire



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Table 7.3: Summary of provision site by site

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Overmarked?	Sports lit?	Court type
21	Castle Rock High School	LE67 4BR	Coalville	Education	Yes	2	No	No	Macadam
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	LE67 6NE	Ibstock	Council	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Artificial Turf
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Education	Yes	4	No	No	Macadam
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	DE74 2FH	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Council	Yes	3	No	Yes	Macadam
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	LE67 2AU	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Council	Yes	1	No	No	Macadam
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	DE73 8AN	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Education	No	1	No	No	Macadam
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Education	Yes	5	No	No	Macadam
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	LE65 1BQ	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Sport Club	Yes	4	No	Yes	Artificial Turf
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	LE65 1BQ	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Sport Club	Yes	3	No	Yes	Clay
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	LE67 5HA	Coalville	Council	Yes	2	No	No	Macadam
83	Coalville Park	LE67 3JB	Coalville	Council	Yes	2	No	No	Macadam
84	Oaks & District Tennis Club	LE12 9YD	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Sport Club	Yes	3	No	Yes	Macadam

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Disused provision

Ashby School and Sixth Form previous provided five poor quality sports lit courts, although in April of 2025 these were resurfaced to four sports lit netball courts.

Future developments

As part of the PPOSS process, the feasibility of establishing a bespoke sporting hub site within the locality of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was explored. This included the relocation of clubs from their current sites to one dedicated facility.

Regarding tennis, Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club did not indicate any aspirations to relocate from its main site. This will be explored in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

It should be noted that an initial planning application REF: 24/00732/FULM has been submitted for the rebuild of Castle Rock School which includes the creation of three new tennis and netball courts. It is unknown at this stage whether these will be sports lit and available for community use.

Ownership and management

Across North West Leicestershire, ownership and management of tennis courts is varied; education sites have the most with 12 (38%), whilst the remaining courts are split between the Council and sports clubs with ten each (31%). In the case of Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs, both clubs own its respective courts. The position for Kegworth Tennis Club is currently unknown.

The unavailable court located at St Hardulph's C of E Primary School is managed by an education provider.

Table 7.4: Summary of court ownership within North West Leicestershire

Community use?	Sports club	Council	Education
Available	10	10	9
Unavailable	-	-	1
Total	10	10	12

Court type

Within North West Leicestershire 23 courts (72%) have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. The LTA reports that this should cost £1,200 a year per macadam court (which includes on-going maintenance costs).

The remaining courts consist of six (19%) with an artificial turf surface and three (9%) offering clay. Such provision generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

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. In fact, the LTA reports that sports lighting allows for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

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In North West Leicestershire, 10 (31%) of tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, with all courts across four sites available for community use as seen in Table 7.3. The largest number of sports-lit courts fall within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area with seven (47%), whereas the Ibstock Analysis Area has the least number of sports lit courts with two (13%).

Table 7.5: Summary of the number of courts which have sports lighting by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts which have sports lighting	No. of courts which don't have sports lighting
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2	10
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	6	1
Coalville	-	11
Ibstock	2	-
Measham	-	-
Total	10	22

Nationally, access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key at parks and club sites as it allows for more usage of provision. In North West Leicestershire, all three clubs have access to sports-lit courts.

Regarding Council owned/managed provision a total of five out of ten courts are sports lit. These are located at Ibstock Leisure Complex (Ibstock Analysis Area) and King George V Playing Field (Castle Donington/ Kegworth). There are no sport lit Council courts in the remaining analysis areas of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Coalville and Measham.

Additionally, no school courts across North West Leicestershire are currently serviced by sports lighting, with this being a key reason as to why many are unavailable for community.

Over marking

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 level 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.

Across North West Leicestershire, only two courts are overmarked by basketball, netball and/or 5-a-side provision, with these located at Ibstock Leisure Complex, however, these are not used to accommodate any club demand.

Quality

The quality of tennis courts is informed through non-technical site assessments carried out in August 2025 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 such as vandalism and littering (for the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2).

In North West Leicestershire, 15 (47%) courts are assessed as good quality, 17 (53%) rated as standard quality courts. No courts are rated as poor quality.

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Table 7.6: Summary of tennis court quality

Community available	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	15	16	-
Unavailable	-	1	-
Total	15	17	-

The good quality courts include all three clubs in North West Leicestershire, which reflects that maintenance is often more regular and sophisticated at club-based sites. Good quality courts are also located at Coalville Park.

For a detailed breakdown of quality at each site with tennis courts, please see the table below.

Table 7.7: Site by site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of courts	Court quality
21	Castle Rock High School	Coalville	Yes	2	Standard
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	Ibstock	Yes	2	Standard
36	Ivanhoe School	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	4	Standard
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Yes	3	Good
51	Ravenstone Recreation Ground	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	1	Standard
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	No	1	Standard
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	Yes	5	Standard
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	4	Good
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	3	Good
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	Coalville	Yes	2	Standard
83	Coalville Park	Coalville	Yes	2	Good
84	Oaks & District Tennis Club	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	Yes	3	Good

Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club states that it has a plan to resurface and repair its courts on a rolling program, with the Club securing funding via membership loans, small grants applications and a sinking fund. In addition, the Club received a grant from Sport England to aid with this project.

Renovation fund⁶²

The LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into park tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

³²[Renovation Fund for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](https://www.lta.org.uk)

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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.

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme³³

The LTA's mission is to grow tennis and padel by making them accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide interest-free loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts. The objectives of the fund are to:

- ◀ Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- ◀ Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- ◀ Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- ◀ Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
- ◀ Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an [online booking system](#)

As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

- ◀ Lighting upgrades to LED (outdoor and indoor).
- ◀ New sports lights.
- ◀ New court provision.
- ◀ Outdoor padel courts.
- ◀ Covered padel (courts and cover).
- ◀ Covered tennis courts.

Ancillary provision

For club-based tennis, the ancillary facilities provided are generally of a standard/ good quality, with neither of the responding clubs reporting any significant issues. Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs both state that the supporting pavilions have changing rooms available with these also suitable for female participation.

Oaks & District TC states that it has some issues in relation to parking, with it situated in a rural area access is limited. Similarly, Ashby Castle states that its parking situation can be an issue due to a limited number of spaces at the site, notwithstanding this a public car park is available for overflow.

LTA Youth provision

LTA Youth provides children with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. It utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. This has five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ◀ Blue: Learn the Basics – tennis lessons for ages 4-6.
- ◀ Red: Serve, Rally and Score – tennis lessons for ages 6-8.
- ◀ Orange: Develop a Rounded Game - tennis lessons for ages 8-9.

³³ [Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](#)

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- ◀ Green: Test your Skills - tennis lessons for ages 9-10.
- ◀ Yellow: Take your Skills Further – tennis lessons for ages 10+.

Within North West Leicestershire, no youth provision is provided although it should also be noted that full size courts can also be used via the use of temporary markings and/or cones.

Padel

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

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, 350 in 2023 with 500 courts in 2024. There is a projected growth of 1,000 courts in 2026. It is therefore envisaged that, with growing infrastructure, participation in padel will increase significantly in the next five years.

Since 2021, the LTA has invested £6 million to grow padel infrastructure and in 2023 129,000 players were reportedly playing padel. Building on from this, LTA has outlined a Padel Strategy (2024-2029). The key objectives are to:

- ◀ Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population, interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation.
- ◀ Increase the number of annual padel players from 129,000 to 400,000, and monthly players from 65,000 to 200,000.
- ◀ Increase the number of padel courts from 350 to 1,000.
- ◀ Grow the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700.
- ◀ Enable 10 players to break into the top 200 and two players into the top 100 and inspire the padel audience.

The LTA states that padel court development at leisure centre sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model. Furthermore, it identifies that they can benefit clubs and particularly those that may be otherwise struggling due to the additional revenue that they can provide.

Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging clubs or operators to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of tennis courts remains sufficient.

There are currently no padel tennis courts within North West Leicestershire, the nearest courts are in Charnwood at Loughborough University.

Indoor provision

Whilst not included within the scope of this study, it is recognised that tennis activity also takes place via indoor provision, particularly in sports halls and outside of summer months. More information in relation to this can be found in the Built Sports Facilities Strategy which is being undertaken in conjunction with the PPOSS.

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Notwithstanding the above, Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club has expressed its desire to access covered/ indoor tennis courts to accommodate training and fixture demand during the winter months.

7.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There are three tennis clubs within North West Leicestershire, across all clubs where known, membership totals 418 representing a moderate level of demand with Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club as the largest within the District. In the case of Ashby Castle and Kegworth tennis clubs, a breakdown of senior and junior membership is unknown.

Table 7.8: Summary of club membership

Name of club	Number of members		
	Seniors	Juniors	Total
Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	374
Kegworth Tennis Club	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
Oaks & District Tennis Club	42	2	44
Total	42	2³⁴	418

Participation trends

Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club states that it has seen increases in its club-specific demand within the last few years, stating membership figures have increased due to word of mouth and its high standard of coaching. Elsewhere, Oaks & District Tennis Club states that its senior membership has remained the same, whilst junior membership has decreased which the Club reports is due to the loss of its junior coach.

Informal and parks tennis

Across North West Leicestershire, Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club allow for pay and play usage of their courts from non-members.

Away from clubs, community usage can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored. 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.

To help grow the use of tennis courts, the LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities and other providers by removing key barriers to participation. This is via three products known as ClubSpark, LTA Play and Gate Access. In North West Leicestershire, these are in place at the following sites.

- ◆ Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club.
- ◆ Coalville Park.
- ◆ Ravenstone Recreation Ground.
- ◆ Whitwick Park.

Each product is further summarised below.

³⁴ Limited breakdown of membership available for Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club

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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.

LTA Play

LTA Play 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.

LTA Play 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.

Smart Access

The LTA has developed two Smart Access 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.

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.

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Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which results in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

Parks tennis leagues

Parks 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 run by Local Tennis Leagues and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. 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. In North West Leicestershire, there are no Park Tennis Leagues that takes place currently.

Free Parks Tennis

Free Park Tennis is a new programme for all park tennis operators, offering people the chance to play tennis for free and providing an entry point for more players to get involved in the sport. This has been developed due to the following needs:

- ◀ Player Trends:
 - ◀ 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park.
 - ◀ The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family.
- ◀ Barriers:
 - ◀ 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis.
 - ◀ 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often.
 - ◀ 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable.
 - ◀ 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players.
 - ◀ 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis.

The key points of the sessions are:

- ◀ Free for all players to book and attend.
- ◀ Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators.
- ◀ Sessions should run all year round (weather depending).
- ◀ Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am.

Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites (a three court site can have up to 34 players attending). The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.

Within North West Leicestershire, there are currently no free parks tennis offerings.

LTA Youth Programmes

The LTA provides children with the perfect 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 five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ◀ Blue Stage: Age 4-6 – learn the basics.
- ◀ Red Stage: Age 6-8 – serve, rally and score.
- ◀ Orange Stage: Age 8-9 – develop a rounded game.
- ◀ Green Stage: Age 9-10 – test your skills.
- ◀ Yellow Stage: Age 10+ - take your skills further.

Within North West Leicestershire no mini tennis courts have been identified, sessions may also be running on full size courts elsewhere, particularly at club sites.

Padel

In 2022, 90,000 people reportedly play padel more than once a year in England - a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 data (15,000). This then reportedly increased to 129,000 players in 2023, exemplifying the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

Building on from the above, LTA has outlined a Padel Strategy (2024-2029). The key demand objectives are to:

- ◀ Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population, interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation.
- ◀ Increase the number of annual padel players from 129,000 to 400,000, and monthly players from 65,000 to 200,000.
- ◀ Grow the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700.
- ◀ Enable 10 players to break into the World top 200 and two players into the top 100 and inspire the padel audience.

Despite the above, there are currently no padel courts in North West Leicestershire, meaning no activity is taking place. However, that is not to say that there is no demand. Several operators have aspirations to establish provision and this would likely result in significant usage when considering national and regional trends. 109,075

Furthermore, to assist local authorities in strategically planning padel provision, the LTA has established, by authority, the number of padel courts that can be sustained based on population density and padel demand. In North West Leicestershire, this identifies a need for four courts, which is based on 20% of the population (21,815) being interested in padel (taken from a YouGov survey), penetration levels of 4%, and one court being able to accommodate up to 200 players.

The figures provided form a start point for conversation and strategic planning. It does not mean that the suggested number should be seen as a cap, but that the has LTA confidence that there is sufficient demand for the number of courts identified. Some areas where the sport is more established will create higher levels of demand.

The above also only represents the first stage in strategic planning for padel by local authority boundary. The second phase is to begin to look at potential locations and the demography of the catchment and how they overlay, which will in many instances cut across boundary lines.

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Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally 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 were addressed.

Furthermore, the LTA conducted some research to understand how the public feels about tennis and the main barriers to accessing the sport. The research was split into club, community and education sectors, with headline findings as follows:

- ◀ Around five million people play once per year with the majority of this in parks.
- ◀ 46% of tennis played by those 14 years is on park courts.
- ◀ 80% of those that do not play tennis but would like to see parks as their first option.
- ◀ Barriers preventing use of courts located in parks include the quality of the courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play.
- ◀ Demand for tennis amongst those who stopped playing in the last five years is from 14 upwards.
- ◀ Although there is demand for tennis amongst working class individuals, the highest latent demand is from upper middle, middle and lower middle classes.

Further research carried out by the LTA also suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase demand.

Notwithstanding the above, the responding 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. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand in North West Leicestershire. This suggests that the latent demand identified through other methods is for non-club activity, or that other barriers aside from club facilities are preventing usage.

Future demand

In the case of future demand within the District, through consultation it was identified that both Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs wish to grow the number of members within the respective clubs. Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club quantifies this growth as 20 members, ten of both senior and junior members, whilst Oaks & District Tennis Club wishes to increase by 40 members, equating to 20 seniors and 20 junior 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. To ensure that this can be met, it is imperative that the facility stock, particularly at park sites, is of an adequate quantity and quality.

Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)

The Sports Facility Calculator helps quantify additional demand for community sports facilities and is generated by new growth populations, development, and regeneration areas. It is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension.

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Table 7.9: Sports Facility Calculator summary

Factor	Population 2022	Population 2042
ONS population projections	104,794	137,239
Population increase	-	32,445
Facilities to meet change in demand	-	4.19

*based on Q3 2022 build costs

Calculations assume that the current tennis court stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. The projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for tennis courts. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 4.19 courts, up to 2042.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

For club-based tennis, the LTA suggests that non-sports lit courts can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas courts 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 current demand.

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Table 7.10: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club users	No. of courts	Court type	No. of sports lit courts	Capacity (members)	Current demand (members)	Current capacity balance (members)	Future demand (members)	Future capacity balance (members)
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Kegworth TC	3	Macadam	3	180	<i>Unknown</i>	-	<i>Unknown</i>	-
78	Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Ashby Castle LTC	7	Artificial turf (4) Clay (3)	7	420	374	46	20	26
84	Oaks & District Tennis Club	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Oaks & District TC	3	Macadam	3	180	44	136	40	96

As seen in the table above, there is a sufficient supply of tennis courts within North West Leicestershire across two of the club sites where membership is known to accommodate current demand, with overall spare capacity existing for each when accounting for quantified future demand.

For non-club courts, capacity is more difficult to determine as exact demand levels are not known. However, in North West Leicestershire, quality is comparatively good to other authorities, although it is clear that usage will be being impacted upon by several factors. Primarily, those that are provided and are not serviced by sports lighting will be limiting capacity with only Ibstock Leisure Complex serviced outside of the three clubs.

There is also likely to be demand for padel that is not being met. This is because no padel courts are currently provided across the District with a total current need for four courts.

7.5: Conclusion

The supply of tennis provision in North West Leicestershire is currently sufficient to meet club-based demand, with no capacity issues identified and capacity existing for growth. However, it is likely that other forms of demand are not being adequately met, particularly given a lack of sports lighting at parks courts particularly at Coalville Park within the Coalville Analysis Area and Ravenstone Recreation Ground within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area.

There is also an absence of padel courts with a need for four courts based on the provided LTA methodology.

Tennis - supply and demand summary

- ◀ The supply of tennis provision in North West Leicestershire is currently sufficient to meet club-based demand, with no capacity issues identified and capacity existing for growth.
- ◀ It is likely that other forms of demand are not being adequately met, particularly given a lack of sports lighting at parks courts particularly at Coalville Park within the Coalville Analysis Area and Ravenstone Recreation Ground within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area.
- ◀ Demand for padel is not being met. This is because no padel courts are currently provided.

Tennis - supply summary

- ◀ There are 32 tennis courts identified in North West Leicestershire across 12 sites. Of these, 31 courts across 10 sites are available for community use (the court at St Hardulph's C of E Primary School is unavailable for community use).
- ◀ The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area contains the most courts with 12 (39%) whilst the Ibstock Analysis Area has the least number of courts with two (5%). The Measham Analysis Area has no courts.
- ◀ Ashby School and Sixth Form previous provided five poor quality sports lit courts, although in April of 2025 these were resurfaced to four sports lit netball courts.
- ◀ There are currently no padel courts provided across North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ It should be noted that an initial planning application REF: 24/00732/FULM has been submitted for the rebuild of Castle Rock School which includes the creation of three new tennis and netball courts.
- ◀ Across North West Leicestershire, ownership and management of tennis courts is varied; education sites have the most with 12 (38%), whilst the remaining courts are split between the Council and sports clubs with ten each (31%).
- ◀ In the case of Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs, both clubs own its respective courts.
- ◀ Within North West Leicestershire 23 courts (72%) have a macadam surface. The remaining courts consist of six (19%) with an artificial turf surface and three (9%) offering clay.
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, 10 (31%) of tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, with all courts across four sites available for community use
- ◀ In North West Leicestershire, 15 (47%) courts are assessed as good quality, 17 (53%) rated as standard quality courts. No courts are rated as poor quality. The good quality courts include all three clubs in North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities are generally good at club sites but problematic at non-club sites.
- ◀ Oaks & District TC states that it has some issues in relation to parking, with it situated in a rural area access is limited. Similarly, Ashby Castle states that its parking situation can be an issue due to a limited number of spaces at the site, notwithstanding this a public car park is available for overflow.

Tennis - demand summary

- ◀ There are three tennis clubs within North West Leicestershire, across all clubs where known, membership totals 418 representing a moderate level of demand with Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club as the largest within the District
- ◀ There is no Parks Tennis League operating in North West Leicestershire currently.
- ◀ No padel usage is taking place due to no courts existing, although take up is likely to be high as and when provision is established with reported demand for four courts existing.

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- ◀ No clubs report any unmet or latent demand, meaning any that does exist is for non-club activity.
- ◀ Ashby Castle and Oaks & District tennis clubs wish to grow the number of members within the respective clubs. Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club quantifies this growth as 20 members, ten of both senior and junior members, whilst Oaks & District Tennis Club wishes to increase by 40 members, equating to 20 seniors and 20 junior members.

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PART 8: NETBALL

8.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body for the sport across England. Levels of participation are quickly increasing, with over 100,000 affiliated members and at least 1 million women and girls playing during a typical week. Its aim is to provide its members and partners with the best possible service and experience in sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided 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 and a lack of sports lighting can also be problematic.

Consultation

Several netball clubs have been identified as operating outdoors in North West Leicestershire. Consultation with these clubs and England Netball as well as desk based research has been used to inform this section of the report.

8.2: Supply

In total, there are 27 outdoor netball courts located across 15 sites in North West Leicestershire. Of these, 15 courts across six sites are open to community access, representing 56% of all outdoor courts. Tables 8.1 and 8.2 below, outline the total supply of provision within North West Leicestershire with these mapped in Figure 8.1.

The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area provides 11 community use courts which also has the majority of unavailable courts. Elsewhere, the Castle Donington/Kegworth Analysis Area has the least amount of courts whilst the Measham Analysis Area does not have any courts.

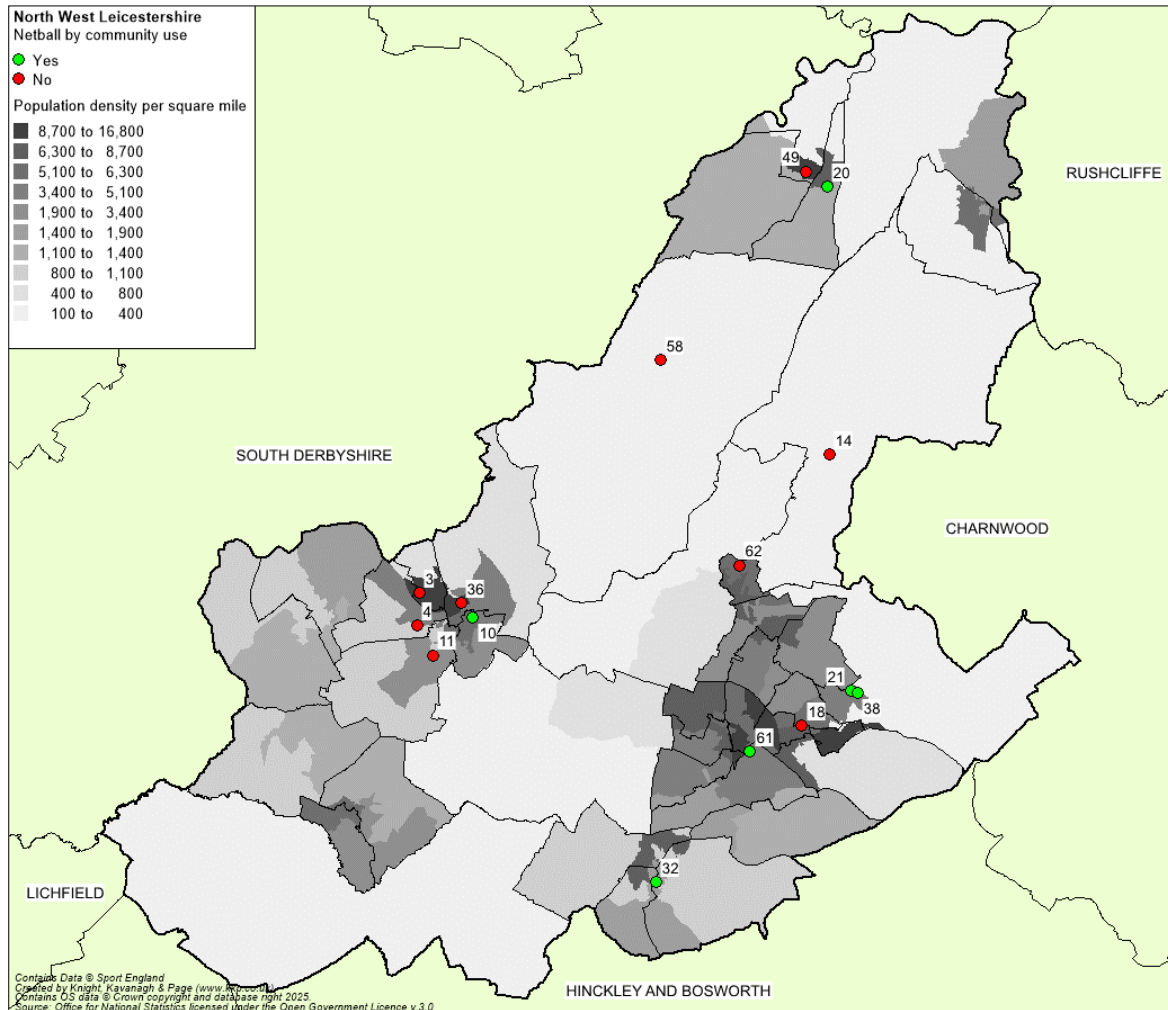
Table 8.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	4	7
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2	3
Coalville	7	2
Ibstock	2	-
Measham	-	-
Total	15	12

Figure 8.1 below shows the location of the courts servicing North West Leicestershire, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 8.3.

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Figure 8.1: Overview of netball court locations



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Table 8.2: Summary of supply

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	No. of courts	Sports lit?	Court type
3	Ashby Hastings Primary School	LE65 2AX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
4	Ashby Hill Top Primary School	LE65 2NF	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	LE65 1DD	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Yes	Education	4	Yes	Macadam
11	Ashby Willesley County Primary School	LE65 2QG	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
14	Belton Church of England Primary School	LE12 9TS	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
18	Broom Leys Primary School	LE67 4DB	Coalville	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
20	Castle Donington College	DE74 2LN	Castle Donington /Kegworth	Yes	Education	2	No	Macadam
21	Castle Rock High School	LE67 4BR	Coalville	Yes	Education	2	No	Macadam
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	LE67 6NE	Ibstock	Yes	Council	2	Yes	Artificial turf
36	Ivanhoe School	LE65 1HX	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	No	Education	4	No	Macadam
38	King Edward VII Science and Sports College	LE67 4UW	Coalville	Yes	Education	2	No	Macadam
49	Orchard Community Primary School	DE74 2QU	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	DE73 8AN	Castle Donington/ Kegworth	No	Education	1	No	Macadam
61	The Newbridge School	LE67 3SJ	Coalville	Yes	Education	3	No	Macadam
62	Thringstone Primary School	LE67 8LJ	Coalville	No	Education	1	No	Macadam

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Disused provision

Castle Donington College previously had a third court; however, this was lost due to the recent development of a college building.

Future developments

As part of the PPOSS process, the feasibility of establishing a bespoke sporting hub site within the locality of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was explored. This included the relocation of clubs from their current sites to one dedicated facility.

From a netball perspective Ashby Netball Club did not indicate any aspirations to relocate from its main site at Ashby School and Sixth Form. This will be explored in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

It should be noted that an initial planning application REF: 24/00732/FULM has been submitted for the rebuild of Castle Rock School which includes the creation of three new tennis and netball courts. It is unknown at this stage whether these will be sports lit and available for community use.

Overmarking

Whilst it does help with usage levels and sustainability, an issue for netball nationally is that many of its courts are dual use tennis courts. This limits accessibility (especially during the summer when tennis nets are often permanently in place) and can impact on quality due to higher levels of wear and tear. More often than not, are overmarked with tennis markings and multi-use facilities. Of the courts across North West Leicestershire, only the two courts at Ibstock Leisure Complex are overmarked with tennis courts.

Surface type

Across North West Leicestershire, 25 (93%) of the 27 courts have a macadam surface, the estimated lifespan of a macadam court and an artificial court is 10 years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. The two courts at Ibstock Leisure Complex are artificial turf.

Management

Across North West Leicestershire most courts are managed in house by education sites equating to 25 (93%) of the 27 courts. The two courts at Ibstock Leisure Complex are managed by the Council.

Sports lighting

Outdoor netball courts that are serviced by sports lighting enable all year round evening use, thus allowing outdoor winter netball activity to take place as well as the more common summer netball activity. In North West Leicestershire six courts are sports-lit which are located at Ashby School and Sixth Form (four) and Ibstock Leisure Complex (two). Ashby School and Sixth Form report it is in the process of submitting a planning application to allow the usage of its lighting until 21:30 to allow greater community useage.

An absence of sports lighting on courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are with sports lighting throughout the Country (38%). This percentage is significantly higher than in North West Leicestershire, where 15% of courts are serviced.

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Quality

The quality of netball courts across North Leicestershire has been assessed via a combination of site visits completed in August 2024 (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good.
- ◀ Standard.
- ◀ Poor.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments are as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (70-80%), Poor (<70%).

Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of netball and therefore the non-technical assessment (and consultation agreements) assesses several factors which evidence court quality. The criteria for the non-technical assessment consists of; court surface grip underfoot, damage to a court surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size.

As can be seen in the table below, most netball provision in North West Leicestershire is standard quality. However, of the 14 accessible courts, seven are good quality (26%), 19 are of a standard quality (70%) and one poor quality court (4%). The poor quality courts are deemed so due to issues such as poor grip underfoot, damaged surfaces and a general need for surface replacements.

Table 8.3: Quality summary

Site ID	Site name	No. of courts	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Quality
3	Ashby Hastings Primary School	1	No	No	Standard
4	Ashby Hill Top Primary School	1	No	No	Standard
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	4	Yes	Yes	Good
11	Ashby Willesley County Primary School	1	No	No	Good
14	Belton Church of England Primary School	1	No	No	Poor
18	Broom Leys Primary School	1	No	No	Standard
20	Castle Donington College	2	Yes	No	Good
21	Castle Rock High School	2	Yes	No	Standard
32	Ibstock Leusre Complex	2	Yes	Yes	Standard
36	Ivanhoe School	4	No	No	Standard
38	King Edward VII Science and Sports College	2	Yes	No	Standard
49	Orchard Community Primary School	1	No	No	Standard
58	St Hardulphs C of E Primary School	1	No	No	Standard
61	The Newbridge School	3	Yes	No	Standard
62	Thringstone Primary School	1	No	No	Standard

Ancillary facilities

Nationally, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic for community netball. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are generally not specific for netball and are often 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 then also be limited, even at sites that allow for community use as this may entail opening the main school buildings.

Indoor provision

Whilst not included within the scope of this study, it is recognised that netball activity also takes places via indoor provision, particularly in sports halls and outside of summer months. More information in relation to this and demand information can be found in the Built Sports Facilities Strategy which is being undertaken in conjunction with the PPOSS.

8.3: Demand

There are several netball clubs that access outdoor provision in North West Leicestershire; the following responded to consultation requests:

Ashby Netball Club – a large club which currently has 216 members and accommodates both junior and senior teams. It delivers training sessions at several schools, including Ivanhoe School and Ashby School and Sixth Form. The Club also access provision outside of the District at Grandville Academy (South Derbyshire) and Repton School (South Derbyshire).

Winter training is held inside, whereas summer training occurs outdoors across all sites. It competes in several leagues including the NWL Netball League, Burton Netball League and the Loughborough Netball League.

Castle Donington Netball Club – founded in 2018 has one team. It trains on a Monday evening for one hour. In the winter it travels to Long Eaton to train in a sports hall and in the summer (April – August) it trains on the outdoor courts at Castle Donington College. It reports that in the summer it typically has 25 members and in winter it struggles with ten players (reportedly due to the additional travel requirements). All matches are played at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre.

It wishes to grow but is hindered by the lack of available (indoor and outdoor) netball courts. It aspires to develop a junior section; however, there are insufficient facilities available to accommodate this. There used to be three outdoor courts at Castle Donington College on which it played, however the recent development means that only two outdoor courts are now available.

Whitwick Netball Club – is based at Castle Rock School and runs three senior ladies' teams which compete in the NWL Netball League. It delivers one club session every Wednesday, along with a Walking Netball and Back to Netball session on the same night. It uses the indoor facilities all year round. It is hoping to expand the sessions once the new netball courts which are part of the new planned development are in place at Castle Rock School (in 2026). These plans include three netball/tennis outdoor courts.

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Sence Valley Netball Club – is based in Ibstock at Ibstock Leisure Complex. It was founded in 2002 by a group of friends and offers fun and competitive opportunities. It offers netball for mixed abilities and runs two teams which compete in the Loughborough Town Netball League. It offers training sessions from August to May on Wednesday evenings. Its first team competes in the premier division and the 2nd team in division three.

Measham Netball Club – is based at Ibstock Leisure Complex. It trains on Monday evenings and has matches on Sundays. It runs two teams which compete in the NWL Netball League. It is currently actively recruiting new players.

Coalville Fireflies Netball Club - is an affiliated club which was established from a Back to Netball session. It has an adult section and a legends (over 40) section. They play in the NWL League and the Loughborough Town League and enter local competitions. Training takes place on a Tuesday at Newbridge High School. It is actively recruiting new players. It competes at County level.

Papura Netball Club – is an affiliated adult club based at Castle Rock School. It is an adult club competing in local leagues. It trains on a Tuesday evening. It is actively recruiting new players.

NWL Netball League – operates every Sunday at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, using the main 8 court hall. It currently caters for 36 teams, with limited scope to increase this number due to court availability. It reports a need for more court time at the centre, ideally on a Saturday to be able to meet demand.

Upgrades took place on the four sportslit outdoor courts at Ashby School and Sixth Form with a new surface and improved lighting making it available for the community to use in the evenings. The League is interested in hiring these.

Additional demand

Play Netball

Play Netball is Britain's largest social netball league provider and arranges fixtures, league tables, umpires, netballs and bibs so players can focus on playing. People can join as individuals to find a team, a group to join the same team or produce their own team of 7 or 10 people.

There are no Play Netball sessions identified within North West Leicestershire, with the nearest session taking place in Charnwood at Humphrey Perkins School.

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.

Two 'Back 2 Netball' sessions are being delivered in North West Leicestershire. One at Ashby Leisure Centre (in partnership with Ashby Netball Club) and one at Castle Rock School (in partnership with Whitwick Netball Club).

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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.

Similar to the 'Back 2 Netball' sessions, two walking netball sessions are delivered in partnership with Whitwick Netball Club at Castle Rock School every Wednesday evening, utilising the second sports hall at the site and another is run at Ashby Leisure Centre in partnership with Ashby Netball Club.

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 identified within North West Leicestershire.

Bee Netball

Bee Netball is a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and teamwork. However, there are no sessions identified within North West Leicestershire.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

Table 8.4: Summary of existing sports lit community use supply

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of courts	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Quality
10	Ashby School and Sixth Form	Ashby-de-la Zouch	4	Yes	Yes	Good
20	Castle Donington College	Castle Donington/Kegworth	2	Yes	No	Good
21	Castle Rock High School	Coalville	2	Yes	No	Standard
32	Ibstock Leisure Complex	Ibstock	2	Yes	Yes	Standard
38	King Edward VII Science and Sports College	Coalville	2	Yes	No	Standard
61	The Newbridge School	Coalville	3	Yes	No	Standard

As can be seen in Table 8.4 there are 15 community use netball courts within North West Leicestershire provided across six sites. Six courts are assessed as good quality and nine are standard quality. Six courts across the district are sports lit at Ashby School and Sixth Form and Ibstock Leisure Complex.

8.5: Conclusion

Within North West Leicestershire, there is a significant demand for outdoor netball with seven clubs and one league accessing the provision identified in the table above. Whilst there are a good amount of community available courts the number of these which are sports lit is low in comparison. This is likely to be limiting the access to courts in the evenings during winter months for some clubs which may cause a barrier to participation and stop the sport from growing across the District.

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The subsequent Strategy & Action Plan provides scenarios and recommendations for increasing sports lighting at community available courts in North West Leicestershire.

Netball – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Within North West Leicestershire, there is a significant demand for outdoor netball with seven clubs and one league.
- ◀ Whilst there are a good amount of community available courts the number of these which are sports lit is low in comparison.

Netball – Supply summary:

- ◀ In total, there are 27 outdoor netball courts located across 15 sites in North West Leicestershire. Of these, 15 courts across six sites are open to community access, representing 56% of all outdoor courts.
- ◀ Across North West Leicestershire, 25 (93%) of the 27 courts have a macadam surface.
- ◀ Across North West Leicestershire most courts are managed in house by education sites equating to 25 (93%) of the 27 courts.
- ◀ most netball provision in North West Leicestershire is standard quality. However, of the 14 accessible courts, seven are good quality (26%), 19 are of a standard quality (70%) and one poor quality court (4%).

Netball – Demand summary:

- ◀ There are several netball clubs (Ashby / Castle Donington / Whitwick / Sence Valley / Measham / Coalville Fireflies and Papura) that access outdoor provision in North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ NWL Netball League – operates every Sunday at Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre, using the main 8 court hall. It currently caters for 36 teams, with limited scope to increase this number due to court availability. It reports a need for more court time at the centre, ideally on a Saturday to be able to meet demand.

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PART 9: ATHLETICS

9.1: Introduction

England Athletics (EA) is the not-for-profit membership and development body responsible for grassroots athletics and running in England. EA supports 1,750 affiliated clubs and organisations (covering track and field, road running, fell, hill, trail and cross-country clubs), 147,000 registered athletes, 18,700 licensed coaches and leaders, 3,800 officials and 6.2m regular running participants. EA's Athletics purpose is to inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport. Their vision is for athletics and running to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.

Consultation

Based on England Athletics (EA) affiliation data there are three clubs in North West Leicestershire namely, Coalville Triathlon Club, Hermitage Harriers and Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club. Attempts were made, with assistance from England Athletics, to consult with the club with only Coalville Triathlon Club responding to an online survey. It should be noted that the number of clubs has increased since the previous PPS in 2017 which only identified Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club.

9.2: Supply

North West Leicestershire currently has no formal athletics facilities with the closest traditional 400m tracks in surround areas such as Loughborough University (Paula Radcliffe Stadium) in Charnwood, Saffron Lane Stadium in Leicester and at The Pingles Stadium in Nuneaton.

EA indicate that most of the athletics demand (72%) in North West Leicestershire is within a 30 minute drive time of a facility which is within a recommended drive time catchment area for rural areas. The District is also serviced well by indoor athletics provision at Harvey Hadden Stadium (Nottingham) and Loughborough University.

As a result of the above, EA suggest that there is no need for a traditional 400metre track, however, has identified North West Leicestershire for a NewGen facility or Active Track.

As part of the PPOSS process, the feasibility of establishing a bespoke sporting hub site within the locality of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was explored. This included the relocation of clubs from their current sites to one dedicated facility.

Although the Club did not respond to consultation, there is evidence that Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club has ambitions to create some form of athletics provision. This could potentially be located at a development within Ashby-de-la-Zouch; however, this will be explored in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

It should be noted that UK Athletics does have a quality assurance known as TrackMark to understand the current quality of 400 metre facilities.

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TrackMark³⁵

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.

Future provision

EA's strategic position is that in most areas of the country there is a sufficient supply of traditional synthetic outdoor 400m tracks to meet club and competition needs and that there should focus on protecting and maintaining this provision. In addition to traditional facilities, EA is keen to support the development of a new generation of innovative athletics & running facilities (NewGen), as well as a country-wide network of indoor athletics facilities developed as part of future indoor multisport projects.

Priority for both NewGen and indoor developments will be given to those areas that sit outside EA's recommended drivetime catchment of existing facilities or where there is additional, demonstrable demand. As detailed earlier, NW Leicestershire is identified for a NewGen facility or Active Track by EA.

NewGen facility concepts

Track & Field (Run/Jump/Throw)

- ◀ **Play Track:** The simple animation of dated playground surfaces using colourful painted lines and markings to (KS1 & KS2) – encouraging participation in run/jump/throw activities by creating challenging and inspiring environments.
- ◀ **CompactTrack:** A sports-lit, multiple lane, synthetic sprint straight with optional jumps and throws provision.
- ◀ **MiniTrack:** A sports-lit synthetic "mini" running oval, with sprint straight, multi-sport "infield" and optional jumps and throws provision.

Recreational Running/Endurance Running/Multi sport

- ◀ **Active Track:** A free to access, macadam running / cycling circuit designed to be sympathetic to the local environment and support the recreational needs of local communities.
- ◀ Ideally lit by low level lighting / solar columns, ActiveTracks can be introduced to existing parks, open spaces and playing fields³⁶ or integrated into the master planning of new housing developments.
- ◀ Sport England Case Study: ActiveTrack: [Sowerby Sports Village](#).

9.3 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.

³⁵ <https://www.uka.org.uk/about/what-we-do/facilities/>

³⁶ It should be noted that Sport England will not support the development of Active Tracks where they conflict with the Playing Field Policy.

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Coalville Triathlon Club

The Club has 25 male, 24 female and one U18s member totalling 50 people and aspires to increase by 15 male, 16 female and 15 juniors. It states participation has increased post Covid running dedicated recruitment sessions. The majority of its demand uses provision at Loughborough Grammar School due to a lack of local provision within Coalville. It has some use of general open space at Ashby School & Sixth Form and Ibstock Leisure Centre, however, references it would prefer for some form of athletics provision to be in Coalville.

Hermitage Harriers

Hermitage Harriers is a friendly and inclusive running club based in Coalville, welcoming runners of all abilities—from beginners to competitive athletes. The Club offers structured weekly training sessions, including Tuesday runs from Whitwick & Coalville Leisure Centre and social Thursday runs from local venues. Members benefit from England Athletics affiliation, race discounts, and access to various social activities such as pub nights, trail runs, and group outings. With over 100 members, Hermitage Harriers combines a supportive community with opportunities for both social and competitive running.

Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club

Ivanhoe Robins Juniors Athletics Club is the junior section of Ivanhoe Runners Club which has a wider running remit and is based at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre.

As there are no athletics tracks within North West Leicestershire the Club uses Newbridge High School Academy as its home base. The Club reports accessing the School's four court sports hall, multi-use games area and multiple grass pitches to meet its current demand.

Based on evidence within the previous study the Club feels it is restricted for future growth due to the fact it does not have local access to a dedicated athletics track. It regularly has to travel 16.3 miles (30 minutes) outside the District to access facilities based in Leicester with the most used being Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium. The Club reports that due to the restrictions on suitable provision many active members have moved to other clubs outside of North West Leicestershire to access track provision.

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. For those aged between 4 and 14, junior Park Run events are also available. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events.

In North West Leicestershire, there are three Park Run events which takes place at Conkers Park, Bath Yard and Sence Balley Forest every Saturday morning at 9am. There are currently no junior Park Run events.

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.

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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.

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.

Future demand

England Athletics reports that there is current trend of growth being experienced in relation to athletics and running, both within and outside of the club environment. It expects this increase to continue in the coming years.

Notwithstanding the above, Coalville Triathlon Club state that it plans to increase by 15 male, 16 female and 15 junior members with no active waiting list in place.

9.4 Supply and demand analysis

It is considered that for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of circa 200 is required. This is based on figures and consultation provided by England Athletics. If demand figures for the running clubs are similar to those in previous study it is considered that there would be sufficient demand to sustain traditional athletics provision. This does not include any recreational / infrequent demand or potential usage from local schools.

9.5: Conclusion

Initial evidence suggests that sufficient demand exists for a traditional 400m track to be established within North West Leicestershire based on the demand from the aforementioned clubs. This being said, some of demand takes place away from track provision on local roads, parks etc. Additionally, there are a number of athletics tracks in neighbouring authorities which are considered accessible to service the partial amounts of demand within North West Leicestershire. Therefore, it is considered that a traditional 400m track would be consider unsustainable based on current levels of demand.

It is important to emphasize that this does not mean there should be no formal athletics provision. Instead of a traditional track, alternative options such as a NewGen or Active Track facility should be explored. This will be examined in greater detail in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

Away from track and field, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in North West Leicestershire, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

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Athletics – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Initial evidence suggests that sufficient demand exists for a traditional 400m track to be established within North West Leicestershire based on the demand from the aforementioned clubs. This being said, some of demand takes place away from track provision on local roads, parks etc. Additionally, there are a number of athletics tracks in neighbouring authorities which are considered accessible to service the partial amounts of demand within North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ Therefore, it is considered that a traditional 400m track would be consider unsustainable based on current levels of demand.
- ◀ It is important to emphasize that this does not mean there should be no formal athletics provision. Instead of a traditional track, alternative options such as a NewGen or Active Track facility should be explored.

Athletics – supply summary

- ◀ North West Leicestershire currently has no formal athletics facilities with the closest traditional 400m tracks in surround areas such as Loughborough University (Paula Radcliffe Stadium) in Charnwood, Saffron Lane Stadium in Leicester and at The Pingles Stadium in Nuneaton.
- ◀ EA suggest that there is no need for a traditional 400metre track, however, has identified North West Leicestershire for a NewGen facility or Active Track.

Athletics – demand summary

- ◀ England Athletics (EA) affiliation data there are three clubs in North West Leicestershire namely, Coalville Triathlon Club, Hermitage Harriers and Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club.
- ◀ Coalville Triathlon Club has 25 male, 24 female and one U18s member totalling 50 people and aspires to increase by 15 male, 16 female and 15 juniors. Hermitage Harriers has approximately 100 members.
- ◀ Ivanhoe Robins Juniors Athletics Club is the junior section of Ivanhoe Runners Club which has a wider running remit and is based at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre.

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PART 10: FLAT GREEN LAWN BOWLS

10.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in North West Leicestershire is played on flat 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.

Crown green bowling is another version of bowls played in England, governed separately by The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA). This format of the sport is played predominately in the North of England and there is a no presence of this locally.

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with bowls clubs in North West Leicestershire to gain an understanding about issues relating to supply and demand. In total, there are 11 bowls clubs identified as using facilities in North West Leicestershire.

Seven clubs have been consulted through online surveys giving a current response rate of 64%. A low response rate can be common in relation to bowls.

Table 10.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Club response?
Ashby Bowls Club	Yes
Batram Bowls Club	Yes
Castle Donington Bowls Club	No
Coalville Town Bowls	Yes
Ibstock Bowls Club	Yes
Kegworth Bowls Club	Yes
Measham Bowls Club	Yes
New Lount Bowls Club	No
Scotlands Park Bowls Club	No
Thringstone Bowls Club	No
Whitwick Park Bowls Club	Yes

10.2: Supply

There are 13 flat bowling greens identified in North West Leicestershire across 12 sites. The Coalville Analysis Area has the largest amount of bowling greens with six (46%) whereas the Measham Analysis Area has the least number of greens with one (8%). The Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Castle Donington/Kegworth and Ibstock analysis areas all contain two greens each (15%).

Table 10.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of greens
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2
Castle Donington/ Kegworth	2
Coalville	6
Ibstock	2
Measham	1
North West Leicestershire	13

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Figure 10.1 shows the location of all bowling greens currently North West Leicestershire. For a key to the map, see Table 10.3.

Figure 10.1: Location of bowling greens in North West Leicestershire

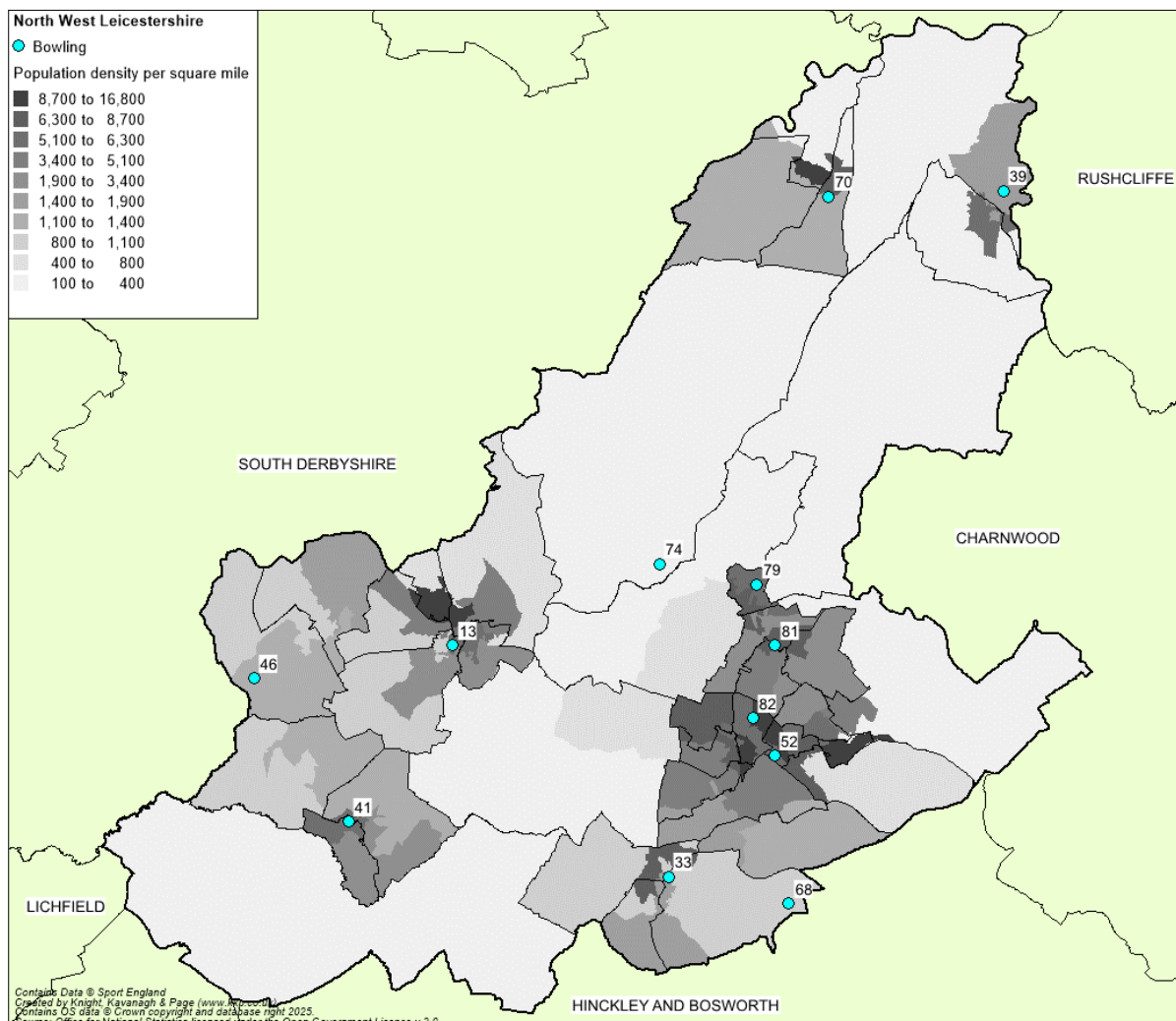


Table 10.3: Location of all bowling greens

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Associated club	Analysis area	No. of greens
13	Bath Grounds	LE65 1BJ	Ashby BC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	LE67 9HN	Ibstock BC	Ibstock	1
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	DE74 2FH	Kegworth BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	DE12 7HR	Measham BC	Measham	1
46	Moirs Miners Welfare	DE12 6BP	-	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	1
52	Scotlands Playing Fields	LE67 3JD	Scotlands BC	Coalville	1

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Associated club	Analysis area	No. of greens
68	Batram Bowls Club	LE67 1GD	Batram BC	Ibstock	1
70	Castle Donington Bowls Club	DE74 2LQ	Castle Donington BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	1
74	New Lount Bowls Club	LE67 8JF	New Lount BC	Coalville	1
79	Thringstone Bowling Club	LE67 8LR	Thringstone BC	Coalville	1
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	LE67 5HA	Whitwick BC	Coalville	1
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	LE67 3FA	Coalville BC	Coalville	2

Unused provision

Non-technical assessments confirm that the bowling green located at Moira Miners Welfare is unused, with no bowls club utilising the green or any informal/ recreational demand taking place. Given the site also accommodates three croquet greens and is home to Ashby Croquet Club, it is likely that the green is utilised to accommodate some of this demand.

Future developments

As part of the PPOSS process, the feasibility of establishing a bespoke sporting hub site within the locality of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, was explored. This included the relocation of clubs from their current sites to one dedicated facility.

Regarding bowls, Ashby BC did not indicate any aspirations to relocate from its main site at Bath Grounds. However, this green is at capacity with options needed to explore how to support the Club with accommodating its future demand. This will be explored in the following Strategy & Action Plan.

Indoor provision

Whilst not included within the remit of this study, it should be noted that bowls is commonly played within indoor facilities as well as on outdoor greens. This can be via dedicated centres, or within smaller spaces such as leisure centre sports hall and community centres. These can add to the capacity for the accommodation of bowls demand, particularly during winter months when outdoor provision is unusable.

Management and security of tenure

Within North West Leicestershire, tenure of bowling clubs at their respective sites is deemed to be secure with the majority of these managed by North West Leicestershire District Council, or local Parish and Town Councils.

The table below showcases the management of bowls sites within North West Leicestershire.

Table 10.4: Summary of management and club users (where known)

Site ID	Site name	Club users	Management
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby BC	Sports club
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	Ibstock BC	Ibstock Parish Council
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Kegworth BC	Sports club

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Site ID	Site name	Club users	Management
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham BC	National Coal Board
68	Batram Bowls Club	Batram BC	Sports club
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	Whitwick BC	Whitwick Parish Council
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	Coalville BC	Sports club

Of the unresponsive clubs, current tenure position is unknown.

Quality

The quality of bowling greens across North West Leicestershire have been assessed via a combination of site visits which took place in August 2025 (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good.
- ◀ Standard.
- ◀ Poor.

For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs off unofficial use.

The overall stock of bowling green provision in North West Leicestershire is of a good quality. The audit of greens identifies eight to be of a good quality (62%) and two greens to be standard quality (15%) as well as three (23%) poor quality greens identified.

Table 10.5: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Club	No. of greens	Quality
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby BC	1	Standard
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	Ibstock BC	1	Standard
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Kegworth BC	1	Good
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham BC	1	Poor
46	Moira Miners Welfare	-	1	Poor
52	Scotlands Playing Fields	Scotlands BC	1	Good
68	Batram Bowls Club	Batram BC	1	Good
70	Castle Donington Bowls Club	Castle Donington BC	1	Good
74	New Lount Bowls Club	New Lount BC	1	Good
79	Thringstone Bowling Club	Thringstone BC	1	Good
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	Whitwick BC	1	Poor
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	Coalville BC	2	Good

In relation to the standard and poor quality green, issues with highly worn areas of the green, inadequate condition of ditches and boarding and undulations were present, contributing to the quality score given.

Coalville Town BC, Kegworth BC, Measham BC and Whitwick BC all state that their greens have improved in quality upon previous seasons, largely due to the increased number of volunteers and improved maintenance regimes carried out.

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Ibstock Bowls Club states that its green has gotten poorer since the previous season because of reduced maintenance during the winter months by Ibstock Parish Council. Similarly, Ashby Bowls Club also states its green has gotten poorer due to too much sand being applied to the surface, which tends to move in wet weather, as well as worm casts causing an issue to the smoothness of the green.

Despite being rated as good quality, Battram Bowls Club states that due to dry weather and excessive heat, the green has dried out and become harder than usual. The Club states it can be expensive to use water on the green to help with this issue.

Ancillary provision

Most clubs which responded to consultation have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house. The quality of these vary from purpose built brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters. Generally, ancillary facility quality across North West Leicestershire is seen as standard quality.

The table below outlines the quality of ancillary provision for each club site.

Table 10.6: Summary of club ancillary provision

Site ID	Site name	Club	Analysis area	Quality
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby BC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Standard
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	Ibstock BC	Ibstock	Standard
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Kegworth BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Good
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham BC	Measham	Standard
46	Moira Miners Welfare	-	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Good
52	Scotlands Playing Fields	Scotlands BC	Coalville	Good
68	Battram Bowls Club	Battram BC	Ibstock	Good
70	Castle Donington Bowls Club	Castle Donington BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Standard
74	New Lount Bowls Club	New Lount BC	Coalville	Standard
79	Thringstone Bowling Club	Thringstone BC	Coalville	Standard
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	Whitwick BC	Coalville	Standard
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	Coalville BC	Coalville	Good

Ibstock Bowls Club has secured funding to relay paving slabs around the perimeter of its green which in recent times has become a trip hazard. In addition, the Club has also acquired funding to clad part of the clubhouse to improve insulation.

Ashby Bowls Club received funding from East Midlands Airport and a local business to assist with the purchase of a new lawn mower, as well as receiving small grants from North West Leicestershire District Council and Ashby Town Council. The Club has aspiration long term for a new clubhouse which it wishes to obtain grant funding for.

Coalville Town Bowls Club aspires to refurbish its kitchen and toilets, the Club states that funding is yet to be applied for and that this is in the early planning stage.

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Batram Bowls Club states that it is in need of major works to the clubhouse, such as the windows needing replaced as well as upgrades to the changing facilities which it states are not big enough. Despite this, funding is yet to be applied for.

Sports lighting

None of the greens provided in North West Leicestershire are serviced by sports lighting, and no clubs expressed any interest in fitting sports lighting during consultation.

Greens with sports lighting offer opportunities to access provision for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months. However, they are relatively uncommon across the Country, meaning the levels identified in North West Leicestershire are comparative to the national picture of sports lighting supply and should not be of any particular concern.

10.3: Demand

There are 11 bowls clubs in North West Leicestershire. Of the seven clubs that have responded to consultation requests, the total membership equates to 307 members. This comprises of 316 senior male, 87 senior female and four junior members, as shown in the table below.

The average membership across clubs is 44 members representing average demand within the District. The highest membership figures are at Ashby BC, with 76 members, whilst the lowest known figures are found at Batram BC with 20 members.

Table 10.7: Summary of club membership

Club name	Analysis area	Men	Women	Junior's	Total
Ashby BC	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	55	20	1	76
Batram BC	lbstock	18	2	0	20
Castle Donington BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Coalville BC	Coalville	34	18	0	52
lbstock BC	lbstock	35	10	0	45
Kegworth BC	Castle Donington/Kegworth	26	27	3	56
Measham BC	Measham	22	5	0	27
New Lount BC	Coalville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scotlands BC	Coalville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thringstone BC	Coalville	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Whitwick BC	Coalville	26	5	0	31
Total	-	216	87	4	307

Additional demand

Play Bowls and Bowls Bash

Play Bowls³⁷ is a new product designed to assist clubs in attracting more casual, pay and play participants. Clubs are now able to sign up to the scheme, with booking slots for access then able to be secured and paid for via the Play Bowls website. The aim is for this to help the sport become much more accessible whilst making it easy for clubs to evolve and

³⁷ <https://play-bowls.com/>

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manage the demand from the casual audience. Bowls Bash³⁸ offers a shortened format normally played in teams of two, with players delivering 30 bowls each per match.

Both schemes are being delivered across the country as a means of growing participation for lawn bowls.

Pay and play

Pay and play refers to the opportunity for residents to turn up to existing facilities and access them on a casual, commitment free basis. Locally, only Ashby BC offer pay and play to residents (which were responsive to consultation). All other clubs do not offer pay and play with the general rationale being that there is nobody on site able to collect fees.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; clubs that would like to gain more members but currently do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack of provision, appropriate facilities, and qualified coaches. Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already playing for a club but is unable to access a match green, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority are actively trying to recruit new members.

Future demand

Using ONS population projections, the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2042. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase, although exactly to what extent is unclear.

Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, it can be said that demand for bowling greens in North West Leicestershire is likely to increase with additional pressure placed on the existing stock of provision. In addition, consultation identifies three clubs which quantify their aspirations to increase membership numbers. Details of this are provided in the table below. Total future demand identified across the three clubs result in 74 new members.

Table 10.8: Future demand aspirations

Club name	Seniors	Juniors	Total
Ashby BC	25	0	25
Kegworth BC	12	5	17
Coalville BC	20	12	32
Total	57	17	74

It should also be noted that Measham and Whitwick bowls clubs aspire to increase the number of its members however do not quantify the number.

In addition, Bowls England is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation and is taking active steps at both county and national level to

³⁸ <https://www.bowlsengland.com/bowlsbash/>

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encourage younger players to participate. This could see the emergence of junior players in North West Leicestershire that is not accounted for within the above aspirations.

It should be noted that future demand expressed by clubs is purely aspirational and such increases in membership is not expected to materialise as stated by the clubs

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10.4: 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 in the afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be underused for the rest of the week.

However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members which bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Bowls England has no 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.

Therefore, capacity ratings for bowling greens in North West Leicestershire are classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
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 North West Leicestershire 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.

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Table 10.9: Bowling green supply and demand analysis (where membership figures are known)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club user/s	No. of greens	Capacity threshold	Number of members	Current capacity	Future capacity
13	Bath Grounds	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Ashby BC	1	60	76	-16	-41
33	Ibstock Miners Welfare Site	Ibstock	Ibstock BC	1	60	45	15	15
39	King George V Playing Field (Kegworth)	Castle Donington/Kegworth	Kegworth BC	1	60	56	4	-73
41	Measham Community and Recreation Centre	Measham	Measham BC	1	60	27	33	33
68	Batram Bowls Club	Ibstock	Batram BC	1	60	20	40	40
81	Whitwick Memorial Park	Coalville	Whitwick BC	1	60	31	29	29
82	Coalville Town Bowling Club	Coalville	Coalville BC	2	120	52	68	84

The table above shows that five clubs (six greens) are operating within a 'sustainable' capacity range. When factoring in future demand, this remains the same.

10.5: Conclusion

Overall, with no clubs reporting any capacity issues, it is considered that there is a sufficient supply of provision of bowling greens in North West Leicestershire. It is therefore considered that there is not a need for an increase in the supply of bowling greens, also given that there is an unused green at Moira Miners Welfare. However, further interrogation of demand should also be pursued regarding clubs that have been unresponsive to this study to ensure the findings can be extrapolated in relation to them.

For clubs which are operating over Bowls England sustainability guidelines, none note a need for increased access to provision, albeit these should be monitored to ensure that they remain to have sufficient capacity in the future as the typical demographic of user increases in line with population estimates.

Bowls – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Overall, with no clubs reporting any capacity issues, it is considered that there is a sufficient supply of provision of bowling greens in North West Leicestershire. It is therefore considered that there is not a need for an increase in the supply of bowling greens, also given that there is an unused green at Moira Miners Welfare
- ◀ Further interrogation of demand should also be pursued regarding clubs that have been unresponsive to this study to ensure the findings can be extrapolated in relation to them.

Bowls – supply summary

- ◀ There are 13 flat bowling greens identified in North West Leicestershire across 12 sites. The Coalville Analysis Area has the largest amount of bowling greens with six (46%) whereas the Measham Analysis Area has the least number of greens with one (8%).
- ◀ Within North West Leicestershire, tenure of bowling clubs at their respective sites is deemed to be secure with the majority of these managed by North West Leicestershire District Council, or local Parish and Town Councils.
- ◀ The audit of greens identifies eight to be of a good quality (62%) and two greens to be standard quality (15%) as well as three (23%) poor quality greens identified.

Bowls – demand summary

- ◀ There are 11 bowls clubs in North West Leicestershire. Of the seven clubs that have responded to consultation requests, the total membership equates to 307 members. This comprises of 316 senior male, 87 senior female and four junior members.
- ◀ Total future demand identified across the three clubs result in 74 new members.
- ◀ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues.

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 Culture Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing.
- ◀ Mental wellbeing.
- ◀ Individual development.
- ◀ Social and community development.
- ◀ Sustainable economic development.

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
 - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
 - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
 - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
 - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
 - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
 - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
 - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

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Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2024)

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 MUGAs - 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: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)³⁹

The FA launched its new Strategy which aims to ‘take English football forward, with clear focus on the biggest opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed’.

To achieve this, eight key strategic priorities are identified which include four ‘Game Changer’ objectives and four ‘Drivers’ objectives as detailed below. The strategy also outlines how The FA’s plans to achieve these objectives.

Game Changers:

- ◀ Win tournaments
 - ◀ Develop pathways
 - ◀ Support elite players
 - ◀ Enhance environments
 - ◀ Collaborate and influence
- ◀ A game free from discrimination
 - ◀ Boost representation
 - ◀ Drive more inclusion
 - ◀ Tackle discrimination
- ◀ Equal opportunities for women & girls
 - ◀ Increase school participation
 - ◀ Increase club participation
 - ◀ Enhance women’s competitions
 - ◀ Support female coaches and referees
- ◀ Transform the pitch landscape
 - ◀ Sustain and grow high-quality grass pitches
 - ◀ Deliver new 3G pitches
 - ◀ Support inclusivity accessibility and environmental sustainability of facilities

Drivers:

- ◀ Thriving community clubs
 - ◀ Develop club opportunities
 - ◀ Support the current and future generation of club leaders
 - ◀ Equip clubs to add long-term value to local communities
- ◀ World-class FA cups
 - ◀ Broaden commercial appeal
 - ◀ Evolve the Adobe Women’s FA Cup format
- ◀ Participant led
 - ◀ Place participants at the centre of decision making
 - ◀ Create flexible models to meet participants needs
 - ◀ Provide digital tools to improve experiences
- ◀ Progressive governance
 - ◀ Support integration of women’s and girls’ football
 - ◀ Support governance of the NLS
 - ◀ Support our County Football Associations (CFAs)

³⁹ [FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association](#)

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The FA: Reaching Higher (2024-28)⁴⁰

The FA's 2020-2024 strategy, 'Inspiring Positive Change', coincided with record growth across the sport, with more women and girls playing, coaching, officiating and supporting the flourishing professional game than ever before.

This strategy aims to build on the success achieved to date and strives to continue working to unlock the full potential of the women's and girls' game. The strategy outlines four strategic priorities as seen below.

1. **Build and Protect the Uniqueness of the Women's Game:** Continue to honour the history of women's football and recognise those who have contributed towards making it so unique, whilst ensuring the distinct qualities and unique culture of the women's game are valued and protected.
2. **Win a Major Tournament:** Continue to be world-leaders both on and off the pitch, developing players and building an inclusive talent pathway system to make football more equal and accessible at every level of the game, ensuring the England pathway and teams represent society.
3. **Build Robust, High-Quality Competition:** Create compelling competition structures and support clubs to develop to the appropriate level within the game, while enabling people to grow and develop within The FA's competition structures.
4. **Deliver Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls to Play:** Sustain growth in schools whilst tackling inequalities. Continue to grow the number of female teams and deliver vibrant league offers whilst extending and enhancing the sessional football offer. The ambition is for 90% of schools to deliver equal access for girls to play football in key stages two and three.

There are five golden threads which weave through each of the four strategic priorities and across all levels of the women's and girls' game, which will be instrumental for delivering the next phase of growth by 2028:

1. **Female Health and Wellbeing:** Develop the game to support women and girls with their health and wellbeing needs, providing them with environments in which they can thrive.
2. **Safeguarding:** Support the evolution of an ever-safer culture across the women's and girls' game.
3. **Refereeing:** Grow and nurture a new generation of referees who are representative of our society.
4. **Coaching:** Support and develop brilliant coaches capable of unleashing every player's potential in a safe and inclusive game.
5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure the game is more reflective of our society.

Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 2028)

In October 2024 the ECB released its updated strategy Inspiring Generations – Cricket's Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generation (2020-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, however, many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say 'Cricket is a game for me' through its vision:

- ◀ To become the most inclusive team sport
- ◀ To grow and unite the game
- ◀ Lead the game through global transformation

It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives

⁴⁰ [The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28](#)

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- ◀ Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible
- ◀ Transform Women's and Girl's cricket
- ◀ Connect communities through play
- ◀ Inspire through winning England teams
- ◀ Support a thriving and sustainable men's and women's professional game
- ◀ Win the battle for attention

Underpinning these six ambitions are a series of enablers that cut-across multiple areas of the game, alongside Cricket's Core Values.

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision, which is to achieve 'a successful and thriving game across England'. The strategy can be found [here](#).

It identifies four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives', to form priority focuses for the strategy. It believes that these objectives will make the greatest substantive improvements to the game and investment will be aligned to these areas.

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 players 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 & operational excellence*** – Ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

A number of aims, identified as key to the achievement of these main objectives, are particularly relevant to facilities. The provision of good quality and suitable rugby union facilities will help to achieve these aims and in turn objectives:

- ◀ *Enjoyment* – Improve accessibility for women and girls across the game
- ◀ *Enjoyment* – Make the game inclusive and attractive for 14 to 18 year olds
- ◀ *Flourishing rugby communities* – Provide support to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets
- ◀ *Diversity & Inclusion* – Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create and inclusive environment for all

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England Hockey Strategy (2023 – 2028)

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3rd October. The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

Underpinning the strategy and of importance to the hockey community are four values, "collaborate inclusively, care for people and places, play with spirit win with grace and resilient in everything we do".

The strategy is the culmination of two years consultation with various stakeholders across the sport and larger sporting sector. Hockey will be guided by five key objectives over the next five years.

1. **Lead Positive Change:** to create and champion positive change within the community by broadening and widening the engagement of the sport and making it more ethnically and culturally diverse.
2. **Meaningful Growth:** to make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future, we want to nurture a love of hockey within a more diverse group of young players and communities to reflect society.
3. **Drive Visible Impact:** to produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game, captures the passion, builds a deep connection and amplifies the voices of the hockey community with new and existing participants.
4. **Responsible Leadership:** to provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership. Leadership that fosters trust within physically and psychologically safe environments and which puts players, the community and sustainability at heart of every decision.
5. **Inspirational International Success:** inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage, underpinned by a thriving talent system and domestic game.

The strategy aligns with Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy and UK Sport's Powering Success, Inspiring Impact' strategic plan.

England Netball

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' 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.

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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 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 (EMMNA) 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.

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 and Built Facilities Strategies that:

- ◀ Facilitates 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 (NEAPs)
- ◀ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities
- ◀ Protects and enhances 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
- ◀ Supports the installation of sports lights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ◀ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres

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- ◀ Where appropriate, supports 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

The LTA's Vision and Mission 2024 - 2026⁴¹

Tennis Opened Up

The vision is 'Tennis Opened Up'. These three words are at the heart of the work and shape everything done. Tennis is an amazing sport. Anyone can play; whatever their motivation or ability, from all communities and backgrounds. At any age and for a whole lifetime, tennis provides physical, social and mental rewards both on and off the court. The LTA wants tennis and these fantastic benefits it provides to be open to as many people as possible, across the whole of Britain.

Mission

- ◀ Grow tennis by making it welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone
- ◀ Our mission is to grow tennis by making it welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone. We have the focus and determination that, coupled with the support of everyone in tennis, will really make a difference
- ◀ Volunteers, coaches, officials and tennis venues all play an essential role in the future of our sport; without them, tennis can't exist. We're committed to supporting them and working with a whole range of other organisations and individuals connected to our sport, so that together we can grow tennis and open it up to many more people

Work

The LTA is here to govern and grow tennis in Britain, from grassroots participation through to the professional game. The work it does falls into three main areas:-

- ◀ Participation - making tennis a sport for anyone to play, through increasing participation and access – for instance, through LTA Youth, the innovative junior programme created to help more children enjoy the benefits of playing and staying in tennis; through Open Court, the successful disability tennis programme which is one of the largest of its kind across any sport and has helped a record number of disabled people enjoy the benefits of tennis; through SERVES, the ground-breaking programme that takes tennis right in to the heart of new communities across Britain; or through the range of national, regional and local tennis competitions that are delivered and support for hundreds of thousands of players throughout the year
- ◀ Performance - becoming one of the most respected nations in the world for player development – for example, through the [Player Pathway](#) that is supporting an nurturing the next generation of elite British players with programmes such as our [Pro Scholarship](#) Programme that's helped the likes of [Emma Raducanu](#) and [Cam Norrie](#) break into the world's top 100; though the ITF Gold Standard [National Tennis Centre](#) which has been equipped with world class courts and facilities, and provides a base for Britain's top tennis and wheelchair tennis players to train; or through the increased number of international tournaments we are staging across Britain throughout the year as part of the [LTA Performance Competitions Calendar](#) as well as summer major events, providing more opportunities for professional British players to compete and win on home soil

⁴¹ [lta-strategy-2024-2026.pdf](#)

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- ◀ Transformation - transforming tennis in Britain by working with everyone in the sport – for instance, through the [Inclusion Strategy](#) for tennis in Britain that aims to see tennis to lead the way for inclusion and diversity in sport; through the award-winning [safeguarding](#) work that has put tennis at the forefront of safeguarding in sport, ensuring it remains safe for all; by working with Government and local authorities to deliver a multi-million pound investment programme in [parks tennis facilities](#) for local communities across the country; or through the development of [padel](#) as an exciting new form of tennis that is easy to play, fun for all ages and abilities and extremely sociable, and will help to engage new audiences

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.

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 will have 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.

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 Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023) and Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031). Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

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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”.

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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?	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Weather at time of visit & date of visit				<i>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues</i>			
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	

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Grass rugby pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union										
Please complete one form per pitch										
Site reference				Site Name						
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s)						
Date of assessment				Pitch size	(Senior, Mini/Midi)					
Number of pitches on site				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?						
Availability				If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues						
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.

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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, w/ 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+					

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Cricket non-technical assessment

Element	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield					
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	DBX falls below the ECB basic standard	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Ideally 42mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even	Uneven		Ball should run without deviation or stop	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	Play also wish to refer to more survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unauthorised, kids kickabout etc. Play also wish to refer to more survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg from aerial vehicles - rabbits, gulls and feral cats may also wish to refer to more survey	
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 contours 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 wicket wicket/12mm rest of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes	No			
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes	No		DBX 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			

