



LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BARLA	British Amateur Rugby League Association
CC	Cricket Club
DPD	Strategic Policies and Land Allocation Development Plan
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCF	Lancashire Cricket Foundation
LFA	Lancashire County Football Association
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SE	Sport England
TGR	Team Generation Rates
U	Under
WR	World Rugby

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed by Lancaster City Council to produce a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) for the District.

This report (known as the Assessment Report) presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities within the Lancaster District and is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPOSS and its Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for non-pitch outdoor sports.

Sport England's PPOSS Guidance details a 10-stepped approach for the assessment of pitches, separated into five distinct sections, as follows:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the proceeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing throughout the lifespan of the work.

ANOG is used for the assessment of non-pitch outdoor sports and is separated into two parts; undertaking an assessment and applying the assessment. This report focuses on the first of these, with the guidance splitting it into three stages:

- ◀ Stage 1 – Prepare and tailor the assessment.
- ◀ Stage 2 – Gather information on supply and demand.
- ◀ Stage 3 – Assessment, bring the information together.

A PPOSS is considered to be out of date if its baseline data has not been reviewed after three years of the study being undertaken. If the PPOSS is monitored annually then its lifespan will depend on the point at which an Annual Monitoring Report identifies changes that are significant enough to warrant a partial or full review (i.e. the baseline data has reached the maximum five year lifespan). A process for this will be included within the subsequent Strategy.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the strategy is being developed

The previous Lancaster District PPOSS, which was completed in 2018, is past its recommended life span and is therefore in need of renewal in order to continue to be a key evidence base. The PPOSS will provide important evidence to support the future update of the Lancaster Local Plan.

The PPOSS will therefore provide a strategic framework to ensure that the provision of outdoor sports facilities meets the needs of residents (both existing and future) and visitors across Lancaster District. It will also support those organisations, including the Council, involved in the provision of outdoor sports facilities across the Lancaster District.

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Local context

Lancaster City Council's Local Plan: 2011-2031

Lancaster's Local Plan was adopted in July 2020 and covers the whole of Lancaster District for the period from 2011 to 2031. It provides the statutory planning framework for the District. The Local Plan is used to guide decisions on planning applications and areas where investment should be prioritised.

The Local Plan allocates 59.5 hectares of employment land to support Lancaster District's economic needs and aspirations; and allocates housing sites to support the economy and provide the appropriate land supply to meet its housing needs. The plan seeks to achieve the completion of at least 10,440 net additional new homes in the plan period, giving an indicative annualised figure of 522 per annum. The Local Plan also protects and enhances green spaces and green infrastructure that contribute towards improving quality of life.

The Local Plan has an important role to play in protecting and enhancing Green Infrastructure (GI) and the wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits it brings for local communities. It states that new development should seek to protect, maintain and enhance GI wherever possible.

It should be noted that since its adoption the Local Plan entered into an immediate review of all of its policies to ensure they adequately considered the necessary mitigation and adaptation of measures to address the climate emergency. This was not factored into the Local Plan before adoption as the document was too far progressed to make changes. A partial review to address matters of climate change only was therefore commenced.

National context

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures in.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicted population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of Government and NGB instigated growth areas e.g., women and girls and older people.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.

The new Lancaster District PPOSS will provide an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination whilst meeting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of promoting healthy and safe communities. Key and relevant paragraphs include the following:

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Paragraph 92 (c) says that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

Paragraph 93 states that to provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- (a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- (b) take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;
- (c) guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- (d) ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and
- (e) ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

Paragraph 98 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 99 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

Paragraphs 101, 102, and 103 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

For the full national context, including for each of the sports covered please refer to Appendix 1.

Management arrangements

A project team from the 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 and to the required quality standard to meet Sport England Guidance.

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Further to this, a Steering Group is and will continue to be responsible for the direction of the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Lancaster City Council Planning Team, Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) and Lancaster University.

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy 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 Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy.
- ◀ Ensure that the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy is kept up to date and refreshed through annual monitoring reviews.

Agreed scope

The Assessment Report provides detail in respect of what exists in the District. With regards to each sport, the PPOSS will specifically consider the number of pitches/facilities and will consider the size, quality, location, accessibility and capacity of the provision as well as accompanying ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation, toilets and car parking.

It also considers the demand for facilities based on population distribution and planned growth. The following are the key outdoor sports (and associated facilities, including artificial surfaces) in Lancaster District and as such are included within the scope:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Third generation turf (3G) pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (AGPs) for hockey
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Athletics facilities
- ◀ Bowling greens (crown greens)
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Cycling facilities
- ◀ Golf facilities
- ◀ Other pitch sports¹

Pitch sports (i.e., football, rugby union, rugby league, hockey and cricket) are assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy.

Non-pitch facilities (i.e., bowls, tennis, cycling, golf and athletics) are assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014).

¹American football and lacrosse

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Extent of the study area

The study covers provision within the Lancaster City Council administrative area. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas are applied to allow more localised assessment of provision and examination of supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. It should be noted that sports catchment areas do not naturally fall within these same analysis areas and can be either larger or cross over analysis areas. The analysis areas are for reporting purposes only and should not be used to compare provision between areas.

The District is divided into three analysis areas (as seen in Figure 1.1 overleaf) which broadly align with other sub-areas used for planning purposes and open space studies, as follows:

- ◀ Lancaster
- ◀ Heysham and Morecambe
- ◀ Carnforth/ Rural

It should be noted, for consistency, these are the same analysis areas as the previous study in 2018.

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Figure 1.1: Lancaster District study area with analysis areas



Cross boundary issues will also be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries.

Lancaster is adjacent to the local authorities of Westmorland and Furness, North Yorkshire, Ribble Valley and Wyre. Recent PPS insight of cross border activity/position is available in Wyre, whilst the PPS is underway, and data collected in Westmorland and Ribble Valley but hasn't been used to inform this report.

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

A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in the Lancaster District needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is achieved through consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that they inform the subsequent strategy. It informs current demand, adequacy, usage, future demand and strategies for maintenance and investment for outdoor sports facilities.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

Sport England's Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy Guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.²

- ◀ ***Playing field*** – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.
- ◀ ***Playing pitch*** – a delineated area which together with any run off area, is of 0.2ha or more, and is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.

Although the statutory definition of a pitch is one that meets a minimum size of 0.2ha, this PPOSS includes smaller size pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, a site containing one mini 5v5 football pitch³ (as this is less than 0.2 hectares). This PPOSS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches.

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

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) supporting the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues.

For each site, the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied upon completion of the project as an electronic file):

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of outdoor sports facilities

² www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

³ Refer to Table 2.1 for football pitch format definitions

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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 playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - facilities which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused playing field** – any sites where outdoor sports facilities were once provided but are no longer in place, yet they remain undeveloped and could therefore be brought back into use.

The lawful use of a disused playing field is still that of a playing field until such time as it is developed for a non-pitch sport use or its use is formally changed through the planning system. There is no positive obligation, under planning law, for a playing field to be actively used as such.

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 a facility 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. Non-technical assessments are carried out on every site that is accessible to understand the quality of each pitch and ancillary facility. 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.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the PPOSS guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

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It should be noted that if any recent technical assessments have been carried out, such as PitchPower or Performance Quality Standards (PQS), these will supersede the non-technical assessments ratings. Information surrounding these technical assessments will be referenced, where relevant, within the individual sports sections below.

Gather demand information and views

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. Demand for outdoor sports facilities in the Lancaster District tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training. Where informal demand is taking place, this is also identified within the relevant sports section.

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, latent, unmet, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet demand refers to outdoor sport users who want to play currently but cannot access a facility for either training and/or match play. Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available and is based on aspirational growth in participation, whereas exported and imported demand refers to those outdoor sport users that are playing outside of their local authority of choice.

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) was utilised. The response rates of consultation are set out below.

Table 1.1: Summary of study response rates

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	40	23	55%	Face to face/video meeting Online survey Telephone
Football teams	205	166	81%	Face to face/video meeting Online survey Telephone
Cricket clubs	12	10	83%	Face to face/video meeting Online survey Telephone
Rugby union clubs	1	1	100%	Video meeting
Rugby league clubs	1	1	100%	Video meeting Telephone Online survey
Hockey clubs	4	3	75%	Video meeting
Tennis clubs	5	3	60%	Telephone Online Survey
Bowling clubs	27	14	52%	Online survey Telephone
Athletics clubs	1	1	100%	Online survey Telephone

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Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation and Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

As key providers and users of outdoor sports facilities, educational establishments were also consulted. This involved online surveys or video hosted meetings with secondary schools/colleges and an online survey being sent to parish councils.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for the PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group) in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change. Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the population increases. This figure is then applied to the team generation rates and is presented on a sport-by-sport basis.

The current population in the Lancaster District is 148,119 (ONS 2021 Census Data)⁴. By 2031 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand) the population is projected to rise to 153,809⁵, representing population growth of 3.84%.

As Office of National Statistics figures are available by individual age brackets (to reflect team growth) this is considered the most accurate data set to apply to team generation rates (as identified above) to calculate likely future demand within the Assessment Report.

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

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

Additional demand for playing pitch provision generated by developments within Lancaster District will be explored in the Stage D: Strategy & Action Plan Report, using the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

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

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Lancaster District. It focused on how much use each site could potentially accommodate compared to how much use is currently taking place.

⁴ Source: ONS 2021 Census Data

⁵ Data Source: ONS 2018-based projections 2018-2043

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Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from National Governing Bodies of Sport guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch are assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

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

As a guide, the Football Association (FA), Rugby Football Union (RFU), Rugby Football League (RFL), English Cricket Board (ECB) and England Hockey (EH) have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality.

Table 1.2: Summary of carrying capacity for playing pitches in match equivalent sessions

Sport	Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural inadequate	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
Rugby union	Natural adequate	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
Rugby union	Pipe drained	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
Rugby union	Pipe and slit drained	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	All pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One natural turf wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One artificial turf wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a hard court with sports lighting is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a court without sports lighting 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 picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an Authority wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak period demand. This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity of provision 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, provision may have overall spare capacity throughout the week (for example on a Sunday/Midweek), however, not have spare capacity at the dedicated peak time for that provision (for example Saturday). Also, a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear.

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Identify the key findings and issues

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Lancaster District. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Strategy and Action Plan for Lancaster.

Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, latent, exported and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future.

The scenario testing generally occurs in the Strategy and Action Plan Report that proceeds this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation responsible for the development of football in Lancaster District is Lancashire 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, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part Three captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches) which are the preferred AGP (artificial grass pitch) surface type for football. In future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Lancaster Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

To support the delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which was completed (in 2018). Each plan is 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, DCMS and the Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

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

The LFFP for Lancaster District was produced in 2018. As it is a 'live' document it should be updated following the completion of this study as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require 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 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 addition to face to face and video consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all football clubs playing in Lancaster, and leagues accommodating Lancaster District based teams, distributed via Lancashire FA.

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Consultation (either through face to face/video or survey) represents a 55% club response rate and 81% team response rate. Of the 17 non-responding clubs 12 (32% of all clubs) are single or two team clubs. The following clubs were consulted with via a face to face/video meeting:

- ✦ Carnforth Rangers FC
- ✦ Halton JFC
- ✦ Lancaster City FC
- ✦ Morecambe Hawk YFC
- ✦ Morecambe Ladies FC
- ✦ Slyne with Hest FC
- ✦ Storeys of Lancaster FC
- ✦ Westgate Wanderers FC
- ✦ Lancaster University

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 87 grass football pitches within Lancaster District across 40 sites. Of these, 75 pitches across 34 sites are identified as being available for community use. All 13 unavailable pitches are located at either education sites or elite sporting venues for Morecambe FC.

Most available pitches in the District are in the Lancaster Analysis Area (33 pitches - 44% of available pitches), followed by the Carnforth/ Rural Analysis Area (28 pitches - 37% of available pitches), with the Heysham and Morecambe Analysis Area having the least number of pitches with 14 pitches (19% of available pitches).

Table 2.1: Number of grass football pitches available for community use by analysis area

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Carnforth/ Rural	9	8	3	4	4	28
Heysham and Morecambe	3	5	4	2	-	14
Lancaster	16	8	3	3	3	33
Total	28	21	10	9	7	75

Most available pitches across Lancaster District (29 pitches - 37%) are adult size which is, in part, due to some youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is not ideal for youth players at U13-U16 level and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches, with the FA's recommended pitch size being 100 x 64 metres compared to 91 x 55 metres for U15 and U16 teams and 82 x 50 metres for U13 and U14 teams. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to pitch sizes for each format of play⁶.

Table 2.2: FA recommended pitch sizes

Format	Age group	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Adult	U17+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U15-U16	91 x 55
Youth 11v11	U13-U14	82 x 50
Youth 9v9	U11-U12	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9-U10	55 x 37

⁶The run off for any pitch size is 5.5 metres.

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Format	Age group	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Mini 5v5	U7-U8	37 x 27

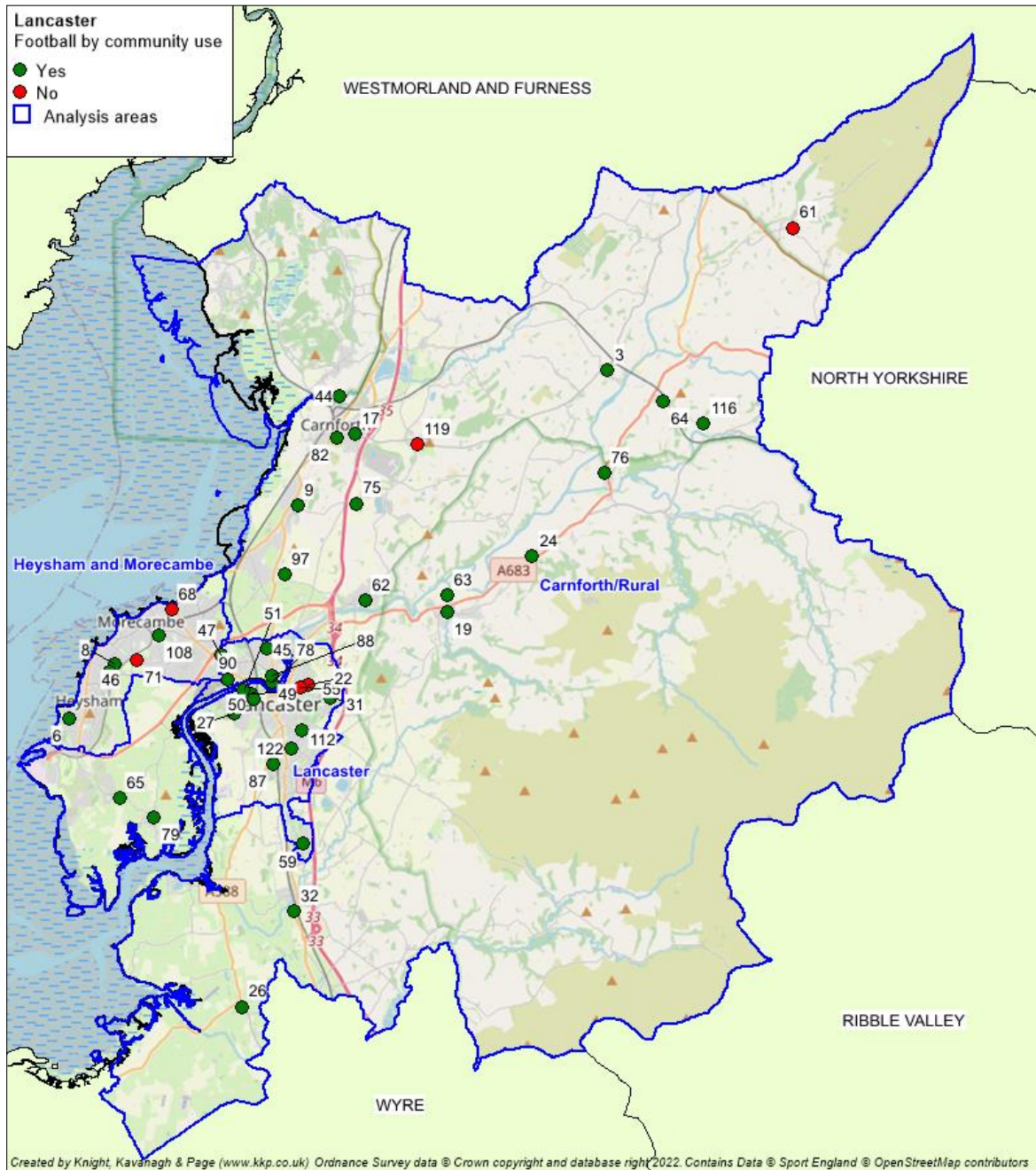
Comparison to previous study

Since the previous study in 2018 there has been an overall decrease of football provision across the District amounting to 42 pitches. As seen in the table, most of the provision in question was located at educational sites. These pitches are no longer actively marked out as formal pitch provision with the areas now being used as generic playing field land. Although this is a significant number of pitches it should be noted that even in the previous study this provision was largely not actively used for community use.

Site specific information regarding the remaining sites is referenced in the 'Disused supply' section below as well as any disused provision identified in the previous study.

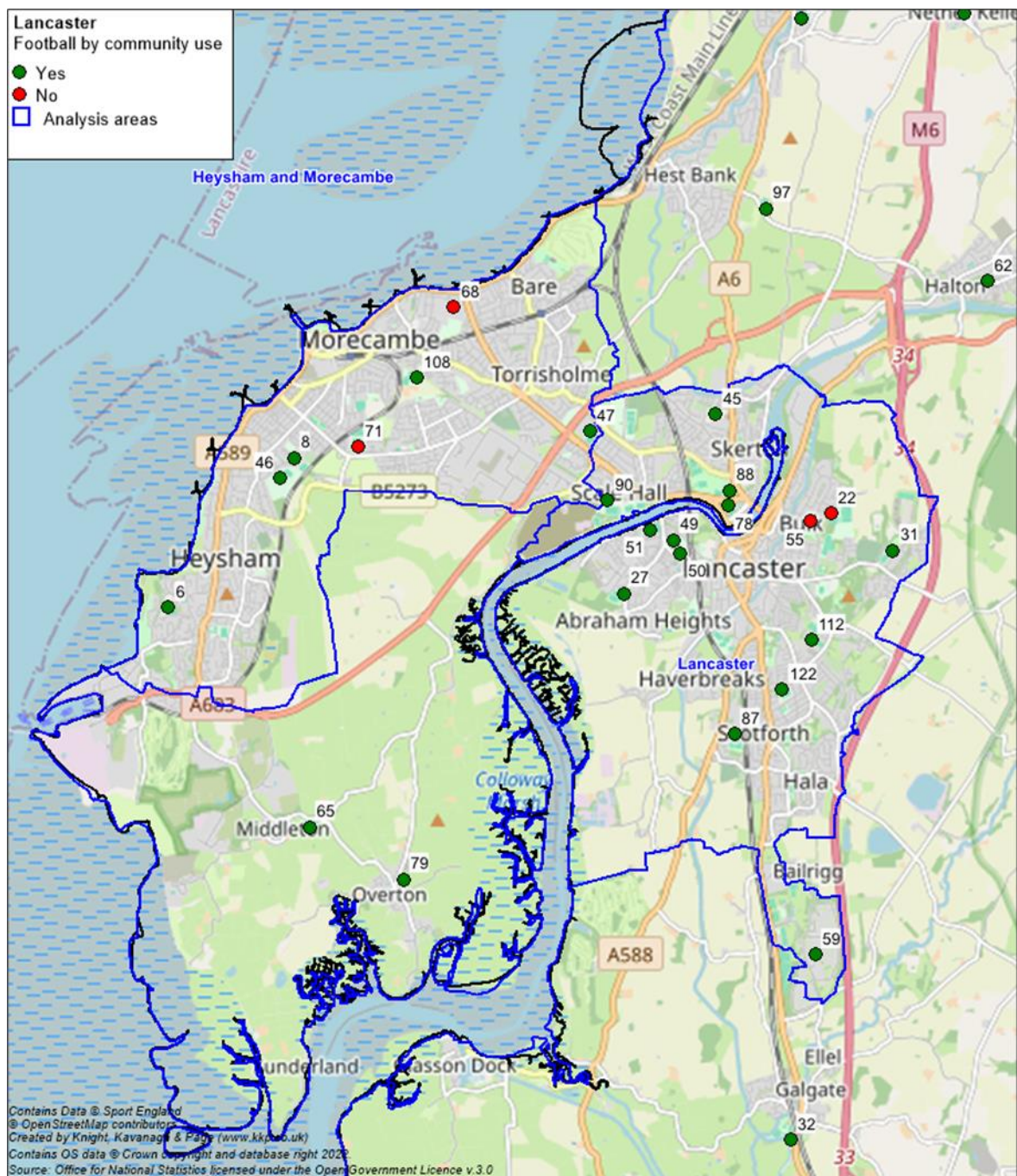
LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 2.1: Grass football pitches in Lancaster District by community use availability



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Figure 2.2: Grass football pitches in Lancaster and Heysham and Morecambe analysis areas



Please refer to Table 2.15 for a key to the map.

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Disused playing fields with football pitches

Disused playing fields are those sites where pitches were once, but are no longer, marked out and remain undeveloped, those in the Lancaster District are listed below. Some of these sites are still accessed by the public as open space and some are completely disused.

Barton Road Playing Fields (Lancaster Area) has previously had pitches marked onsite with space to accommodate up to three adult pitches. The site is located alongside a community centre and is currently maintained as public open space. The site historically has struggled with drainage due to adjacent stream on the boundary of the site. Planning permission was granted this year (2023) for the development of a flood defence bund onsite. One of the conditions is that sports pitch drainage is to be installed to the playing field, so the pitches on site can be used again in the future. The pitch to the south of the site will temporarily be unusable as the bund is constructed.

One youth 11v11 pitch was previously marked at Capernwray Hall (Carnforth/Rural Area). The pitch has not been marked or maintained for several years and is now maintained as public open space.

The former Skerton Community High School (Lancaster Area) closed in 2014 and now lies disused. The front of the site was marked with two dual use pitches used for football by the school. This site has recently been purchased by the City Council, with a pre planning application submitted to bring back to use one pitch for community use and another for recreational use.

County Council owned playing fields at Acre Moss Lane (Heysham & Morecambe Area) formerly used by Westend Primary School now also lies disused. The site was leased to Northgate FC and was dug up to install drainage works which were never completed.

Freemans Wood (Lancaster Area) was previously marked with sports pitches including an adult football pitch, last seen on aerial imagery *circa* year 2000.

Overton Football Pitch (Carnforth/Rural Area) was previously marked with one football pitch on the privately owned site. However, it has not been used for over five years and is currently home to Middleton facilities.

Peel Avenue Playing Fields (Heysham & Morecambe Area) previously had one adult pitch marked out. It now has one set of goal posts remaining and the pitch maintained for recreational use only.

Hest Bank Recreation Ground (Carnforth/Rural Area) previously had one youth 9v9 pitch marked out. Both sets of goal posts are still installed; however, the pitch is not currently marked for formal football.

Two adult pitches at Willow Lane (Lancaster Area) were previously marked. The pitches are no longer marked out and are maintained for recreational use only.

Pitches no longer active at educational sites

The table below lists sites and pitches which were previously marked as active in the last study in 2018. Since then, a number of school sites have seen playing fields no longer marked as formal football pitches.

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Table 2.3: Sites which no longer accommodate active football provision compared to the 2018 PPOSS

Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Pitch size
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	7v7
Slyne-With-Hest St Lukes C of E Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	7v7
Hornby St Margarets C of E Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	7v7
Archbishop Hutton's Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	9v9
Bolton-Le-Sands Church of England Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	9v9
Carnforth North Road Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	9v9
Caton Community Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	9v9
Cawthorne's Endowed School	Carnforth/Rural	1	11v11
Christ Church C.E. Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	9v9
Ellel St Johns C of E Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	9v9
Melling St Wilfrid C of E Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	9v9
Silverdale St Johns Church of England Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	9v9
St Wilfrid's C of E Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	2	9v9
Tatham Fells C of E Voluntary Controlled School	Carnforth/Rural	1	9v9
Wray With Botton (Endowed) Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	9v9
Yealand Church of England Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	1	9v9
Morecambe Road School	Heysham and Morecambe	1	5v5
Great Wood Primary School	Heysham and Morecambe	2	9v9
Lancaster Road Primary School	Heysham and Morecambe	2	9v9
Morecambe & Heysham Grosvenor Park Primary School	Heysham and Morecambe	1	7v7
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	Heysham and Morecambe	1	9v9
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	Heysham and Morecambe	2	9v9
Torrisholme Community Primary School	Heysham and Morecambe	1	7v7
Torrisholme Community Primary School	Heysham and Morecambe	1	7v7
Trumacar Community Primary School	Heysham and Morecambe	1	9v9
Westgate Primary School	Heysham and Morecambe	1	9v9
Bowerham Community Primary School	Lancaster	1	7v7
Lancaster Christ Church C of E Primary School	Lancaster	1	9v9
Lancaster Ryelands Primary School	Lancaster	2	9v9
Moorside Primary School	Lancaster	2	9v9
Our Lady's Catholic College	Lancaster	1	11v11
Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	Lancaster	4	Adult
St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	Lancaster	1	9v9
Lancaster Boys & Girls Club	Lancaster	1	7v7
Lancaster Royal Grammar School Grass Pitches (Memorial Playing Field)	Lancaster	2	Adult

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Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Pitch size
Skerton St Lukes C of E Primary School	Lancaster	1	5v5

It should be noted that there has also been alterations in the number of pitches at active sites as well, however, this only relates to pitch reconfiguration.

Future developments

Wennington Hall School has recently had a planning application for the change of use on the site from a school to a hotel accepted. As part of this development a community use agreement has been drawn up to allow access to two grass football pitches (one youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5). In addition, there will be installation of a two changing room and storage sheds.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across the Lancaster District has been assessed via a combination of site visits undertaken in February 2023 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA⁷), user consultation and PitchPower assessments, to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

Table 2.4: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PitchPower assessment ratings

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

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of 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 are able to accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking several matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%).

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in Lancaster. In total, 11 pitches (15%) are rated as good quality, 46 as standard quality (61%) and 15 as poor quality (24%).

⁷ See Appendix 3 for non-technical assessment criteria.

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Table 2.5: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	3	22	3
Youth 11v11	5	9	7
Youth 9v9	3	7	-
Mini 7v7	-	5	4
Mini 5v5	-	3	4
Total	11	46	18

Of the 75 community available pitches, 15 (20%) are managed and maintained by the City Council. Of these pitches, 10 are assessed as standard quality (13%) and five are assessed as poor quality (7%).

Specific comments relating to the pitch conditions at individual sites are detailed in the table below. These are either taken from club consultation or from site assessments.

Table 2.6: Summary of pitch quality comments from consultation

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Comments
32	Galgate Recreation Field	Galgate FC	Pitches onsite are reported to have poor grass coverage. This often leads to areas of the pitches during the winter to become heavily muddy and boggy, which can lead to matches be abandoned.
46	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	Westgate Wanderers	All pitches onsite are maintained by the Club. The Club has its own mower, which is used to help maintain, the pitches, however this is old and doesn't always function to a standard that is able to keep the pitches up to the quality required, often breaking and leaving the grass too long. The Club suggests requiring a new mower to support maintenance of the pitches.
50	Lancaster City Juniors FC	Lancaster City Juniors FC	The pitches onsite drain poorly. With areas of the pitches often waterlogged. This has led the pitches to become uneven.
65	Middleton Park	Middleton & Overton Sports FC Morecambe Ladies FC	Some issues with the pitch surface, uneven and patches of limited grass coverage across the pitches. The pitches drain poorly, this is due to drainage system which is blocked and therefore during periods of bad weather the pitches are prone to flooding.
75	Nether Kellet Village Field	Halton JFC	Pitch has drainage issues which causes it to be unplayable at points during the season. If this becomes a recurring issue the pitch could become uneven. However, this pitch is currently subject to funding to improve its quality.

PitchPower Assessment Tool

Initially launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund before being updated and re-launched in 2022, the web-app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by Grounds Management Association (GMA) regional pitch advisors.

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The tool across web-app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example, 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.

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain revenue funding for improved maintenance or the required maintenance equipment, both available through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF).

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a new Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

Lancashire FA is currently working with the City Council and clubs in the District to complete PitchPower assessments for their respective sites.

*Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)*⁸

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 undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the GMA (formerly Institute of Groundsmanship).

The GPMF can be utilised by grassroots football clubs, leagues and other eligible, organisations with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a PitchPower site assessment and subsequent Assessment Report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

Following a report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. 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 enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then clubs can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding pitches used for National League System play), leagues, County FAs, community organisations and charities. In 2023 the fund has now been opened up to education organisations and Town/Parish Councils as eligible applicant. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have permission of the landowner via service level agreement.

⁸ <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

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There are currently six sites which are receiving GPMF support in Lancaster:

- ◀ Carnforth High School (Carnforth Rangers FC)
- ◀ Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club (Storeys of Lancaster FC)
- ◀ Low Road Playing Fields (Halton JFC)
- ◀ Middleton Park (Middleton & Overton Sports FC)
- ◀ Nether Kellet Village Field (Halton JFC)
- ◀ Quarry Park (Carnforth Rangers FC)
- ◀ The Trimpell Club (Trimpell & Bare Rangers)
- ◀ York Road Playing Fields (Storeys of Lancaster FC)

Lancaster Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

The 2019 LFFP for the Lancaster District identifies key sites considered a priority to improve, with these selected based on the rationale of identifying sites that are the poorest in quality and that are the best utilised, or that have the greatest potential for increased utilisation following quality enhancements. Emphasis is on sites with three or more pitches, although scope exists for the inclusion of smaller sites if they are deemed to be strategically important.

The following eight site specific projects were identified:

- ◀ Lancaster City Juniors FC
- ◀ Morecambe Bay Academy
- ◀ Low Road Playing Fields
- ◀ Far Moor
- ◀ King George V Playing Fields (Slyne Road)
- ◀ Royal Albert Playing Field
- ◀ Ryelands Park Playing Fields
- ◀ Galgate Recreation Field

In the PPOSS, most pitches at these sites have been assessed as poor or standard quality. Whilst most of these will therefore still require improvement, given that the LFFP is a live document, there will be a need to update this list based on the findings of this study.

The validity of these sites and effect of improving them will be tested as a scenario within the subsequent Stage D: Strategy & Action Plan Report. It should be noted that the pitches at Low Road Playing Fields are already part of the GPMF and therefore have improved in quality over recent years.

Comparison to previous study

Compared to the 2018 study there has been an improvement in quality of football pitches in the District. Overall good quality provision has increased from 4% to 15%, whereas poor quality provision has decreased from 43% to 20%. Standard quality has increased from 62% to 65%.

A partial rationale for this shift is the exclusion of the multiple poor quality school pitches, as referenced above in Table 2.2. Many of these were included previously as being available for community use but were unused due to poor quality. There have also been quality enhancements at Bay Leadership Academy, Carnforth High School, Lancaster and Morecambe College, Middleton Park, Quarry Park (Carnforth Rangers FC) and Slyne with Hest Football Club.

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Ancillary facilities

The quality of ancillary facilities across Lancaster District has been rated via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

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, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing. The table below identifies the findings for football sites that are actively utilised for football across Lancaster District.

Table 2.7: Summary of ancillary facility quality at active football sites available for community use

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
3	Arkholme Village Hall	Carnforth/Rural	Standard
6	Barrows Lane Football Pitch	Heysham and Morecambe	Standard
8	Bay Leadership Academy	Heysham and Morecambe	Standard
9	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	Carnforth/Rural	Standard
17	Carnforth High School	Carnforth/Rural	Standard
19	Caton Sports Field	Carnforth/Rural	Standard
24	Claughton Brickworks	Carnforth/Rural	Poor
26	Cockerham Playing Fields	Carnforth/Rural	Standard
27	Coronation Fields (Lancaster)	Lancaster	Standard
31	Far Moor	Lancaster	No provision
32	Galgate Recreation Field	Carnforth/Rural	Good
44	Iodine Park	Carnforth/Rural	Poor
45	King George V Playing Fields (Slyne Road)	Lancaster	Standard
46	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	Heysham and Morecambe	Standard
47	Lancaster And Morecambe College	Heysham and Morecambe	Good
49	Lancaster City FC (Giant Axe Stadium)	Lancaster	Standard
50	Lancaster City Juniors FC	Lancaster	Poor
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Standard
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	Good
62	Low Road Playing Fields	Carnforth/Rural	Standard
65	Middleton Park	Carnforth/Rural	Standard
75	Nether Kellet Village Field	Carnforth/Rural	No provision
76	Oneschool Global Uk (Lancaster Campus)	Carnforth/Rural	Standard
78	Our Lady's Catholic College	Lancaster	Standard
79	Overton St Helens C of E Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	No provision
82	Quarry Park (Carnforth Rangers FC)	Carnforth/Rural	Poor
87	Royal Albert Playing Field	Lancaster	Poor
88	Ryelands Park Playing Fields	Lancaster	Poor

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
90	Salt Ayre Leisure Centre	Lancaster	Good
97	Slyne With Hest Football Club	Carnforth/Rural	Standard
108	The Trimpell Club	Heysham and Morecambe	Standard
112	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	Lancaster	Good
116	Wennington Hall School	Carnforth/Rural	Standard
122	York Road Playing Field	Lancaster	Good

Of the 34 sites that are actively used for community football, six (18%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, 19 (56%) by standard quality ancillary facilities and six (18%) are serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. The remaining three sites (9%) are not serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

Carnforth Rangers FC accesses changing facilities which are within portacabins at Quarry Park. However, the Club has temporary planning permission for the container changing facility, which is due to expire imminently, and it is not known if this will be renewed. Without suitable access to changing provision, the Club is unable to be promoted. However, it cannot progress an application to develop a built new facility because of the uncertainties regarding an adjacent housing proposal and the consequent long term future of the site.

Galgate FC reports that the officials changing room at Galgate Recreation Ground does not meet regulations and is too small, the Club aspires to extend its current clubhouse to increase the officials room size and add spectators' toilets to the building. It also has plans to have a fence installed around its main pitch to enclose and secure it.

Lancaster City Juniors FC reports that its current changing facilities are within old shipping containers which currently leak water. The Club also requires new toilets. The development of an 11v11 3G pitch onsite at Lancaster City Juniors FC has previously been discussed, which would also see the development of a community building with changing facilities and other supporting ancillary provision.

The site at York Road Playing Fields is currently an open site, however, in recent years has had issues, with vandalism to both its pitches and clubhouse. The Club wishes to secure the site by having a perimeter fence built. Whilst, it also has plans to develop the clubhouse.

The ancillary provision at Claughton Brickworks is provided by portacabins which are poor quality and in need of replacement. Lune Valley Juniors FC reports that the roof is leaking which has led the inside to become almost unusable.

Slyne-with-Hest FC recently submitted a planning application for the extension of its clubhouse, however, due to this building removing some of the car park, there was a need to repurpose some land for additional car parking, and this was rejected because the land is in the greenbelt.

Middleton Park has recently had a planning application submitted for the extension of the existing pavilion.

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Local Football Facility Plan

As with grass pitch improvements, the 2019 LFFP for Lancaster District identifies sites considered as priority sites for clubhouse and changing facility improvements, although there may again be a need to amend and/or add to this list based on the findings of this study.

It recommends that the following nine sites should be a priority for ancillary refurbishment/replacement:

- ◀ Lancaster City FC (Giant Axe Stadium)
- ◀ Morecambe Bay Academy
- ◀ Caton Sports Field
- ◀ Quarry Park (Carnforth Rangers FC)
- ◀ Far Moor
- ◀ King George V Playing Fields (Slyne Road)
- ◀ Salt Ayre Leisure Centre
- ◀ Ryelands Park Playing Fields
- ◀ Royal Albert Playing Field

The evidence contained within this Assessment Report will be used to establish whether the 2019 LFFP priority projects remain valid, should be removed or new projects added, with recommendations contained in the Strategy and Action Plan Report to update the LFFP.

Management and 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 example, through a community use agreement) for the next three or more years.

Tenure of sites in Lancaster District is generally secure, i.e., through freehold, long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years through formal rent agreement.

All community available sites which are classified as having unsecure tenure are located at schools. This is due to schools, academies and universities being able to state their own policies and therefore more likely to restrict levels of community use, unless they have a Community Use Agreement (CUA) secured via planning condition as part of a sports development within their site.

Lancaster City FC reports that it is currently in talks with the Council over gaining a lease extension, which covers both sites at Lancaster City (Giant Axe Stadium) and Lancaster City Juniors FC. There is currently 11 years remaining on the lease, however, with the Club's plans to develop the site, including the development of an 11v11 size 3G pitch, it requires a longer term remaining on its lease. Once signed off by the Council, the lease will be extended to 2058.

Carnforth Rangers FC site at Quarry Park (Carnforth/Rural Area) has a proposal for housing to the east and bordering the site. Previously there had been discussion of potential club relocation, however, the Club is currently unsure where this development stands with housing planned up to the edge of the site. The Club wants to meet requirements to enable it to progress to Step 6 which requires sports lighting for the pitch. It previously had planning permission for this, however, due to uncertainty around the site, this has not progressed.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

2.3: Demand

A total of 205 teams from 40 affiliated clubs are identified as playing matches on football pitches within Lancaster District.

Table 2.8: Summary of all football team demand playing competitive football in the Lancaster District

Age group	No. of teams
Adult Men's (18-45)	41
Adult Women's (18-45)	7
Youth Boys (12-17)	39
Youth Girls (12-17)	5
Youth Boys (10-11)	30
Youth Girls (10-11)	7
Mini Mixed (8-9)	37
Mini Mixed (6-7)	39
Total	205

Football in the District is played predominately in the Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area with a total of 75 teams. Whilst the remaining two analysis areas, Lancaster and Heysham/Morecambe both have 65 teams each.

Most teams in the Lancaster District (81%) access grass football pitches for matches. Of the 205 teams, two adult men's, two adult women's, 19 youth boys and 14 mini teams (18% of all teams) access 3G pitches for competitive match play across three sites at Bay Leadership Academy, Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre and Lancaster and Morecambe College.

Table 2.9: Summary of competitive teams playing affiliation football matches in Lancaster

Analysis area	No. of teams					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Carnforth/ Rural	15	13	12	16	19	75
Heysham and Morecambe	11	17	11	14	12	65
Lancaster	22	14	14	7	8	65
Total	48	44	37	37	39	205

Comparison to previous study

The overall levels of demand across the District have remained the same since the previous study. There has been decreases in adult men's football, however, this has been matched by increases in adult women's, youth and mini demand.

National League System

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.

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Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation⁹ 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 website¹⁰ for the full specifications for each.

In Lancaster, Morecambe FC plays in the third tier of the professional football pyramid of English football in the EFL League One. The Club plays at Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium), whilst training at Lancaster and Morecambe College both of which are in the Heysham/Morecambe Analysis Area.

In Lancaster, there is one club which competes in the NLS, Lancaster City FC which play in Step 3 football in the Northern Premier League – Premier Division. In addition, although not considered within the NLS, there is also one club which competes in the Regional Feeder League, Regional Feeder Leagues were previously known as Step 7 in the NLS. Slyne with Hest FC competes within the West Lancashire Football League – Premier Division.

The general principle for clubs in the NLS is that they must achieve the appropriate Stadium Accreditation grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. There has been a restructure of the NLS, with the former Step 7 repositioned as Regional Feeder Leagues to the NLS to be more aligned to the County FA network as the highest level of regional/local football. Clubs playing in Regional Feeder leagues remain eligible to access grant funding through the Premier League Stadium Fund (PLSF), on the condition that the Club has applied for promotion to Step 6, with any grant awarded conditional to grant of promotion. Clubs will retain access to cup competitions, but the restructure will help to establish a clear and consistent process for clubs coming in at Step 6 and will allow County FAs to develop local pyramid structures.

It is important to note that from a Stadium Accreditation perspective, the jump from a Regional Feeder League to Step 6 is significant and that as a minimum, sites require a pitch with sports lighting and hardstanding areas for fans, turnstiles for fan entry.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System (WNLS) like the adult men's which provides structure to the women's game. This is based on seven tiers with the top tier being the FA Women's Super League (WSL). Ground grading requirements range from grade A to C, each with differing minimum requirements¹¹.

In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women's league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes were implemented from the start of the 2018-19 season and saw the top league, FA WSL, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at tier three for a maximum of 12 teams.

There is currently one team which is part of the WNLS which can be seen in the table below.

⁹ <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

¹⁰ <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

¹¹ [Womens-football-ground-grading](#)

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Table 2.10: Summary of teams playing within the women's football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Morecambe FC Ladies	North West Regional Women's Football League Division One North	Tier 6

Women's and girls' demand

There are currently seven women's teams and 17 dedicated girls' teams playing football in Lancaster, of which, five are mini soccer teams playing in practice as an all girls' team. This represents 14% of all demand across the Lancaster District.

Women's and girls' teams typically play locally in the Lancaster & Morecambe STYL.

Key clubs and organisations presently fielding female teams include Carnforth rangers FC, Lancaster Giants FC, Morecambe Ladies FC and Lune Valley Juniors FC.

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 become suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Lancaster District due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

There is no known imported demand into the Lancaster District for use of grass football pitches.

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of Lancaster, despite being registered to the District.

The only known fully exported demand out of the Lancaster District is Morecambe FC U18. The team exports its demand to Kendal Town FC's Lakeland Radio Stadium in Westmorland and Furness.

In addition, Cockerham Juniors FC exports demand to play U7 and U8 at Scotts Green in Winmarleigh (Wyre). It is, however, local and one of few local facilities to access so the Club is happy to do so.

Unmet/latent demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is also no latent demand highlighted through consultation.

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Future demand

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

The Strategy & Action Plan will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development within Lancaster.

Participation growth

Of responding clubs, seven report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 18 teams, as seen below.

Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Gender	No. of teams	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ¹²
Bowerham Juniors FC	Lancaster	Mixed	1	Mini (7v7)	0.5
Bowerham Juniors FC	Lancaster	Mixed	1	Mini (5v5)	0.5
Galgate FC	Carnforth/ Rural	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
Galgate FC	Carnforth/ Rural	Boys	1	Youth (11v11)	0.5
Galgate FC	Carnforth/ Rural	Boys	1	Youth (9v9)	0.5
Galgate FC	Carnforth/ Rural	Girls	1	Youth (9v9)	0.5
Galgate FC	Carnforth/ Rural	Mixed	1	Mini (7v7)	0.5
Galgate FC	Carnforth/ Rural	Mixed	1	Mini (5v5)	0.5
Middleton & Overton Sports FC	Carnforth/ Rural	Girls	1	Youth (9v9)	0.5
Morecambe Hawk YFC	Heysham and Morecambe	Boys	1	Youth (11v11)	0.5
Slyne with Hest FC	Carnforth/ Rural	Mens	1	Adult	0.5
Slyne with Hest FC	Carnforth/ Rural	Boys	1	Youth (11v11)	0.5
Storeys of Lancaster FC	Lancaster	Mens	1	Adult	0.5
Storeys of Lancaster FC	Lancaster	Boys	1	Youth (11v11)	0.5
Storeys of Lancaster FC	Lancaster	Mixed	1	Mini (5v5)	0.5
Westgate Wanderers FC	Heysham and Morecambe	Mens	1	Adult	0.5
Westgate Wanderers FC	Heysham and Morecambe	Mixed	1	Mini (7v7)	0.5
Westgate Wanderers FC	Heysham and Morecambe	Mixed	1	Mini (5v5)	0.5
-	-	Totals	18	-	9

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

¹² 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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Broken down by pitch type, two match equivalent sessions per week are identified on adult pitches, two match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches, 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches, 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches and two match equivalent sessions per week on mini 5v5 pitches.

Further to the above, FA Wildcat centres work with FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, providing opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. There are currently two venues (Our Ladies Catholic College and Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre) which host Wildcat sessions in Lancaster.

All organisations delivering Wildcat centres receive a £900 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation.

Similar to FA Wildcats, a step-up programme FA Squad is offered for girls from 12-14 years old. This is a new programme with sessions aimed at developing skills and confidence in a fun, safe and inclusive environment with session delivered by FA qualified coaches. There is currently one venue (Our Ladies Catholic College) which hosts Squad sessions in Lancaster.

In light of FA aspirations to increase female participation in football through the establishment and foreseen future effect of the FA Wildcats, FA Squad programmes and Inspiring Positive Change Strategy, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl 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 2.12.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2031 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference total current population of 148,119 will increase to 153,809 by 2031. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

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Table 2.12: 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 per week ¹³
Adult Mens (16-45)	1:724	1.61	1	0.5
Adult Womens (16-45)	1:4137	0.27	0	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	1:88	1.46	1	0.5
Youth Girls (12-15)	1:589	0.19	0	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:53	1.15	1	0.5
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:213	0.27	0	0
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:94	1.42	1	0.5
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:84	1.50	1	0.5

Future demand summary

Future demand carried through to the supply and demand analysis is based on population growth, this is due to future demand reported by club aspirations is considered more aspirational, and it is unlikely that it will all be achieved. However, the preceding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the growth aspirations were realised.

Taking this into consideration, a total requirement for 0.5 match equivalent session per week is identified on adult pitches, 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches, 0.5 match equivalent session per week on youth 9v9 pitches, 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches and 0.5 match equivalent session on mini 5v5 pitches.

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 the Lancaster District:

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

¹³ 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 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 artificial grass pitch (AGP).

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking.

Table 2.15 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.

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.

As mentioned earlier, all education sites are classified as having unsecure tenure as no schools, through consultation, report having a community use agreement in place.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Lancaster District, peak time is considered to be Saturday afternoons for adult and Sunday afternoons for youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 pitches and mini 5v5 pitches. Peak time is based on when the majority of teams are playing matches.

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

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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 (Table 2.13) identifies the way capacity balance is represented in Table 2.14.

Table 2.13: 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 but with a value, 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.
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.

Security of tenure - for community users

For the purposes of capacity analysis for football and for other sports throughout the PPOSS assessment report, security of tenure is represented as follows.

Where tenure is considered to be secure or unsecure for individual site users/clubs, this is exclusive of the site’s long-term availability for sport overall. For example, a site may have a level of legal protection which guards its long-term purpose for use as playing field or for formal sport and recreation, but its current user has no formal agreement that it will be made available to them specifically in the long-term.

- ◀ Secure - user club/organisation has:
 - ◀ some form of long-term formal agreement for their continued use of the site, such as freehold, leasehold (three or more years remaining) or licence/service level agreement for exclusive use.

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- ◀ rental use of local authority or parish/town council managed provision, considered to be secure as part of the maintained municipal sport and recreation offer.
- ◀ rental or partnership use of education site where a Community Use Agreement exists.
- ◀ Unsecure - user club/organisation does not have formal agreement for long-term use, use is via:
 - ◀ rental (often annual) from a non-local authority organisation such as private or education.
 - ◀ rental from another sports club or organisation which holds long-term security of tenure but for which no formal agreement exists to secure third party rented use.
 - ◀ short-term leasehold (less than three years remaining), often approaching expiry of a long-term lease agreement requiring renegotiation or renewal.
 - ◀ use through personal relationship or verbal/unofficial/casual agreement.

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Table 2.14: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ¹⁴	Carrying capacity ¹⁵	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
3	Arkholme Village Hall	30010423	LA6 1AS	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
6	Barrows Lane Football Pitch	1069702	LA3 2RL	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
8	Bay Leadership Academy	1201519	LA3 1AB	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	0	8	8	4	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
8	Bay Leadership Academy	1201519	LA3 1AB	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Good	0	8	8	4	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
9	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	6005033	LA5 8DW	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
17	Carnforth High School	1201486	LA5 9LS	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	5.5	8	2.5	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
17	Carnforth High School	1201486	LA5 9LS	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	3	2	1	0.5	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
17	Carnforth High School	1201486	LA5 9LS	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	3	4	1	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
19	Caton Sports Field	6004696	LA2 9QS	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
22	Central Lancaster High School	1004589	LA1 3LS	Lancaster	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		3	Poor	3	3	0	3	Pitches are played to capacity.
22	Central Lancaster High School	1004589	LA1 3LS	Lancaster	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
22	Central Lancaster High School	1004589	LA1 3LS	Lancaster	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	2	2	0	2	Pitches are played to capacity.
24	Cloughton Brickworks	30004756	LA2 9JY	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
24	Cloughton Brickworks	30004756	LA2 9JY	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
26	Cockerham Playing Fields	1040859	LA2 0EF	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
26	Cockerham Playing Fields	1040859	LA2 0EF	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	2	4	2	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
27	Coronation Fields (Lancaster)	6007544	LA1 5LP	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	1	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
31	Far Moor	1042598	LA1 3JX	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
31	Far Moor	1042598	LA1 3JX	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
31	Far Moor	1042598	LA1 3JX	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
32	Galgate Recreation Field	1069707	LA2 0LQ	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
32	Galgate Recreation Field	1069707	LA2 0LQ	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.

¹⁴ Match equivalent sessions per week

¹⁵ Match equivalent sessions per week, based on pitch quality - the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ¹⁴	Carrying capacity ¹⁵	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
44	Iodine Park	1041419	LA5 9HD	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	1	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
45	King George V Playing Fields (Slyne Road)	6007528	LA1 2JH	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	1	4	3	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
46	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	6007516	LA3 1JB	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	1	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
46	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	6007516	LA3 1JB	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
46	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	6007516	LA3 1JB	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
46	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	6007516	LA3 1JB	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
47	Lancaster And Morecambe College	1004607	LA1 2TY	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	College	Unsecure	Adult		1	Good	1	3	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
47	Lancaster And Morecambe College	1004607	LA1 2TY	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	College	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
49	Lancaster City FC (Giant Axe Stadium)	6007360	LA1 5PE	Lancaster	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted to protect Step pitch.
50	Lancaster City Juniors FC	30010422	LA1 5PE	Lancaster	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
50	Lancaster City Juniors FC	30010422	LA1 5PE	Lancaster	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	3	2	1	-	Pitches are overplayed by one match equivalent session.
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	1208392	LA1 5QU	Lancaster	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	1208392	LA1 5QU	Lancaster	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	1208392	LA1 5QU	Lancaster	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
55	Lancaster Ridge Community Primary School	6012828	LA1 3LE	Lancaster	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	2	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	1004646	LA1 4XX	Lancaster	Yes	University	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	1004646	LA1 4XX	Lancaster	Yes	University	Unsecure	Adult		5	Standard	8	10	2	5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
61	Leck St Peters Church of England Primary School	6012651	LA6 2JD	Carnforth/Rural	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
62	Low Road Playing Fields	6004256	LA2 6NB	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth Youth Mini Mini	(11v11) (9v9) (7v7) (5v5)	1	Standard	5.5	2	3.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions.
65	Middleton Park	30003139	LA3 3LG	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
65	Middleton Park	30003139	LA3 3LG	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	0.5	3.5	3.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ¹⁴	Carrying capacity ¹⁵	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
68	Morecambe Bay Academy	1201420	LA4 5BG	Heysham and Morecambe	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
68	Morecambe Bay Academy	1201420	LA4 5BG	Heysham and Morecambe	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	2	2	0	2	Pitches are played to capacity.
71	Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium)	1069700	LA4 4TB	Heysham and Morecambe	No	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	1	3	2	1	Unavailable for community use. Elite stadia pitch for Morecambe FC.
75	Nether Kellet Village Field	30010168	LA6 1EY	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
76	Oneschool Global Uk (Lancaster Campus)	1069710	LA2 8LH	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
76	Oneschool Global Uk (Lancaster Campus)	1069710	LA2 8LH	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
78	Our Lady's Catholic College	1014833	LA1 2RX	Lancaster	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
79	Overton St Helens C of E Primary School	6012953	LA3 3EZ	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
82	Quarry Park (Carnforth Rangers FC)	6021560	LA5 9NB	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
87	Royal Albert Playing Field	6007458	LA1 5LB	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
87	Royal Albert Playing Field	6007458	LA1 5LB	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time
87	Royal Albert Playing Field	6007458	LA1 5LB	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
88	Ryelands Park Playing Fields	6007587	LA1 2LN	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
88	Ryelands Park Playing Fields	6007587	LA1 2LN	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
90	Salt Ayre Leisure Centre	1004634	LA1 5JS	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
90	Salt Ayre Leisure Centre	1004634	LA1 5JS	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time
97	Slyne With Hest Football Club	1069714	LA2 6BG	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
97	Slyne With Hest Football Club	1069714	LA2 6BG	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
108	The Trimpell Club	20001885	LA4 4UP	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
108	The Trimpell Club	20001885	LA4 4UP	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time
108	The Trimpell Club	20001885	LA4 4UP	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
112	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	1004640	LA1 3JD	Lancaster	Yes	University	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	1	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Post code	Analysis area	Com use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ¹⁴	Carrying capacity ¹⁵	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
116	Wennington Hall School	1203421	LA2 8NS	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	School	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
116	Wennington Hall School	1203421	LA2 8NS	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	School	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
119	Wilson's Endowed C of E Primary School	6012887	LA6 1BN	Carnforth/Rural	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
122	York Road Playing Field	6007509	LA1 4DW	Lancaster	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
122	York Road Playing Field	6007509	LA1 4DW	Lancaster	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time

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Actual spare capacity

To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity identified in Table 2.14 has been reviewed. 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 the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

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 several 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 their already low carrying capacity. Any identified spare capacity should be retained to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn, will aid the improvement of pitch quality.

Unless security of tenure is confirmed as being secured through a community use agreement during consultation with the operator, school sites that state they are currently available for community use but are unused are not considered to have actual spare capacity as they do not offer secure community use for clubs and as such use could be terminated at any time.

Actual spare capacity totals 19.5 match equivalent sessions per week across 25 pitches. This has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type below.

Table 2.15: Summary of actual spare capacity on grass football pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Carnforth/ Rural	6	2.5	-	-	1	9.5
Heysham and Morecambe	1	0.5	-	0.5	-	2
Lancaster	5	1.5	1.5	-	-	8
Lancaster District	12	4.5	1.5	0.5	1	19.5

Most actual spare capacity is identified on adult pitches, whilst there is spare capacity identified across all pitch types. Overall, most actual spare capacity is in the Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area, followed by the Lancaster Analysis Area.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity caused by poor quality). Only sites which are overplayed and have current community use have been included in the overplay summary, therefore school sites which do not currently have any community use but may be overplayed due to curriculum use and school fixtures have not been included.

In total, 13 pitches across 12 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The most overplay is situated in the Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area (seven match equivalent sessions), followed by the Lancaster Analysis Area (3.5 match equivalent sessions).

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Table 2.16: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES per week)
6	Barrows Lane Football Pitch	Heysham and Morecambe	Youth 11v11	1	1
17	Carnforth High School	Carnforth/Rural	Adult	1	1
24	Claughton Brickworks	Carnforth/Rural	Youth 11v11	1	1
27	Coronation Fields (Lancaster)	Lancaster	Adult	1	0.5
44	Iodine Park	Carnforth/Rural	Adult	1	1.5
46	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	Heysham and Morecambe	Adult	1	0.5
50	Lancaster City Juniors FC	Lancaster	Youth 11v11	2	1
62	Low Road Playing Fields	Carnforth/Rural	Youth 11v11	1	3.5
78	Our Lady's Catholic College	Lancaster	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
87	Royal Albert Playing Field	Lancaster	Youth 11v11	1	1
108	The Trimpell Club	Heysham and Morecambe	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
112	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	Lancaster	Adult	1	0.5
-	-	-	Total	13	13.5

Overplay is mostly on youth 11v11 pitches (9.5 match equivalent sessions per week) with some on adult pitches (four match equivalent sessions per week). There is currently no overplay on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 or mini 5v5 pitches.

Most overplay is generated from high levels of demand across standard and poor quality pitches. However, it should be noted that most overplayed pitches are only marginally overplayed. Low Road Playing Fields has the most amount of overplay with 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week, this is due to the site having a number of overmarked pitches on the youth 11v11 pitch.

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

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

Adult pitches

At present, across adult pitches in Lancaster District, 10 pitches at nine sites have actual spare capacity equalling 12 match equivalent sessions per week. Overplay is identified on five adult pitches across four sites.

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Table 2.17: Supply and demand position for adult pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Carnforth/ Rural	6	2.5	3.5	-	3.5
Heysham and Morecambe	1	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Lancaster	5	1	4	0.5	3.5
Lancaster District	12	4	8	0.5	7.5

Overall, in the Lancaster District there is a current sufficient capacity for adult pitches, with an overall eight match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week. When accounting for future demand through population growth, one additional team is expected to be generated, this would therefore reduce the spare capacity from eight match equivalent sessions to 7.5, meaning that there is still sufficient capacity to meet future demand.

Youth 11v11 pitches

At present, across youth 11v11 pitches in the Lancaster District six pitches at five sites have actual spare capacity equalling 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week, however, overplay outweighs spare capacity totalling 9.5 match equivalent sessions per week on eight pitches across seven sites.

Table 2.18: Supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Carnforth/ Rural	2.5	4.5	2	-	2
Heysham and Morecambe	0.5	2.5	2	0.5	2.5
Lancaster	1.5	2.5	1	-	1
Lancaster District	4.5	9.5	5	0.5	5.5

For youth 11v11 pitches overall in the Lancaster District there is a shortfall of five match equivalent sessions per week to accommodate current demand. All analysis areas have shortfall. When accounting for future demand through population growth, one additional team is expected to be generated, leading to a future shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 9v9 pitches

At present, across youth 9v9 pitches in the Lancaster District two pitches at one site have actual spare capacity equalling 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. There is no overplay identified on youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 2.19: Supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Carnforth/ Rural	-	-	0	-	0
Heysham and Morecambe	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Lancaster	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.5
Lancaster District	1.5	0	1.5	0.5	1

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Overall, in Lancaster District there is a current sufficient capacity for youth 9v9 pitches, with an overall 1.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week. When accounting for future demand through population growth, one additional team is expected to be generated, this would therefore reduce the spare capacity from 1.5 match equivalent sessions to one, meaning that there is still sufficient capacity to meet future demand.

Mini 7v7 pitches

At present, across mini 7v7 pitches in the Lancaster District, one pitch across one site has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. There is no overplay on mini 7v7 pitches in the District.

Table 2.20: Supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Carnforth/ Rural	-	-	0	-	0
Heysham and Morecambe	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	0
Lancaster	-	-	0	-	0
Lancaster District	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0

Overall, in the Lancaster District there is a current sufficient capacity for mini 7v7 pitches, with an overall 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week. When accounting for future demand through population growth, one additional team is expected to be generated, this would then see mini 7v7 pitches played to capacity in the District.

Mini 5v5 pitches

At present, across mini 5v5 pitches in the District there is actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. There is no overplay on mini 5v5 pitches in Lancaster District.

Table 2.21: Supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Carnforth/ Rural	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Heysham and Morecambe	-	-	0	-	0
Lancaster	-	-	0	-	0
Lancaster District	1	0	1	0.5	0.5

Overall, in the Lancaster District there is a current sufficient capacity for mini 5v5 pitches, with an overall one match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week. When accounting for future demand through population growth, one additional team is expected to be generated, this would then see mini 5v5 pitches spare capacity reduce to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week in the District.

2.6: Conclusion

In conclusion, at a Districtwide level there are current shortfalls across youth 11v11. Whilst capacity is sufficient across adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. However, future growth could lead to mini 7v7 pitches being played to capacity. Adult, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches continue to be able to accommodate future demand sufficiently.

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Table 2.22: Summary of supply and demand analysis for grass football pitches in match equivalent sessions

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Adult	12	4	8	0.5	7.5
Youth 11v11	4.5	9.5	5	0.5	5.5
Youth 9v9	1.5	0	1.5	0.5	1
Mini 7v7	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	0
Mini 5v5	1	0	1	0.5	0.5

Comparison to previous study

Supply and demand across the District has only slightly altered since the 2018 PPOSS mainly due to pitch reconfiguration from adult to youth 11v11 pitch types. The previous shortfalls on adult pitches (8.5 match equivalent sessions per week) has changed to eight match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week. In comparison, due to the reconfiguration of pitch types, youth 11v11 pitches have gone from a minor spare capacity (0.5 match equivalent sessions per week) to a shortfall of five match equivalent sessions per week.

Capacity on the remaining pitch types has also only seen marginal changes with youth 9v9 pitches going from being at capacity to 1.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week. Similarly mini 7v7 pitches have gone from being at capacity to minimal spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Mini 5v5 pitches have remained the same with spare capacity of one match equivalent sessions per week.

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Summary - football

- There are current shortfalls across youth 11v11 pitches. Whilst capacity is sufficient across adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- However, future growth could lead to mini 7v7 pitches being played to capacity. Adult, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches continue to be able to accommodate future demand sufficiently.

Supply

- The audit identifies a total of 87 grass football pitches within Lancaster District across 40 sites. Of these, 75 pitches across 34 sites are identified as being available for community use. All unavailable pitches are located at either education sites or elite sporting venues for Morecambe FC.
- Most available pitches in the District are in the Lancaster Analysis Area (33 pitches - 44% of available pitches), followed by the Carnforth/ Rural Analysis Area (28 pitches - 37% of available pitches), with the Heysham and Morecambe Analysis Area having the least number of pitches with 14 pitches (19% of available pitches).

Quality

- In total, 11 pitches (15%) are rated as good quality, 46 as standard quality (61%) and 18 as poor quality (24%).
- Of the 34 sites that are actively used for community football, six (18%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, 19 (56%) by standard quality ancillary facilities and six (18%) are serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. The remaining three sites (9%) are not serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

Demand

- There are 205 teams identified as playing football in the District. This is made up of 42 adult men's, seven adult women's, 69 youth boys', 12 youth girls' and 76 mini soccer teams.
- It is important to note that proportionally Carnforth Analysis Area contains one of the fewest total pitches but has one of the highest number of teams playing in it.
- In Lancaster District 81% of all football teams play on grass pitches, with 19% of teams playing on 3G pitches.
- Future population growth totals five potential new teams, resulting in additional capacity requirement (in match equivalent sessions per week) of 0.5 on adult pitches, 0.5 on youth 11v11 pitches, 0.5 on youth 9v9 pitches, 0.5 on mini 7v7 pitches and 0.5 on mini 5v5 pitches.

Capacity

- There are 25 pitches identified as having actual spare capacity, totalling 19.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- In total, 13 pitches across 12 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The most overplay is situated in the Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area (seven match equivalent sessions), followed by the Lancaster Analysis Area (3.5 match equivalent sessions).

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

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 or FA quality requirements.

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

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

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

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

3.2: Supply

The recommended dimensions for an 11v11 size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends 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 adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g., the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions, 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 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

The FA and FF considers that an 11v11 3G pitch, for the primary purpose of football team training, is sized 91x55m or larger, and that this PPS uses this definition to account for all 11v11 pitches.

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There are six 3G pitches of 11v11 size in the Lancaster District. Most provision (four pitches – 67%) is located in the Heysham and Morecambe Analysis Area. All pitches have sports lighting. Of the total pitches, three are available for community use, with the pitches at Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium), Lancaster and Morecambe College and Lancaster university Sports Centre are unavailable for community use.

Table 3.1: Summary of 11v11 3G pitches in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site	Active Places ID	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (meters)
8	Bay Leadership Academy	1201519	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Yes	100x60
38	Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre	1042059	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Yes	105x70
47	Lancaster and Morecambe College	1004607	Heysham and Morecambe	No ¹⁶	Yes	105x72
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	1004646	Lancaster	No ¹⁷	Yes	116x78
68	Morecambe Bay Academy	1201420	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Yes	95x64
71	Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium)	1004631	Heysham and Morecambe	No	Yes	99x68

There is also one smaller size 3G pitches servicing the District, the pitch is currently located at Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium), and it is currently unavailable for community use. The pitch is serviced by sports lighting.

Small size pitches are generally not suitable for adult match play but can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches provided they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with adequate run-off areas. More commonly, they are used to accommodate training demand, commercial football leagues and social play.

Table 3.2: Summary of small size 3G pitches in Lancaster

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (meters)
71	Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium)	Heysham and Morecambe	1	No	Yes	53x33

¹⁶ Utilised as a training base for Morecambe FC for all senior and junior teams.

¹⁷ It is considered that a very limited amount of timeslots are available for community use

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Future provision

Lancaster Local Football Facility Plan (2018)

The Lancaster Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)¹⁸, published in 2018, identifies proposed projects for the resurfacing of the pitch at Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium), Morecambe Bay Academy and Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre. In addition, to identifying projects for two new identified 3G pitches one at Lancaster City FC (Giant Axe) and one at Carnforth High School.

The LFFP proposed projects will be assessed as scenarios in the proceeding Strategy document to ensure that they are supported by the evidence presented in this report and whether alterations or additions are required to the Lancaster LFFP.

University of Cumbria

The University of Cumbria currently operates a full size sand based AGP onsite. The University suggests that although it hasn't previously fully explored the potential of a 3G pitch onsite, it is open to discussions to do so having seen success of currently managing the AGP onsite. A development would likely be for an 11v11 size pitch on the existing adult grass pitch onsite.

FA 3G 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 3G Pitch Register, which can be found at: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch (previously FIFA One Star) or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch (previously FIFA Two Star), with pitches commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. This comes after FIFA announced changes to 3G performance in October 2015 following consultation with member associations and licenced laboratories. The changes are part of FIFA's continued ambition to drive up performance standard in the industry and the implications are that all 3G pitches built through the FA framework will be constructed to meet the new criteria.

The changes from FIFA One Star to FIFA Quality will have minimal impact on the current hours of use guidelines, which suggests that One Star pitches place more emphasis on the product's ability to sustain acceptable performance and can typically be used for 60-85 hours per week with a lifespan of 20,000 cycles. In contrast, pitches built to FIFA Quality Pro performance standards are unlikely to provide the hours of use that some FIFA Two Star products have guaranteed in the past (previously 30-40 hours per week with a lifespan of 5,000 cycles). Typically, a FIFA Quality Pro pitch will be able to accommodate only 20-30 hours per week with appropriate maintenance due to strict performance measurements.

In Lancaster District, the following pitches have FA or FIFA accreditation on the FA 3G Pitch Register.

Table 3.3: Accreditation summary for 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Pitch type	Accreditation type	Test expiry
8	Bay Leadership Academy	11v11	FA Approved	31/05/2026
38	Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre	11v11	FA Approved	31/05/2026

¹⁸[Lancaster LFFP](#)

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Site ID	Site	Pitch type	Accreditation type	Test expiry
47	Lancaster and Morecambe College	11v11	FA Approved	31/05/2025
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	11v11	FA Approved	31/05/2024

It should be noted that the 11v11 pitch at Morecambe Bay Academy was previously on the FA register, however, this expired in 2019.

World Rugby (WR) compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, WR has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification (Regulation 22). This is to ensure that the surfaces 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 contact rugby union must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

There is currently one WR compliant 3G pitch within the District at Lancaster University Sports Centre. The 3G pitch at Lancaster and Morecambe College has a shock pad, and was previously WR compliant, however, it has not been retested since 2018.

Quality

It is considered that the carpet of a 3G pitch usually lasts for approximately ten years, and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period. Site assessments were undertaken in February 2023.

Of the six 3G pitches of 11v11 size, most are standard quality (five or 83%) and one (17%) pitch at Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium) is poor quality.

The one small size 3G pitch (53mx33m) at Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium) is rated as poor quality.

Table 3.4: Summary of full size 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Year built (resurfaced)
8	Bay Leadership Academy	Heysham and Morecambe	1	Standard	2005 (2016)
38	Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre	Heysham and Morecambe	1	Standard	2013
47	Lancaster and Morecambe College	Heysham and Morecambe	1	Standard	2011
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	1	Standard	2014
68	Morecambe Bay Academy	Heysham and Morecambe	1	Standard	2014
71	Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium)	Heysham and Morecambe	1	Poor	2011

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Table 3.5: Summary of small size 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Year built (resurfaced)
71	Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium)	Heysham and Morecambe	1	Poor	2011

The 11v11 size 3G pitch and small size pitch located at Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium) are both of poor quality. The pitches are well beyond the recommended ten year lifespan. However, the pitches have not been available for community use or utilised since purchased by a private owner in 2018, the pitches have not received any maintenance and the main reason why its fallen into a poor state. The pitches are effectively beyond poor quality and not suitable for use in their current state.

It should be noted that a number of the current 3G pitches within the District which are of standard quality are all in excess or coming up to the recommended lifespan. Lancaster and Morecambe College is past its lifespan by two years, Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre is at lifespan, whilst the Morecambe Bay Academy and Lancaster University pitches will be at the recommended lifespan in 2024.

With the above being said due to these pitches all being installed around a similar time and considered to all be of a similar quality. It is likely that these pitches will require improvements or replacement of surfaces in the lifespan of this PPOSS and within a similar time frame. If the pitches were all lost due to poor quality at a similar time, the supply and subsequent capacity for use in the District would significantly decrease.

Comparison to previous study

Pitch quality at Lancaster University Sports Centre, Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre, Morecambe Bay Academy and Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium) has remained the same since the 2018 study. In comparison the pitches at Bay Leadership Academy and Lancaster University Sports Centre have gone from good to standard quality mainly based on the age of their surface.

Ancillary facilities

The ancillary amenities at Lancaster University Sports Centre and Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre are rated as good quality with no issues arising during consultation. All other community available pitches are located at educational sites, all these facilities offer typical school changing facilities, with no significant issues arising all these facilities are considered sufficient to cater for the 3G pitches onsite.

Management

The 3G pitch at Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre is managed in house by the Community organisation. Whilst the 3G pitch at Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium) is managed and owned by a private owner. Since it was purchased in 2018, the pitch has not been available for community use and has declined to a poor quality.

The remaining four 11v11 3G pitches are located at educational sites and are managed in house by the education providers.

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Availability

The table below, examines the availability of each community pitch during the week.

Table 3.6: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
8	Bay Leadership Academy	Heysham and Morecambe	Monday to Friday: 17:00 - 22:00 Saturday/Sunday: 10:00-22:00
38	Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre	Heysham and Morecambe	Monday to Thursday: 09.00 – 21:00 Friday: 09.00-20:00 Saturday / Sunday: 09:00 – 18:00
47	Lancaster And Morecambe College	Heysham and Morecambe	Unavailable for community use
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	Monday to Friday: 09:00 – 22:00 Saturday / Sunday: 09:00 – 18:00
68	Morecambe Bay Academy	Heysham and Morecambe	Monday to Friday: 17:00 – 21:00 Saturday: 09:00 – 14:00 Unavailable on Sundays
71	Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium)	Heysham and Morecambe	Unavailable for community use

As previously mentioned, the pitch at Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium) is not available for community use.

3.3: Demand

The 11v11 size 3G pitches currently available for community use in Lancaster District are all reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This mainly applies to midweek capacity but at some sites also applies to weekend capacity on account of many being FA registered to host competitive matches.

Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, with minimal amounts of rugby union demand utilising the pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre. Most of the capacity is being taken up by clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a small presence of recreational football activity taking place (e.g., via unaffiliated groups).

The following table summarises the availability of 11v11 size 3G pitches for community use in Lancaster District. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. In order to accomplish this analysis a peak period needs to be determined. Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies a generic overall peak period for AGPs based the following hours for AGPs 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

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Table 3.7: Current usage of 11v11 size 3G pitches across Lancaster District

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Sports lighting	Quality ¹⁹	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Midweek					Weekend				
						Affiliated football usage	Affiliated rugby usage ²⁰	Other sports club usage	Informal / Recreational ²¹	Actual spare capacity	Affiliated football usage	Affiliated rugby usage	Other sports club usage	Informal / Recreational	Actual spare capacity
8	Bay Leadership Academy*	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 14 hours Total: 32 hours	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38	Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours	63%	-	2%	13%	22%	75%	-	-	-	25%
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 5.5 hours Weekends: 0 hours Total: 5.5 hours	82%	18%	-	-	0%	-	-	-	-	-
68	Morecambe Bay Academy	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 5 hours Total: 23 hours	76%	-	-	-	24%	-	-	-	-	100%

*Usage for Bay Leadership Academy is unknown despite several attempts to request the information from the provider.

It should be noted that most of the spare capacity during the week is between the 5pm-6pm time slot, this is considered an unattractive time slot due to being close to work/school finishing time and therefore has less interest than other desired timeslots.

The pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre is considered to be unavailable for community use. This is due to the very small amounts of availability to the public both during the week and at weekends. The pitch is utilised heavily by the University and therefore has no spare capacity to take on anymore community bookings.

¹⁹ Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions.

²⁰ Rugby union and rugby league

²¹ Recreation usage includes demand from leisure football leagues, Active Communities and other similar organisations.

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Training demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many 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.

In Lancaster District just under half (48%) of clubs that responded to consultation explicitly report that they require additional access to 3G pitches. As mentioned in Part 2: Football, 55% of clubs responded to consultation requests representing 81% of all teams playing within the District. This being said, the exact number of teams that report an aspiration to use more 3G pitches cannot be substantiated meaning an exact amount of unmet demand cannot be quantified.

Furthermore, some of these clubs are already 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 pitches (as referenced in Part 6) or indoor sports halls despite these not being their preferred surfaces.

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a sports lit 3G surface, together with priority access for every England Accredited Club through a partnership agreement. As such, it has established a model to calculate the required number of pitches to meet demand, with one full size pitch being required to service every 38 teams within a local authority. This is based on peak time access being Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings (Mondays and Fridays are discounted as it is considered that teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match, and it also allows for other forms of access such as for commercial leagues and recreational play).

Based on 205 teams currently playing on football pitches in the Lancaster District, there is a theoretical need for five full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 5.39). With there currently being three community available 11v11 3G pitches, there is an insufficient number of pitches within Lancaster District, with a shortfall of two pitches.

Table 3.8: Current demand for 3G pitches in Lancaster District (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G pitch requirement	Current number of 3G pitches available	Current shortfall
205	5	3	2

When considering future demand for an additional five teams (based on growth identified in Part 2 of this report), the required number of 3G pitches increases to six, therefore there is an increased shortfall to three 11v11 3G pitch.

Table 3.9: Future demand for 3G pitches in the Lancaster District (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches available	Future shortfall
210	6	3	3

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the potential needs exist across Lancaster District, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

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Table 3.10: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G pitch requirement ²²	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Carnforth/Rural	75	2 (1.97)	-	2
Heysham and Morecambe	65	2 (1.71)	3	-
Lancaster	65	2 (1.71)	-	2
Lancaster	205	6	3	4

This shows that there is currently a shortfall of four 11v11 3G pitches in Lancaster District. When broken down by analysis area, there is a shortfall identified in the Carnforth/ Rural and Lancaster analysis areas both of two 11v11 pitches.

Considering future demand from population growth (five teams) it is unlikely that demand will increase enough in an individual analysis area to increase requirement of 3G pitches.

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. 3G pitches can also be used to accommodate competitive matches, providing that the pitch is FA registered, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

In Lancaster District, only three community available 3G pitches are either FA or FIFA compliant and, on the FA 3G Pitch Register meaning they cannot all accommodate competitive matches. Bay Leadership Academy is used to accommodate matches from Morecambe Ladies FC. Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre is used for matches by North Lancs & District Development Centre. Whilst the pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre is utilised by the University football teams. Lancaster and Morecambe College is unavailable for community use but is the home training base for Morecambe FC and is used for matches by Lancaster and Morecambe College and Morecambe FC Academy teams.

In total, 37 teams (18% of all teams) are registered as using 3G pitches to accommodate competitive demand.

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.

Walking football

Walking football is played at walking pace, with players not allowed to run. This includes with the ball or off the ball and includes jogging. You can 'walk' as fast as you want and walking as described in the rules is "one foot must be in contact with the ground at all times." One other big difference to association or 5-a-side football is that it's classed as non-contact sport. Although tackling is allowed, this must be done with no contact.

²² Rounded to the nearest 0.25

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Morecambe FC Community Sports run walking football sessions on Tuesdays from 7pm-8pm at Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre. The session is available for anyone over the age of 35 and with any football ability.

Rugby union

As mentioned previously, there is one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch within Lancaster District. The pitch is located at Lancaster University Sports Centre and is used actively by the University rugby union teams.

Rugby league

Heysham Atoms ARLFC and the RFL reports that alongside its relocation to King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe), to ensure it can continue its growth it would be looking to also gain access to a sports lit 3G facility with a shock pad that would meet RFL Community Standard in its locality to support its training demand both through the summer and winter months.

Other sports

No other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Lancaster District (outside of some school activity). Furthermore, with limited demand identified in the District, and with limited presence of other relevant sports, no demand for access has been uncovered.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is currently insufficient supply to accommodate both current and future training demand across existing 3G pitches. When broken down by analysis area, there is a shortfall of two 11v11 3G pitches in the Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area and a shortfall of two 11v11 3G pitch in the Lancaster Analysis Area.

The 11v11 3G pitches currently available for community use in Lancaster District are all (where known) operating at, or close to, capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). Whilst 67% of teams responding to consultation report a need for additional 3G pitch provision to accommodate its current demand.

At present 3G pitches are used by 18% (37) of teams for weekend match play and given that some full size pitches at education sites are not fully available at weekends there could be scope to explore greater usage of existing provision to meet demand. This will be explored further in the Strategy and Action Plan to follow.

3.5: Conclusion

There is an insufficient supply to accommodate both current and future demand for 3G pitches in the Lancaster District according to the FA training model. When broken down by analysis area this represents a total shortfall of four 11v11 3G pitches, with shortfalls in the Carnforth/Rural (x2) and Lancaster (x2) analysis areas.

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Although 3G pitches in the local authority offer opening times throughout the week which cater for training demand, the pitch at Morecambe Bay Academy is only currently available on Saturday mornings and early afternoon with no availability on Sundays or Saturday afternoons, this limits the amount of match play which can take place on 3G pitches, it should also be noted that this pitch is not on the FA register and if these available times were to be taken up the pitch would have to become registered on the FA 3G pitch register.

Comparison to previous study

Similar to the 2018 study, Heysham and Morecambe continues to have sufficient provision, whilst shortfalls for 11v11 size 3G pitches remain in the Carnforth/Rural and Lancaster areas, with an increase of one pitch required in the both the Carnforth/Rural and Lancaster analysis areas.

Summary – 3G pitches

- ◀ **In conclusion, there is deemed to be an insufficient supply to accommodate both current and future demand for 3G pitches in Lancaster District.**
- ◀ **Additional 11v11 3G pitch provision for football is required in the Carnforth/Rural and Lancaster sub-areas.**

Supply

- ◀ There are six 3G pitches of 11v11 size in Lancaster District. Five of these pitches are located in the Heysham and Morecambe Analysis Area.
- ◀ All pitches have sports lighting, with three of the six pitches being available for community use.
- ◀ There is also one smaller size 3G pitch servicing Lancaster District, however, the pitch is unavailable for community use.
- ◀ In the Lancaster District four of the pitches are FA/FIFA compliant and on the FA 3G Pitch Register so permitted for match play use. Whilst the certificate for the pitch at Morecambe Bay Academy expired in 2019.
- ◀ There is one WR compliant 3G pitches in Lancaster. The 3G pitch at Lancaster and Morecambe College has a shock pad and was previously compliant, however, the pitch hasn't been retested since 2018.
- ◀ The 3G pitch at Heysham Mossgate Community and Sports Centre is managed by a community organisation. Whilst the 3G pitch at Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium) is owned and managed by a private owner. All other pitches are located at educational sites and are managed by the respective educational organisations.

Quality

- ◀ Of the six pitches of 11v11 size, five (83%) are standard quality and one (17%) pitch at Morecambe FC Mazuma Stadium) is poor quality.
- ◀ The one small sided 3G pitch at Morecambe FC (Mazuma Stadium) is of poor quality.
- ◀ The ancillary facilities at Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre and Lancaster University Sports Centre are rated as good quality with no issues arising during consultation.

Demand

- ◀ All pitches are extensively used for affiliated football demand both for midweek training and competitive demand at the weekend.

Capacity

- ◀ The 11v11 3G pitches currently available for community use in the Lancaster District are all operating at, or close to, capacity at peak times (where known), especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting).
- ◀ In the Lancaster District 67% clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, however, the exact number of teams that don't already access 3G pitches is unquantifiable.

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PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

Lancashire Cricket Foundation (LCF) serves as the main governing and representative body for cricket across the Lancaster District. 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 District. It is currently working with the ECB on delivering its Inspiring Generations Strategy which has been live since 2020.

Consultation

There are 12 cricket clubs playing in Lancaster District. Through both online surveys and video consultations 10 clubs have responded to consultation requests which results in a total club response rate of 83%.

Table 4.1: Summary of cricket club consultation

Club name	Analysis area	Response
Bare CC	Lancaster	Yes
Bolton-le-Sands CC	Carnforth/Rural	Yes
Carnforth CC	Carnforth/Rural	Yes
Galgate CC	Carnforth/Rural	Yes
Heysham CC	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes
Lancaster CC	Lancaster	Yes
Morecambe CC	Heysham and Morecambe	No
Silverdale CC	Carnforth/Rural	Yes
Torrisholme CC	Lancaster	Yes
Trimpell CC	Heysham and Morecambe	No
Warton CC	Carnforth/Rural	Yes
Westgate CC	Lancaster	Yes

County Facilities Strategy (CFS)

In 2022, to build upon the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, the ECB has started the process of producing County Facilities Strategies (CFS). A CFS will be produced by each individual county cricket board and will be unique to its geographical area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The CFS will be a 'long-term' plan with county boards ensuring the Strategy provides a ten-year view of facility needs. Like a PPOSS, the county cricket boards will establish key stakeholders (clubs, leagues, county sports partnerships, county pitch advisors & Sport England etc) within its locality to consult during the development of the Strategy.

Each county cricket board will utilise up to date PPOSS within its locality to support the development of the CFS, utilising the PPOSS findings as a 'high-quality' evidence base. The CFS will look at a range of facilities which support cricket across its region, with the ECB setting out guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered throughout the development of the CFS:

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Types of facility

- ◀ “Traditional” outdoor facilities
 - ◀ Pitches and Outfields
 - ◀ Pavilions
 - ◀ Practice

- ◀ “Non-traditional” facilities
 - ◀ Multi Use Games Areas
 - ◀ Tapeball/softball spaces
 - ◀ Courts or cages

- ◀ Indoor facilities
 - ◀ Practice (multi use halls)
 - ◀ Performance (cricket specific)
 - ◀ Matchplay (6 or 8 a side)

Each CFS will be used to shape investment decisions and priorities, particularly how each county cricket board will use the devolved budget within the County Grants Fund and prioritise larger scale strategic projects.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the CFS is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England’s Playing Field Policy.

4.2: Supply

There are 16 grass wicket squares in Lancaster District located across 14 sites, of which, 12 are available for community use.

The Carnforth/ Rural Analysis Area has the most available natural turf provision with five squares (42%) followed by the Lancaster Analysis Area which has four available squares (33%). The Heysham and Morecambe has the least number of available squares with three (25%).

Table 4.2: Summary of number of grass wicket squares across Lancaster

Analysis area	Available for community use	Not available for community use	Total
Carnforth/ Rural	5	-	5
Heysham and Morecambe	3	-	3
Lancaster	4	4	8
Total	12	4	16

Disused provision

There was previously a grass wicket square at Lancaster Moor Hospital Cricket Club. The site contained eight wickets, with the accompanying pavilion being demolished. In addition, the previously identified NTP at Bay Leadership Academy is now considered disused with the school no longer using the provision.

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Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches (NTPs) which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered to have carrying capacity of 60 match equivalent sessions per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets.

However, not all local leagues permit use of NTPs for match play and nationally those which do typically allow use for lower level of competition or within lower divisions.

In Lancaster District, there are eight NTPs which accompany grass wicket squares, as well as two standalone NTPs.

Table 4.3: Summary of NTPs in Lancaster District

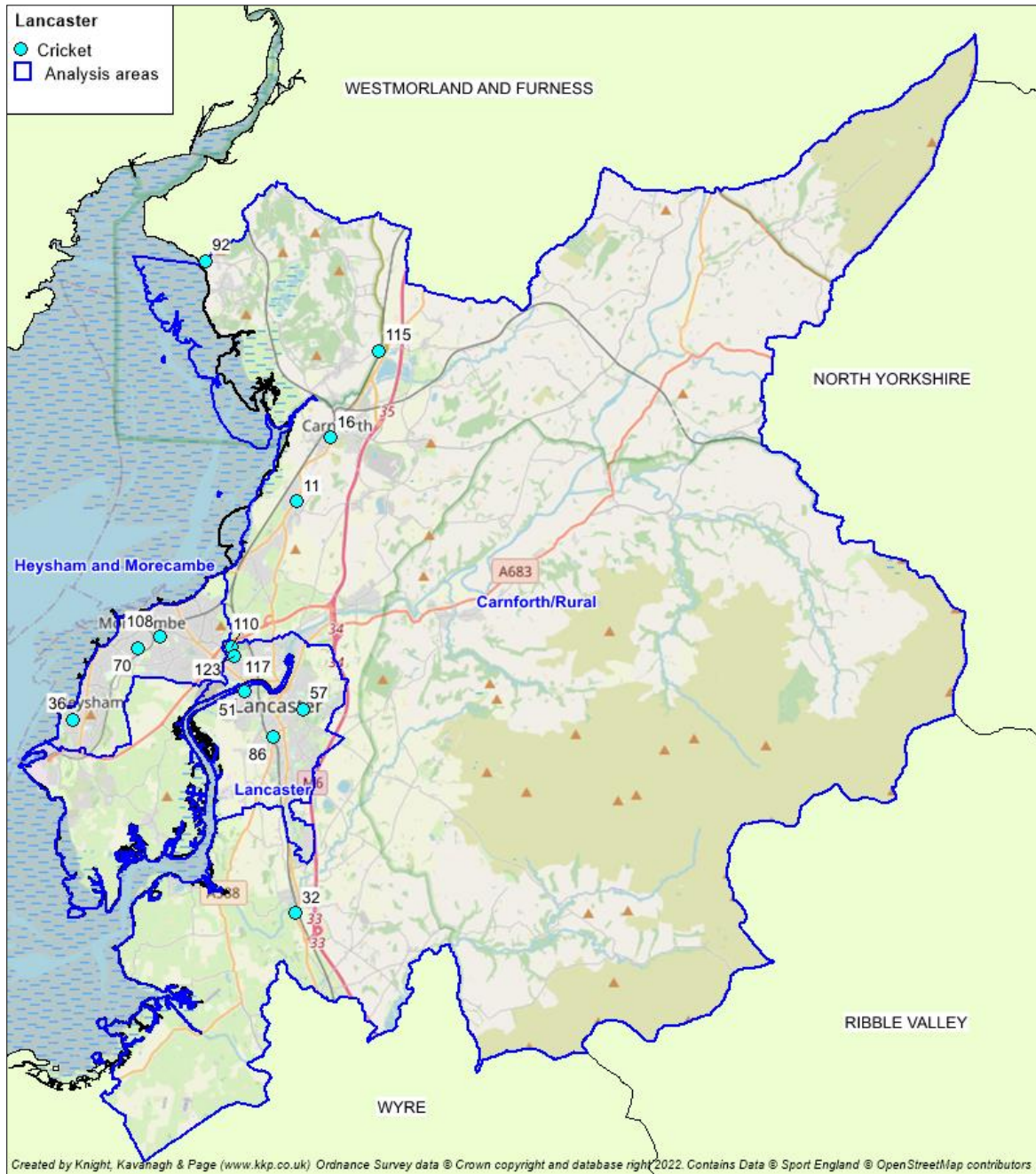
Site ID	Site name	Post code	Available for community use?	Analysis area	Number of NTPs	Position
16	Carnforth Cricket Club	LA5 9EA	Yes	Carnforth/Rural	1	Square
32	Galgate Recreation Field	LA2 0LQ	Yes	Carnforth/Rural	1	Square
36	Heysham Cricket Club	LA3 2RL	Yes	Heysham and Morecambe	1	Square
57	Lancaster Royal Grammar School	LA1 3EF	No	Lancaster	1	Standalone
68	Morecambe Bay Academy	LA4 5BG	No	Heysham and Morecambe	1	Standalone
110	Torrisholme Cricket Club	LA1 2PL	Yes	Lancaster	2	Square
115	Warton Cricket Club	LA5 9QJ	Yes	Carnforth/Rural	1	Square
117	Westgate Cricket Club	LA1 2TT	Yes	Lancaster	1	Square
123	Bare Cricket Club	LA1 2TT	Yes	Lancaster	1	Square

Comparison to previous study

The number of community available squares has remained the same since the previous study (2018) with a total of 12 overall. In comparison, there has been a reduction of one NTP as detailed in the 'Disused provision' section earlier.

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Figure 4.1: Summary of grass cricket squares in Lancaster District



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Table 4.4: Summary of security of tenure for Lancaster District cricket clubs

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Club/league	Arrangement	Tenure
11	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	LA5 8DH	Carnforth /Rural	Bolton-Le-Sands CC	Freehold	Secure
16	Carnforth Cricket Club	LA5 9EA	Carnforth/ Rural	Carnforth CC	Freehold	Secure
32	Galgate Recreation Field	LA2 0LQ	Carnforth/ Rural	Galgate CC	Rolling rental agreement from Ellel Parish Council	Secure
36	Heysham Cricket Club	LA3 2RL	Heysham and Morecambe	Heysham CC	Freehold	Secure
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	LA1 5QU	Lancaster	Lancaster CC	Long-term lease agreement	Secure
70	Morecambe Cricket Club	LA4 4NL	Heysham and Morecambe	Morecambe CC	Freehold	Secure
92	Silverdale Cricket Club	LA5 0SH	Carnforth/ Rural	Silverdale CC	Long-term lease from The National Trust	Secure
108	The Trimpell Club	LA4 4UP	Heysham and Morecambe	Trimpell CC	Freehold	Secure
110	Torrisholme Cricket Club	LA1 2PL	Lancaster	Torrisholme CC	Freehold	Secure
115	Warton Cricket Club	LA5 9QJ	Carnforth/ Rural	Warton CC	Long-term lease from Earl Peel (Expires 2029)	Secure
117	Westgate Cricket Club	LA1 2TT	Lancaster	Westgate CC	Yearly rolling agreement	Unsecure
123	Bare Cricket Club	LA1 2TT	Lancaster	Bare CC	Yearly rolling agreement	Unsecure

Tenure of sites in Lancaster District is generally secure i.e., through freehold, a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. Westgate CC and Bare CC are the only clubs that are considered to have unsecure tenure, this is due to having yearly rolling renting arrangements with private owners on their home sites. However, Westgate and Bare cricket clubs have recently been in contact with the land owner and are in discussions at securing a longer term agreement to secure their tenure.

Pitch quality

The quality of cricket pitches has been rated via a combination of site visits undertaken in July 2023 (using non-technical assessments²³ as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

²³ See Appendix Two for non-technical assessment criteria for cricket squares.

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The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%).

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

All grass cricket squares within Lancaster District receive a quality rating based on a combination of non-technical assessments and club consultation. Of the 12 squares available for community use, five grass squares are rated as good quality (42%), seven rated as standard quality (58%). No squares are rated as poor quality.

Table 4.5: Quality ratings for grass wicket squares (all pitches)

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Available for community use?	No. of squares	Square quality
11	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	LA5 8DH	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	1	Standard
16	Carnforth Cricket Club	LA5 9EA	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	1	Good
32	Galgate Recreation Field	LA2 0LQ	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	1	Standard
36	Heysham Cricket Club	LA3 2RL	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	1	Standard
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	LA1 5QU	Lancaster	Yes	1	Standard
57	Lancaster Royal Grammar School	LA1 3EF	Lancaster	No	2	Good
70	Morecambe Cricket Club	LA4 4NL	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	1	Good
86	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	LA1 4RS	Lancaster	No	2	Standard
92	Silverdale Cricket Club	LA5 0SH	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	1	Standard
108	The Trimpell Club	LA4 4UP	Heysham and Morecambe	Yes	1	Standard
110	Torrisholme Cricket Club	LA1 2PL	Lancaster	Yes	1	Standard
115	Warton Cricket Club	LA5 9QJ	Carnforth/Rural	Yes	1	Good
117	Westgate Cricket Club	LA1 2TT	Lancaster	Yes	1	Good
123	Bare Cricket Club	LA1 2TT	Lancaster	Yes	1	Good

Bolton-le-Sands Cricket Club (Bolton-le-Sands CC), Galgate Recreation Field (Galgate CC), Heysham Cricket Club (Heysham CC), Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club (Lancaster CC), Silverdale Cricket Club (Silverdale CC), The Trimpell Club (Trimpell CC) and Torrisholme Cricket Club (Torrisholme CC) squares are rated as standard quality. The respective clubs report that continued work to improve squares is required to improve them to good quality.

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Performance Quality Standards

To obtain a full technical assessment of wickets and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment to determine whether a cricket square meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Grounds Management Association (GMA). There are three categories of measurement that relate to the overall quality of the square: structural quality, presentational quality and playing quality. Once a square has been assessed it is given a quality rating, as shown below.

Table 4.6: Performance Quality Standard assessment ratings

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

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a Grounds Management Association (GMA) pitch advisor to undertake a Performance Quality Standard assessment. Clubs can choose from three different reports (comprehensive/mini/verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

Comparison to previous study

The quality since 2018 has improved with overall percentage of good quality community available provision increasing from 21% to 42%. In comparison, standard quality provision has reduced from 79% to 58% of all grass squares. There are still no poor quality squares within the District.

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 '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).

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The audit of ancillary facilities at available grass pitch cricket sites determines that five squares (42%) are accompanied by good quality provision, and six squares (50%) are accompanied by standard quality provision. Only one square at Bare Cricket Club is accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.

Table 4.7: Changing room quality (at sites with used natural turf squares)

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of squares	Quality
11	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	LA5 8DH	Carnforth/ Rural	1	Good
16	Carnforth Cricket Club	LA5 9EA	Carnforth/ Rural	1	Good
32	Galgate Recreation Field	LA2 0LQ	Carnforth/ Rural	1	Standard
36	Heysham Cricket Club	LA3 2RL	Heysham and Morecambe	1	Standard
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	LA1 5QU	Lancaster	1	Standard
70	Morecambe Cricket Club	LA4 4NL	Heysham and Morecambe	1	Standard
92	Silverdale Cricket Club	LA5 0SH	Carnforth/ Rural	1	Standard
108	The Trimpell Club	LA4 4UP	Heysham and Morecambe	1	Good
110	Torrisholme Cricket Club	LA1 2PL	Lancaster	1	Good
115	Warton Cricket Club	LA5 9QJ	Carnforth/ Rural	1	Standard
117	Westgate Cricket Club	LA1 2TT	Lancaster	1	Good
123	Bare Cricket Club	LA1 2TT	Lancaster	1	Poor

Bare CC reports that its clubhouse facility is of poor quality. The Club suggests that work is needed on the building to improve the quality, with a specific issue with the toilets within the building. It is also not suitable for women's and girls, whilst also having no umpires changing facility.

Carnforth CC has developed and improved its clubhouse in recent years. This has been done through remedial work on the changing rooms, bar and function area, the umpire's room and the players' lounge. The Club is now completing work to the outside of the building, with aspirations to install solar panels over the coming years. In addition, it is also looking to resurface the car park.

Torrisholme CC reports that it aspires to develop the bar and function area at Torrisholme Cricket Club. It has, in recent years, developed the current bar and function facility, however, it reports that it is becoming too small for the growing club. Although no current plans or funding is in place, there is an aspiration to redevelop the building. It also wishes to secure the site with fencing along the Barley Cop Lane side of the ground.

Silverdale CC aspires to develop women's changing facility onsite, however, reports it requires funding support to complete such a development.

Morecambe CC also reports that it is currently looking into improving its off field facilities, with a recent development of new fixed net training facilities, its next project is to look into improving ancillary provision.

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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. During the cricket season, outdoor training provision supplies most of the use.

Of the 12 club/community available sites three (Bare Cricket Club, Galgate Recreation Ground and Heysham Cricket Club) do not have dedicated fixed net provision. In this case, clubs generally make use of mobile nets, these are used for practice utilising both/either or an NTP/grass practice wicket on the respective squares.

Table 4.8: Summary of current fixed net training facilities

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Training facility	Quality
11	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	Carnforth/ Rural	1x lane facility	Poor
16	Carnforth Cricket Club	Carnforth/ Rural	1x lane facility	Poor
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	2x lane facility	Poor
70	Morecambe Cricket Club	Heysham and Morecambe	2x lane facility	Good
92	Silverdale Cricket Club	Carnforth/ Rural	1x lane facility	Standard
108	The Trimpell Club	Heysham and Morecambe	2x lane facility	Poor
110	Torrisholme Cricket Club	Lancaster	3x lane facility	Good
115	Warton Cricket Club	Carnforth/ Rural	2x lane facility	Poor
117	Westgate Cricket Club	Lancaster	2x lane facility	Good

Carnforth CC has plans to develop a two bay net facility onsite. The facility will be situated just off the ground adjacent to the clubhouse where there is a small piece of land with the space to build a new facility. The Club has had work done to this area, including water and electricity boards, relocating pipes and wires to enable the development of a two bay net facility which should be ready for use ahead of the 2024 season.

Bare CC reports it also has demand for additional training facilities. The Club aspires to develop a two bay fixed net facility onsite. At present, no plans are in place with this being at an aspirational level.

4.3: Demand

Traditionally, the English cricket season runs between late march and early/mid-September each year. There are 12 cricket clubs competing in the Lancaster District generating 81 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 34 senior men's, seven senior women's and 36 junior boys' and four junior girls' teams operating within Lancaster District. The distribution of these teams across the clubs can be seen below.

Table 4.9: Summary of number of competitive cricket teams

Club name	Analysis area	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls
Bare CC	Lancaster	2	1	-	1
Bolton-le-Sands CC	Carnforth/ Rural	1	-	1	-
Carnforth CC	Carnforth/ Rural	4	3	5	2
Galgate CC	Carnforth/ Rural	1	-	-	-
Heysham CC	Heysham and Morecambe	3	-	4	-
Lancaster CC	Lancaster	4	1	6	-

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Club name	Analysis area	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls
Morecambe CC	Heysham and Morecambe	5	1	4	-
Silverdale CC	Carnforth/ Rural	2	1	-	-
Torrisholme CC	Lancaster	5	-	6	1
Trimpell CC	Heysham and Morecambe	2	-	2	-
Warton CC	Carnforth/ Rural	1	-	2	-
Westgate CC	Lancaster	4	-	6	-
-	Totals	34	7	36	4

The largest club playing in the District is Carnforth CC which has a total of 14 teams.

It should be noted that of the seven women's teams, five are softball teams with only Morecambe and Carnforth cricket clubs operating women's hardball teams.

Table 4.10: Summary of number of competitive cricket teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	Total
Carnforth/Rural	9	4	8	2	23
Heysham and Morecambe	10	1	10	-	21
Lancaster	15	2	18	2	37
Total	34	7	36	4	81

Most teams play in the Lancaster Analysis Area which accommodates 37 teams (46%), followed by the Heysham and Morecambe Analysis Area with 21 teams (26%), and the Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area also accommodating 23 (29%) teams.

In addition to affiliated competitive demand, some clubs operate ECB initiatives such as All Stars, Dynamos and Softball cricket as detailed later.

University demand

Lancaster University CC utilises a number of club facilities throughout the summer months for British University & College Sports (BUCs) and Roses fixtures. The Club has three men's and one women's team, with the team's accessing facilities for matches on Wednesday afternoons. Demand for this has been added to specific sites within the capacity analysis below at Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club, Westgate Cricket Club and Bare Cricket Club.

Comparison to previous study

There has been an overarching increase in participation across Lancaster District with senior men's teams increasing by eight from 26 to 34 teams, senior women's increasing by five from two to seven teams and junior teams growing by 12 from 27 to 39 teams.

All Stars

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

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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.

Dynamos

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 which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars Cricket programme for 5-8 year olds established in 2018 and will develop the pathway to retain juniors progressing from All Stars into Dynamos.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified soft ball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme is strongly linked to The Hundred.

The table below summarises which clubs are involved in these initiatives and the participation figures for 2023 for All Stars and Dynamos.

Table 4.11: Summary of the Lancaster District All Stars and Dynamos participation

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club/organisation	All Stars	2023 sign ups	Dynamos	2023 sign ups
16	Carnforth Cricket Club	Carnforth/Rural	Carnforth CC	✓	71	✓	29
36	Heysham Cricket Club	Heysham and Morecambe	Heysham CC	✓	53	-	-
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Lancaster CC	✓	24	-	-
70	Morecambe Cricket Club	Heysham and Morecambe	Morecambe CC	✓	11	-	-
92	Silverdale Cricket Club	Carnforth/Rural	Silverdale CC	✓	16	✓	22
110	Torrisholme Cricket Club	Lancaster	Torrisholme CC	✓	18	-	-
115	Warton Cricket Club	Carnforth/Rural	Warton CC	✓	20	✓	23
-	-	-	Total	All Stars	219	Dynamos	76

Softball

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

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It should be noted that All Stars, Dynamos and Softball generally takes place on the cricket outfields rather than the actual squares. Although this does not impact the carrying capacity of the square it does influence the accessibility of the squares as whilst the outfield is in use the main square cannot be used to accommodate fixtures. Therefore, this may limit the potential spare capacity whilst these activities are taking place, generally on midweek evenings or Sunday mornings. At present, five clubs provide softball cricket:

- ◀ Bare CC
- ◀ Carnforth CC
- ◀ Lancaster CC
- ◀ Silverdale CC
- ◀ Torrisholme CC

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to the Lancaster District based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. There is no known exported demand from Lancaster District.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Lancaster District study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. There is no known imported demand in Lancaster District.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not able to access sufficient pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list.

There is currently no expressed unmet demand in Lancaster District.

Future demand

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

Population forecasts

Based on population projections to 2031 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand as per Lancaster's Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) estimates the likely additional demand for grass cricket pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference total current population of 148,119 will increase to 153,809 by 2031. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

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Table 4.12: District 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	Peak time for population	Average games for age group	Match equivalent session per season ²⁴
Men (18-55yrs)	1:1144	1.27	1	Saturday	12	12
Women (18-55yrs)	1:5256	0.27	0	Sunday	6	0
Boys (7-18yrs)	1:277	1.38	1	Midweek	4	4
Girls (7-18yrs)	1:2290	0.15	0	Midweek	4	0

As seen in the above, one additional men's teams and one additional junior boys' teams are expected to be generated by population growth. Although no senior women's or junior girls' teams are predicted to be created via population growth alone, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of female cricket in Lancaster District is likely as it is currently a national priority to increase women and girl's participation. It is therefore important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would ordinarily suggest.

It is important to acknowledge that whilst team generation rates project team growth as a factor of population and existing teams, there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends suggest, due to a desire to change such trends. For example, TGRs do not take into consideration the aforementioned ECB initiatives such as All Stars, Dynamos or Softball. These are all likely to contribute to growth above levels shown through team generation rates.

The ECB has also recently announced new five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024. The new deals include a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. The new deals also include a return to free air television for live cricket, with the BBC to show coverage of some international and domestic matches. Such context may result in increased future demand.

Participation increases

Of the responding clubs, three indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation through the creation of new teams. This equates to a total aspirational growth of 11 teams, equating to one senior men's, two senior women's and eight junior teams as seen below.

Table 4.13: Future demand aspirations expressed by club

Club	Analysis area	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Lancaster CC	Lancaster	-	1	2
Silverdale CC	Carnforth/ Rural	-	-	2
Warton CC	Carnforth/ Rural	1	1	4
-	Total	1	2	8

²⁴ 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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Future demand summary

Population increases will be taken through into the supply and demand analysis below. This is due to participation increases being seen as more aspirational. The impact of participation increases will be explored in a scenario in the preceding Strategy and Action Plan document.

The population increases sees in an increase of one additional men's teams and one additional junior boys' team. These will be used a future demand in the supply and demand analysis below.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for cricket across three distinct time periods which are Saturdays, Sundays and Midweek (Monday to Friday).

Saturday is classified as peak time for senior men's cricket across Lancaster District where at present there is demand for 20 teams.

However, Sunday also accommodates for both senior men's cricket and senior women's match play whether this is hardball or softball and some junior matches. On Sunday's there is demand for eight men's senior teams and five senior women's hardball teams. Whilst junior teams generally access pitches on Sunday mornings and therefore this does not affect the availability of squares for senior cricket which is played in the afternoon. In Lancaster District there are two junior teams reported to have demand on Sunday mornings.

Midweek is when most junior matches are played, as well as all club training, senior men's T20 matches and ECB initiatives All Stars and Dynamos cricket typically take place. In total, there are 31 junior and four senior midweek teams which have demand for midweek play.

4.4: 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 pitch 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 presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square. For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per 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 safe for play.

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

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows and shown in Table 4.15.

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

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Please note that non-turf wickets have been discounted from the table overleaf. No non-turf wicket squares are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and matches can be played on a variety of days.

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 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.

Spare capacity

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 4:15 in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and Midweek).

Table 4.14: Spare capacity examples

Potential spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
No	Means the pitch is played to capacity within this peak period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
Yes	Not highlighted, it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period however this is discounted due to the pitch already being in full use at the time, played to capacity or being overplayed so it cannot accommodate any additional demand.
Yes	Highlighted in green, it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

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Table 4.15: Capacity of natural turf cricket squares (available for community use)

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Post code	Analysis area	Users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Pitch quality	Types of wickets	No. of grass wickets	Match equivalent sessions per season			Potential spare capacity/availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/availability for midweek cricket
											Capacity	Current use	Capacity balance			
11	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	1041184	LA5 8DH	Carnforth/Rural	Bolton-le-Sands CC	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	8	32	16	16	Yes	Yes	Yes
16	Carnforth Cricket Club	1208320	LA5 9EA	Carnforth/Rural	Carnforth CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	12	60	79 ²⁵	19	No	No	No
32	Galgate Recreation Field	1069707	LA2 0LQ	Carnforth/Rural	Galgate CC	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	8	32	13	19	Yes	Yes	Yes
36	Heysham Cricket Club	1208364	LA3 2RL	Heysham and Morecambe	Heysham CC	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	9	36	41	5	No	Yes	Yes
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	1208392	LA1 5QU	Lancaster	Lancaster CC	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	16	64	70 ²⁶	6	No	No	No
70	Morecambe Cricket Club	1208396	LA4 4NL	Heysham and Morecambe	Morecambe CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	14	70	75 ²⁷	5	No	No	Yes
92	Silverdale Cricket Club	1069713	LA5 0SH	Carnforth/Rural	Silverdale CC	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	8	32	31	1	No	Yes	Yes
108	The Trimpell Club	20001885	LA4 4UP	Heysham and Morecambe	Trimpell CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	10	40	18	22	Yes	Yes	Yes
110	Torrisholme Cricket Club	1208398	LA1 2PL	Lancaster	Torrisholme CC	Secure	1	Standard	Senior	14	56	60	4	No	No	No
115	Warton Cricket Club	1208400	LA5 9QJ	Carnforth/Rural	Warton CC	Secure	1	Good	Senior	11	55	17	38	Yes	Yes	Yes
117	Westgate Cricket Club	1040864	LA1 2TT	Lancaster	Westgate CC	Unsecure	1	Good	Senior	12	60	58 ²⁸	2	No	Yes	No
123	Bare Cricket Club	-	LA1 2TT	Lancaster	Bare CC	Unsecure	1	Good	Senior	10	50	35 ²⁹	15	No	Yes	Yes

²⁵ 10 MES per season added for Representative Cricket use.

²⁶ Five MES per season added for Lancaster University CC use.

²⁷ 10 MES per season added for Representative Cricket and Lancaster Grammar School Use.

²⁸ Five MES per season added for Representative Cricket and Lancaster University Use.

²⁹ 10 MES per season added for Representative Cricket and Lancaster University Use.

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Saturday cricket spare capacity

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage. For senior men's cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Saturday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.

Notwithstanding the above, there may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site. As such, no sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity (at least 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are required for an additional senior team to be accommodated) and neither are sites with unsecure tenure as future usage cannot be guaranteed.

Table 4.16: Summary of actual spare capacity for Saturday cricket

Site ID	Site name	Number of squares	Capacity rating (MES)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated
11	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	1	12	1
32	Galgate Recreation Field	1	12	1
108	The Trimpell Club	1	12	1
115	Warton Cricket Club	1	12	1

Sunday cricket - spare capacity

Like Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Sunday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Sunday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Sunday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.

Table 4.17: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket

Site ID	Site name	Number of squares	Capacity rating (MES)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated
11	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	1	12	1
32	Galgate Recreation Field	1	12	1
108	The Trimpell Club	1	12	1
115	Warton Cricket Club	1	24	2

As mentioned earlier the accessibility of a square on a Sunday can be affected by softball activity on the outfield, meaning the square cannot be used whilst the outfield is in use. Therefore, if a site is used for softball, it can realistically only accommodate one additional team on a Sunday if there is suitable spare capacity (based on being played on an alternate home and away basis).

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Midweek cricket - spare capacity

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 not be poor quality, have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have at least six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play.

Furthermore, 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).

Table 4.18: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek (junior) cricket

Site ID	Site name	Number of squares	Capacity rating (MES)	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated ³⁰
11	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	1	16	4
32	Galgate Recreation Field	1	16	4
108	The Trimpell Club	1	12	3
115	Warton Cricket Club	1	20	4

Overplay

There are five sites in Lancaster District which are considered to be overplayed for cricket by a total of 39 match equivalent sessions per season.

Of the five overplayed squares two are rated as good quality, whilst the other three are rated as standard quality. Therefore, it is considered that if improvements were made to the facilities due to the minimal amount of overplay, it is likely that this overplay would be alleviated. This will be explored further in the proceeding Strategy and Action Plan.

Table 4.19: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
16	Carnforth Cricket Club	Carnforth/Rural	1	19
36	Heysham Cricket Club	Heysham and Morecambe	1	5
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	1	6
70	Morecambe Cricket Club	Heysham and Morecambe	1	5
110	Torrisholme Cricket Club	Lancaster	1	4
-	-	Total	5	39

³⁰ Based on juniors playing an average of five matches per season

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4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Saturday cricket - capacity balance

The following tables look at actual spare capacity against overplay.

Actual spare capacity is converted from squares to match equivalent sessions per season, calculated by using the average number of home matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (one team per 0.5 squares that are available).

The entirety of spare capacity available at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time (the maximum amount of spare capacity that can be accommodated on one square at peak time is 24 match equivalent sessions).

Table 4.20: Current capacity balance of grass cricket squares for Saturday cricket in match sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Carnforth/Rural	36	19	17
Heysham and Morecambe	12	10	2
Lancaster	-	10	10
Total	48	39	9

There is currently sufficient supply to meet current demand for Saturday cricket overall with spare capacity of nine match equivalent sessions per season. However, on an analysis area level, there is currently a shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions per season in the Lancaster Analysis Area.

Table 4.21: Future capacity balance of grass cricket squares for Saturday cricket in match sessions per season

Area	Current total	Future competitive demand	Future total
Lancaster District	9	12 ³¹	3

When accounting for future demand of one additional men's team playing on a Saturday, shortfalls become evident across the District with shortfalls of three match equivalent sessions per season.

Sunday cricket - capacity balance

Actual spare capacity is converted from squares to match equivalent sessions per season. This is calculated by using the average number of home matches played per season by senior Sunday teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (one team per 0.5 squares that are available).

The entirety of spare capacity available at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time (the maximum amount of spare capacity that can be accommodated on one square on Sunday afternoons is 24 match equivalent sessions).

³¹ Demand for one senior men's Saturday team

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Table 4.22: Current capacity balance of grass cricket squares for Sunday cricket in match sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Carnforth/Rural	48	19	29
Heysham and Morecambe	12	10	2
Lancaster	-	10	10
Total	60	39	21

There is currently sufficient supply to meet current demand for Sunday cricket overall with spare capacity of 21 match equivalent sessions per season. However, on an analysis area level, there is currently a shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions per season in the Lancaster Analysis Area.

Table 4.23: Future capacity balance of grass cricket squares for Sunday cricket in match sessions per season

Area	Current total	Future competitive demand	Future total
Lancaster District	21	12 ³²	9

When accounting for future demand of one additional men's team playing on a Sunday, the spare capacity is shortened from 21 to nine match equivalent sessions per season in the District.

Midweek cricket - capacity balance

Actual spare capacity is converted from squares to match equivalent sessions per season. This is calculated by using the average number of home matches played per season by junior teams (four) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time.

Table 4.24: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for midweek cricket in match sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Carnforth/Rural	52	19	33
Heysham and Morecambe	12	10	2
Lancaster	-	10	10
Total	64	39	25

There is currently sufficient supply to meet current demand for Midweek cricket overall with spare capacity of 25 match equivalent sessions per season. However, on an analysis area level, there is currently a shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions per season in the Lancaster Analysis Area.

Table 4.25: Future capacity balance of grass cricket squares for midweek cricket in match sessions per season

Area	Current total	Future competitive demand	Future total
Lancaster District	25	4 ³³	21

³² Demand for one senior men's Sunday team

³³ Demand for two junior boys' midweek teams.

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When accounting for future demand of one additional junior team, the spare capacity is shortened from 25 to 21 match equivalent sessions per season in the District.

4.6: Conclusion

Overall, there is currently sufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket across the District. However, when future demand from population is applied future demand cannot be met for Saturday cricket, with a shortfall of three match equivalent sessions per season becoming evident. However, Sunday and midweek cricket continues to be met when future demand is applied, however spare capacity is reduced.

Table 4.26: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares across the Lancaster District in match sessions per season

When	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	48	39	9	12	3
Sunday	60	39	21	12	9
Midweek	64	39	25	4	21

When broken down by analysis area it should be noted that for Saturday, Sunday and Midweek cricket there is a shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions per season in the Lancaster Analysis Area.

At present three overplayed sites (Heysham Cricket Club, Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club and Torrisholme Cricket Club) are of standard quality and therefore if quality was improved then overplayed would likely be alleviated on these squares. However, the square at Carnforth Cricket Club is of good quality and therefore there is a need for the Club to make increased use of the NTP or explore the opportunity to install hybrid wickets to provide additional capacity and to alleviate overplay of natural turf provision.

Comparison to previous study

Broadly speaking the supply and demand analysis for cricket across Lancaster District has remained the same with actual spare capacity existing both currently and in the future for Sunday and Midweek cricket. However future demand can no longer be met for Saturday cricket. It should be noted that, similar to the 2018 study, marginal shortfall exists in the Lancaster Analysis Area across all formats, this has increased marginally from eight to ten match equivalent sessions per season.

Cricket summary

- Overall, there is currently sufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket across the District. However, when future demand from population is applied future demand cannot be met for Saturday cricket, with a shortfall of three match equivalent sessions per season becoming evident.

Cricket – supply

- There are 16 grass wicket squares in the Lancaster District located across 14 sites, of which, 12 are available for community use.
- In Lancaster, there are eight NTPs which accompany grass wicket squares, as well as two standalone NTPs.
- Tenure of sites in Lancaster District is generally secure i.e. through freehold, a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years.
- Westgate CC and Bare CC are the only clubs that are considered to have unsecure tenure, this is due to having yearly rolling renting arrangements with private owners on their home sites. However, Westgate and Bare cricket clubs have recently been in contact with the land owner and are in discussions at securing a longer term agreement to secure their tenure.
- Of the 12 squares available for community use, five grass squares are rated as good quality (42%), seven rated as standard quality (58%). No squares are rated as poor quality.
- The audit of ancillary facilities at available grass pitch cricket sites determines that five squares (42%) are accompanied by good quality provision, and six squares (50%) are accompanied by standard quality provision. Only one square at Bare Cricket Club is accompanied by poor quality ancillary provision.
- Of the 12 club/community available sites three (Bare Cricket Club, Galgate Recreation Ground and Heysham Cricket Club) do not have dedicated fixed net provision.

Cricket – demand

- There are 12 cricket clubs competing in the Lancaster District generating 81 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 34 senior men's, seven senior women's and 36 junior boys' and four junior girls' teams.
- The largest club playing in the District is Carnforth CC which has a total of 14 teams.
- Most teams play in the Lancaster Analysis Area which accommodates 37 teams (46%), followed by the Heysham and Morecambe Analysis Area with 21 teams (26%), and the Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area also accommodating 23 (29%) teams.
- There is no known imported or exported demand from Lancaster.
- It is expected that one additional men's team and one additional junior boys' team are to be generated by population growth.
- Of the responding clubs, three indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation through the creation of new teams. This equates to a total aspirational growth of 11 teams, equating to one senior men's, two senior women's and eight junior teams as seen below.

Cricket – capacity

- Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club, Galgate Recreation Field, The Trimpell Club, Warton Cricket Club all have spare capacity and availability to accommodate additional senior cricket on Saturdays, Sundays and Midweek (Junior) cricket.
- There are five sites in Lancaster District which are considered to be overplayed for cricket by a total of 39 match equivalent sessions per season.

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body and is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. Club Developers, Coach Developers, club volunteers and teachers deliver programmes in schools and clubs across Lancaster District.

The RFU governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as The Touch Union 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.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May, with senior men's fixtures being held on Saturday afternoons whilst ladies, juniors and mini fixtures are held on Sundays.

Consultation

There is one rugby union club based in Lancaster. Vale of Lune RUFC responded to consultation requests, therefore a consultation rate of 100% was achieved. Discussions also took place with Lancaster University to understand its intermural demand, this will be referenced where relevant throughout this section of the report.

5.2: Supply

There is a total of 13 rugby union pitches identified in Lancaster District. Of these, seven are available for community use. All pitches are senior size pitches, and all unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

Table 5.1: Supply of rugby union pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of community available pitches	No. of unavailable pitches	% of total provision
Carnforth/ Rural	-	-	0%
Heysham and Morecambe	-	-	0%
Lancaster	7	6	100%
Total	7	6	100%

All provision is located within the Lancaster Analysis Area. There are no pitches located in either the Carnforth/Rural or the Heysham and Morecambe analysis areas.

Table 5.2: Supply of rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community available?	No. of senior pitches
22	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	No	1
58	Lancaster Royal Grammar School Grass Pitches (Memorial Playing Field)	Lancaster	No	4
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	Yes	3
86	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	Lancaster	No	1
113	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Lancaster	Yes	4

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Traditionally, age grade rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches and this is largely the case across Lancaster District, with age grade teams from most clubs accessing senior pitches for both training and competitive matches.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see the table below.

Table 5.3: Pitch dimensions

Team type (ages)	Team reference	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ³⁴
Under 8	Mini	45 x 22
Under 9	Mini	60 x 30
Under 10	Mini	60 x 35
Under 11	Mini	60 x 43
Under 12	Mini	60 x 43
Under 13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
Under 14-16	Age grade	100 x 70 ³⁵
Under 17+	Senior	100 x 70

Comparison to previous study

There has been a decrease in overall rugby union provision in the District with provision at Carnforth High School (two senior pitches), Bay Leadership Academy (two senior pitches) and Morecambe Bay Academy (one senior pitch) no longer actively marked out.

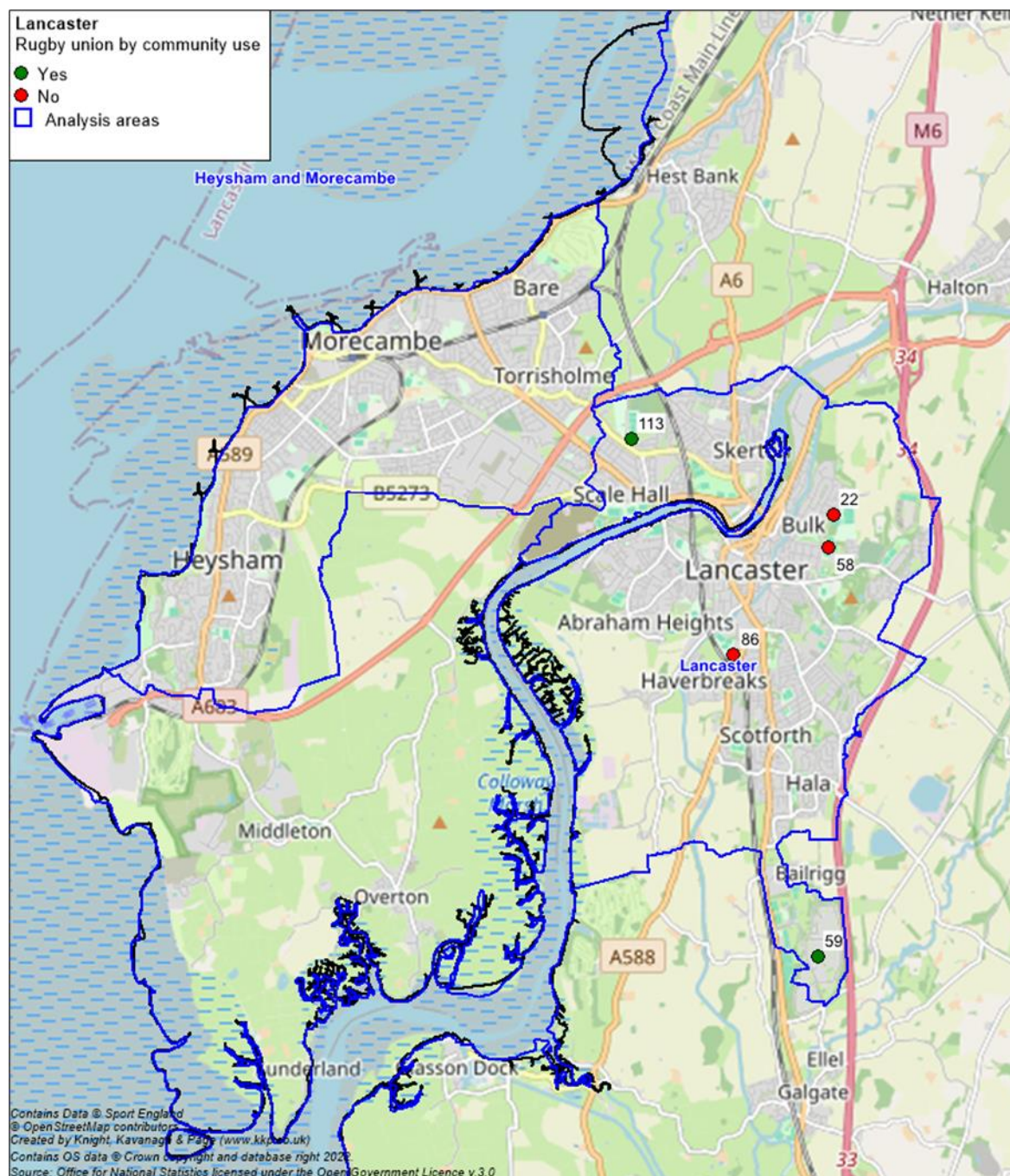
It should be noted that the pitch at Carnforth High School stopped being marked after Carnforth RUFC folded. The Club previously used the site to accommodate its fixtures, however, folded *circa* 2018/19 due to a lack of regular demand.

³⁴ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

³⁵ Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are acceptable.

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Figure 5.1: Rugby union pitches location



Security of tenure

Security of tenure refers to the rights of occupation on playing field and infrastructure. Clubs and stakeholders generally fall into the bracket of owner-occupier, tenant or licensee. The table below identifies the current tenure position of each rugby union club based on information collated during consultation.

Table 5.4: Rugby union clubs security of tenure

Club	Tenure arrangement	Secure?
Vale of Lune RUFC	Freehold	Yes

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Pitch quality

The quality of rugby union pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits undertaken in February 2023 (using non-technical assessments as determined by RFU) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The methodology for assessing rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements: the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated. The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

Table 5.5: 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

Table 5.6: 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

Table 5.7: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Based on the above criteria, there are three (43%) good quality and one (14%) standard quality and three poor quality pitches (43%) at sites which are available for community use. Of these, all poor quality community available pitches are located at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club sites which through consultation were identified as receiving basic maintenance.

Please refer to Table 5.8 overleaf for a breakdown of pitch quality.

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Table 5.8: Site quality ratings at rugby union sites

Site ID	Site name	Club	Analysis area	Number of grass pitches	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Pitch type	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
22	Central Lancaster High School	-	Lancaster	1	No	No	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor
58	Lancaster Royal Grammar School (Memorial Playing Field)	-	Lancaster	2	No	No	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster University RUFC	Lancaster	3	Yes	No	Senior	M2 / D1	Good
86	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	-	Lancaster	1	No	No	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor
113	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Vale of Lune RUFC	Lancaster	1	Yes	No	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard
113	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Vale of Lune RUFC	Lancaster	2	Yes	No	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor
113	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Vale of Lune RUFC	Lancaster	1	Yes	Yes	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor

Comparison to previous study

Pitch quality at Central Lancaster High School and Lancaster Royal Grammar School have stayed the same since the previous PPOSS, whereas the pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre have improved in quality due to an enhanced maintenance regime going from a M1/D1 to a M2/D1 rating.

The quality of pitches at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club have reduced from standard (M1/D1) to poor quality (M0/D1) due to the limited amounts of maintenance the Club can afford to carry out.

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Ancillary facilities

The term ancillary facility relates to built facility infrastructures at sites. Typically, this includes (but is not limited too) clubhouses, changing rooms, showers, carparking and toilet facilities.

The table below summarises the position at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club and highlights current issues and long term requirements.

Table 5.9: Ancillary provision feedback

Site	Club	Ancillary position
Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Vale of Lune RUFC	Vale of Lune RUFC reports that its ancillary provision is of standard quality. It has several changing rooms and function/bar which it operates. The Club reports that the toilets require updating, with other remedial work required to the clubhouse to improve the quality. In addition, it also has a stand attached to the first team pitch.

Sports lighting

Of the seven community available pitches, only one has sports lighting at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club.

The floodlit pitch at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club supports midweek winter training demand. The Club has previously explored installing sports lighting on the main pitch, however, as the team does not play any evening fixtures it decided that there is currently no need to have sports lighting on the pitch.

5.3: Demand

Demand for rugby union pitches in Lancaster District tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training. The rugby union playing season operates from September to May inclusive.

Competitive play

There is one community rugby union club in Lancaster District which in total generates demand equating to 19 teams. The breakdown by type is shown in the table below.

Table 5.10: Demand summary

Club	Senior men's	Senior women's	Colt boys (U17/U18)	Colt girls (U17/U18)	Age grade boys U16-U13)	Age grade girls (U16-U13)	Mixed Age grade (U12-U6)
Vale of Lune RUFC	3	1	1	-	4	3	7

There is also intermural demand from Lancaster University RUFC and University of Cumbria RUFC. The former amounts to three men's teams which all play (on grass pitches) and train (on 3G pitches) on campus at Lancaster University Sports Centre. The latter is a women's friendly team which plays ad hoc matches at Vale of Lune RUFC.

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Comparison to previous study

Overall rugby union demand has decreased since the 2018 study with Carnforth RUFC folding (one senior men’s team) and Vale of Lune RUFC now only accommodating three men’s teams instead of six. This being said, there has been an increase in female participants accommodated within female teams at Vale of Lune RUFC.

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.

Full details of each of the clubs training schedules are detailed in the table below.

Table 5.11: Training demand summary

Club	Midweek training requirements	Match equivalent sessions (MES)
Vale of Lune RUFC	Two senior men’s sessions, Colts Under 18 Boys and senior women training session once a week. All training takes place across pitch two which has sports lighting.	Five MES per week (Senior midweek training)

World Rugby (WR) compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate contact rugby union activity, WR has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces 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 contact rugby union must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

There is one WR compliant 3G pitch within Lancaster. The pitch is located at Lancaster University Sports Centre and is used actively by the university rugby union teams. Whilst the pitch at Lancaster and Morecambe College has a shock pad and was previously WR compliant it hasn’t been retested since 2018 meaning its certification has lapsed.

Touch rugby

To actively encourage participation in rugby union, clubs may provide alternative offers to traditional club competition. Touch rugby is one possible format which clubs can use; touch rugby is non-contact rugby sessions, during which participants compete in teams to score tries, following similar laws to traditional rugby union formats. Clubs, schools or community organisation can establish their own touch rugby sessions or can become hosts of Touch sessions.

Touch matches are 90 minutes long and combine music, fitness and rugby skills. Sessions are mixed in terms of gender, ability and age and is based on touch rugby being a social activity. There are presently Touch sessions being run at Lancaster University Sports Centre.

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Walking rugby

Walking rugby is a slower game of touch rugby that is accessible for disability groups and older participants, generally aged 55 years and above. The game is less physical than traditional rugby, but the general aim remains the same, with passing and scoring laws applying; and tackling involves a two-handed touch to the waist or below. Sessions for over 55's are an opportunity for participants to become physically active and for others to re-engage with rugby at a less strenuous pace.

At present there is no formal walking rugby session in Lancaster.

Exported/imported demand

Exported demand refers to existing demand which is transferred outside of the study area; whilst imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities in the Lancaster District due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

At present, there is no imported or exported demand into or out of Lancaster.

Unmet/latent demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is currently no latent demand which was highlighted through consultation.

Future demand

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

Future competitive growth

Based on population projections to 2031 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference, total current population in 2022 of 148,119 will increase to 153,809 by 2031. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

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Table 5.12: 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 session ³⁶
Men (19-45yrs)	1:9340	0.12	0	0
Women (19-45yrs)	1:26690	0.04	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:970	0.19	0	0
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:1464	0.12	0	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:1412	0.27	0	0

Participation growth

Vale of Lune RUFC report future aspirations to create a total of two teams which equates to one match equivalent sessions per week on senior pitches.

Table 5.13: Summary of club aspirational future demand

Club	Analysis area	Future team aspirations	Future aspirations in match equivalent sessions (MES) on a senior pitch ³⁷
Vale of Lune RUFC	Lancaster	1x colts' girls	0.5
Vale of Lune RUFC	Lancaster	1x colts' boys	0.5
-	-	Total	1

Future demand through participation increases from club aspirational demand is considered more aspirational, and it is unlikely that it will all be achieved.

Future demand summary

On balance, there is not anticipated to be any future growth in the number of rugby union teams provided through population growth. Like previously mentioned, as participation growth is generally considered aspirational it may not be fully achieved in the future, however it should be noted that Vale of Lune RUFC is the only rugby union club in the District and in recent years has seen growth across its age grade rugby union teams at boys, girls and mixed. With that being said, the preceding Strategy and Action Plan document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the participation growth was realised.

5.4: 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.

³⁶ 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.

³⁷ Anticipated future junior demand is represented as 0.5 MES on a senior pitch whereas anticipated mini future demand is represented as 0.25 MES on a senior pitch.

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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 rugby union activity (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 per pitch, unless school activity levels are known.
- ◀ All competitive play is played on full size rugby union pitches, unless specified.
- ◀ From Under 13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mixed age grade teams (Under 6-Under 12) play on half of a pitch i.e., two teams per pitch.
- ◀ For senior and single gender age grade 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 mixed age grade teams playing on a 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.
- ◀ Age grade rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Midweek training that takes place on pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions per week 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.

Table 5.14: Summary of rugby union pitch carrying capacity in match equivalent sessions per week

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

Carrying 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.

Table 5.15: Key to capacity balance

Capacity balance in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have potential spare capacity.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity over the course of the week.
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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Peak times for pitch use

To fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for men's rugby union matches is Saturday afternoons. Peak time for age grade activity is Sunday mornings, with most play taking place on senior pitches. Peak time for women's and colts' rugby union matches is Sunday afternoons.

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Table 5.16: Capacity table for rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Sports lighting	Competitive demand (MES per week)	Training demand (MES per week)	Pitch capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
22	Central Lancaster High School	1004589	Lancaster	No	Unsecure	1	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	No	1	-	1.5	0.5	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
58	Lancaster Royal Grammar School Grass Pitches (Memorial Playing Field)	1041526	Lancaster	No	Unsecure	4	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No	4	4	8	0	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	1004646	Lancaster	Yes	Unsecure	3	Senior	M2 / D1	Good	No	3 ³⁸	-	9	6	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
86	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	1004631	Lancaster	No	Unsecure	1	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	No	1	-	1.5	0.5	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
113	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	1036258	Lancaster	Yes	Secure	1	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No	1.5	-	2	0.5	Spare capacity discounted to protect 1 st XV pitch.
113	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	1036258	Lancaster	Yes	Secure	2	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	No	11 ³⁹	-	3	8	Pitches are overplayed by 8 match equivalent sessions.
113	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	1036258	Lancaster	Yes	Secure	1	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	Yes	0.75	5	1.5	4.25	Pitch is overplayed by 4.25 match equivalent sessions.

It should be noted that one of the poor quality pitches with no sports lighting at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club is currently utilised by Heysham Atoms ARLFC during the summer months. The pitch does get exposed to increased demand during this period, however, the rugby league club has recently agreed to move to a new site and therefore will not be located at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club from the 2024 season.

³⁸ Including American Football demand from Lancaster Bombers (Lancaster University)

³⁹ 5.5 MES of demand added due to use from Heysham Atoms during the summer months.

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Actual spare capacity

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

There is currently no actual spare capacity on pitches in Lancaster. This is due to actual spare capacity being located on educational sites which are unavailable for community use or offer unsecure tenure, whilst the spare capacity at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club is discounted to protect the 1st XV pitch.

Overplay

There is one overplayed pitch at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club by a total of 12.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Overplay is due to limited carrying capacity of the poor quality pitch and high levels of demand at the site. There is also concentrated use of the grass pitch which has sports lighting for training because the sports lighting facilitates greater accessible hours for training use during the winter months.

Table 5.17: Summary of overplay at rugby union grass pitch sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Pitch quality	Capacity balance
113	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Lancaster	3	M0/D1 (Poor)	12.25

5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Rugby union pitches

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

Table 5.18: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches in match equivalent sessions.

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Carnforth/ Rural	-	-	0
Heysham and Morecambe	-	-	0
Lancaster	-	12.25	12.25
Lancaster	0	12.25	12.25

Overall, there is a current shortfall of 12.25 match equivalent sessions per week on rugby union pitches to meet current demand. Through population increases no future competitive or training demand is identified therefore there is no change in supply and demand balance.

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5.6: Conclusion

Overall, based on the supply and demand analysis, it is evident that there is an insufficient supply of rugby union provision in the Lancaster District to accommodate for current levels of demand.

The priority for rugby union in the Lancaster District is to ensure maintenance programmes are enhanced at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club to improve quality of pitches to alleviate the overplay and create spare capacity to meet potential future demand.

Comparison to previous study

Overall shortfalls have increased for grass rugby union provision across the Lancaster District going from ten match equivalent sessions to 12.25 match equivalent sessions per week. This is primarily due to the fact there has been an increase in age grade rugby union demand.

Summary – Rugby union

- ◀ **There is an insufficient supply of provision in the Lancaster District to accommodate for both current and anticipated future levels of demand for rugby union.**
- ◀ **The priority for rugby union in the Lancaster District is to ensure maintenance programmes are enhanced across club settings to improve quality of pitches to alleviate the overplay across senior pitches.**

Supply

- ◀ There is a total of 13 rugby union pitches identified in Lancaster. Of these, seven are available for community use. All pitches are senior size pitches, and all unavailable pitches are located at education sites.
- ◀ There is one WR compliant 3G pitch within Lancaster. The pitch is located at Lancaster University Sports Centre and is used actively by the university rugby union teams. Whilst the pitch at Lancaster and Morecambe College has a shock pad and was previously WR compliant it hasn't been retested since 2018 meaning its certification has lapsed.
- ◀ All sites used by rugby union clubs in the District are managed by the respective rugby union clubs. Vale of Lune RUFC has freehold ownership of its site.

Quality

- ◀ Of the seven community available rugby union pitches three (43%) are good quality, one (14%) is standard quality and three are poor quality pitches (43%). Of these, all poor quality community available pitches are located at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club sites which through consultation were identified as receiving basic maintenance.
- ◀ All available pitches are reported to have adequate natural drainage, with no issues with general drainage of pitches.

Demand

- ◀ There is one rugby union club in the Lancaster District which in total generates demand equating to 19 teams. The breakdown by type is shown in the table below.
- ◀ Community club training typically takes place on grass pitch provision with sports lighting.
- ◀ Future demand from population increases is projected as zero teams. Whilst future demand from club growth aspirations is considered to amount to two teams (one colt's girls' and one colt's boys' team), requiring additional match play capacity of one match equivalent sessions on senior pitches.

Capacity

- ◀ This is due to actual spare capacity being located on educational sites which are unavailable for community use or offer unsecure tenure, whilst the spare capacity at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club is discounted to protect the 1st XV pitch.
- ◀ There is one overplayed pitch at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club by a total of 12.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

PART 6: ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS) FOR HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH). Following a 2017 resolution, England Hockey has undertaken a review of the way the sport is structured locally. In September 2020, the membership of England Hockey took the decision to support the proposed structural changes set out in A Structure Fit for the Future⁴⁰, which proposes a new structure of eight areas (increased from five) to divide the balance of clubs and players more equally in England. Hockey in the Lancaster District is administered regionally by the North West and locally by Lancashire Hockey Association.

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation artificial grass pitches, some may be suitable for introductory level hockey, 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.

A typical artificial grass pitches pitch is constructed from a free draining, frost-free sub-base, one or two tarmac layers, a 15mm shock pad and an artificial grass carpet, either sand filled, sand dressed or water based⁴¹. Below is a brief summary of each type.

Sand filled artificial grass

On sand filled artificial grass the artificial grass fibres are infilled with sand. This is a low-density durable carpet with sand infill to just below the pile for stability, these pitches are recommended for lower league hockey and more of a multi sports use rather than higher competitive hockey use.

Sand dressed artificial grass

The fibres on sand dressed artificial grass are much denser and therefore requires less sand to support the pile of the carpet and create stability. It is the most commonly used surface for hockey up to and including at a National level.

Water-based artificial grass

A very high-density carpet with no sand infill which requires irrigation via a sprinkler system to maintain a layer of water on the pitch. The water provides low slide resistance and reduces the risk of abrasions caused by coarse sand.

Table 6.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	Essential International Hockey - Training and matches	Desirable Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards

⁴⁰ <https://www.englishockey.co.uk/governance/about-england-hockey/agm-resolution/governance-review>

⁴¹ For more detail, please refer to: [EH artificial pitch guidance.pdf](#)

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

In addition to the above pitch types, England Hockey reports it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand and other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type known as Gen 2⁴² is a versatile surface that will ensure sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience. It will be a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and utilised provision to full potential.

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. England Hockey 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.

Consultation

There are four hockey clubs based in the Lancaster District, of which, three responded to consultation requests and were consulted with via video call meetings.

Table 6.2: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Lancaster HC	Yes
Lancaster & Morecambe HC	Yes
Lancaster Nomads HC	No
Lancaster University HC	Yes

⁴² <http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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6.2: Supply

There are six full size, hockey suitable AGPs in the Lancaster District across five sites all located in Lancaster Analysis Area, of these, two pitches are unavailable for community use at HMP Lancaster Farms and Lancaster Girls Grammar School. All four which are available for community use also have sports lighting as detailed in the table below.

Table 6.3: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	No. of pitches	Analysis area	Surface type	Pitch size (metres)	Available for community use?	Sports lighting?
22	Central Lancaster High School	1004589	1	Lancaster	Sand Filled	94x58	Yes ⁴³	Yes
40	HMP Lancaster Farms	30007479	1	Lancaster	Sand Dressed	100x64	No	No
52	Lancaster Girls Grammar School	1103444	1	Lancaster	Sand Filled	96x60	No	No
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	1004646	1	Lancaster	Sand Dressed	101x65	Yes	Yes
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	1004646	1	Lancaster	Sand Dressed	98x61	Yes	Yes
112	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	1004640	1	Lancaster	Sand Dressed	100x61	Yes	Yes

Table 6.4: Summary of small size hockey suitable AGPs in Lancaster

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Analysis area	Surface type	Pitch size (metres)	Available for community use?	Sports lighting?
17	Carnforth High School	1	Carnforth/Rural	Sand Filled	63x35	Yes	Yes
69	Morecambe Bay Community Primary School	1	Heysham and Morecambe	Sand Filled	36x18	No	No
86	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	1	Lancaster	Sand Filled	70x36	Yes	Yes

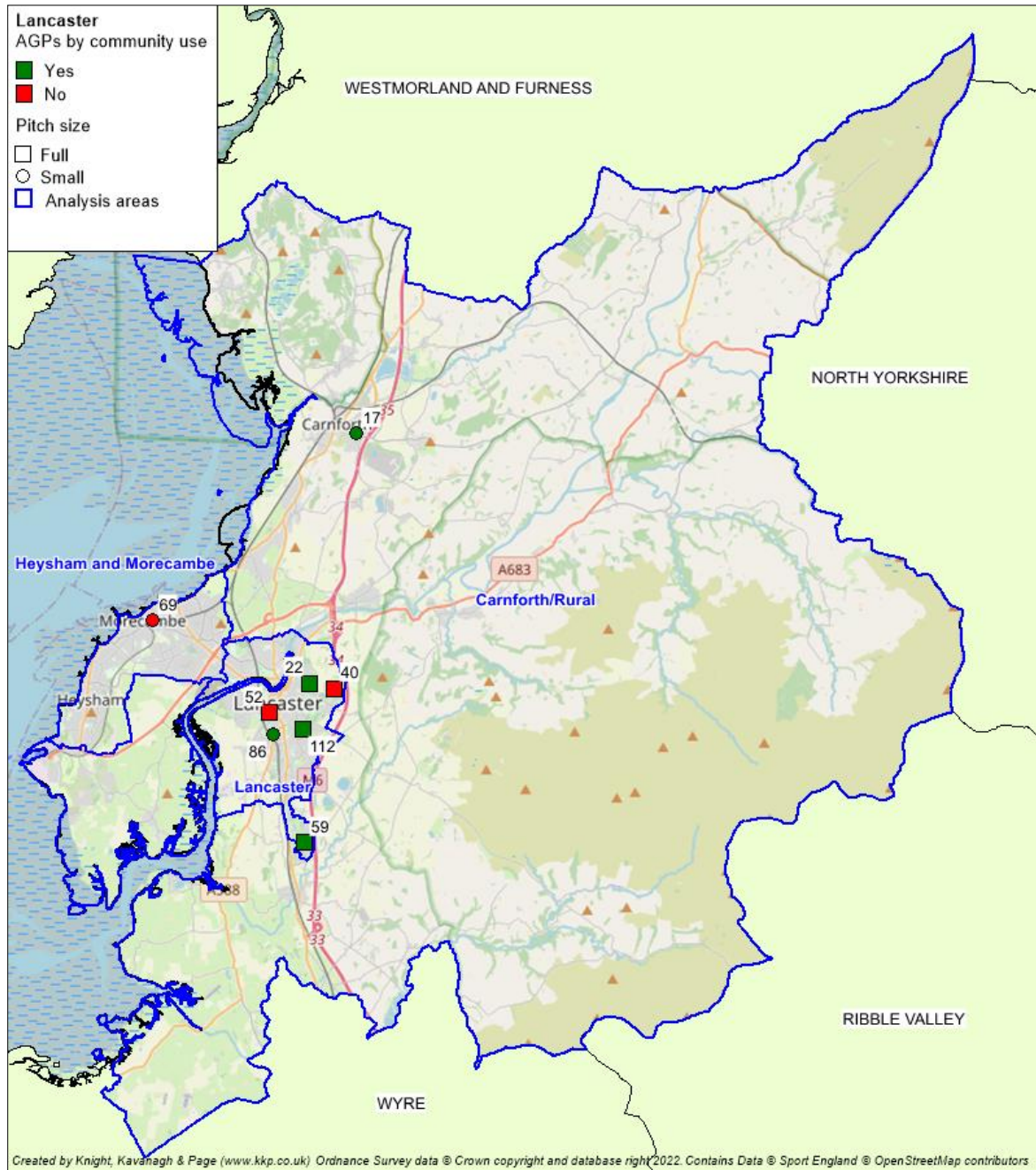
Comparison to previous study

The only difference in supply from the 2018 study is an additional small size hockey suitable AGP has been included at Morecambe Bay Community Primary School. This provision was not assessed as part of the previous study.

⁴³ Not utilised due to poor pitch quality.

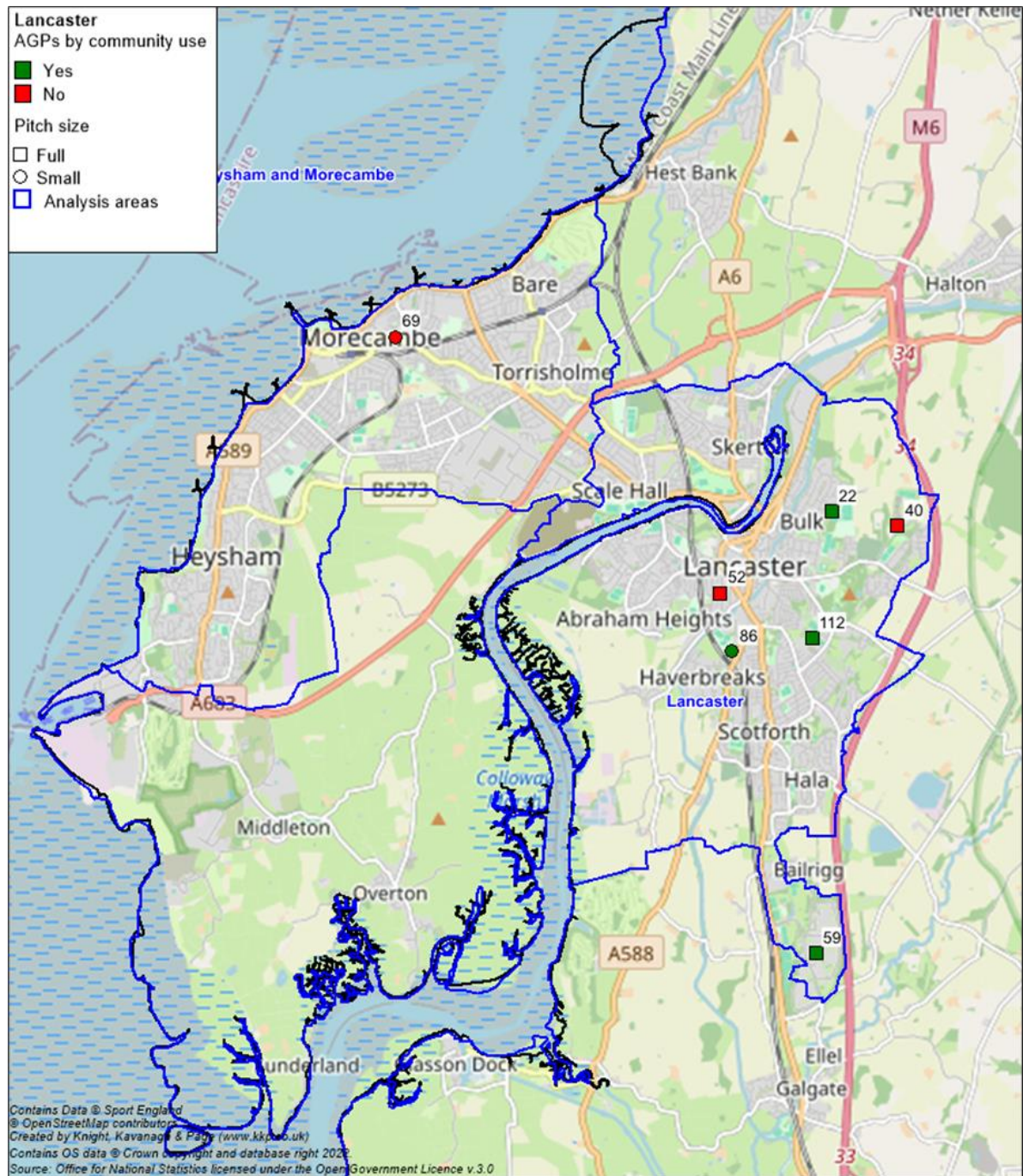
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Figure 6.1: Location of AGPs in the Lancaster District



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Figure 6.2: Location of AGPs in the Lancaster and Heysham and Morecambe analysis areas



Future supply

There are no known plans for development of AGPs in the District.

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Quality

Taking the above into account, the quality of hockey suitable artificial grass pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits undertaken in February 2023 (using non-technical assessments as determined by EH⁴⁴) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (60-79%), Poor (<60%). The quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

In addition, depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an artificial grass pitch usually lasts for approximately ten years, and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality.

Table 6.5: Summary of community available full size AGP quality

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Pitch size	Surface type	Year built (refurbished)	Pitch quality
22	Central Lancaster High School	1	Full size	Sand filled	2006	Poor
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	2	Full size	Sand Dressed	1992 (2009)	Poor
112	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	1	Full Size	Sand Dressed	2000 (2012)	Standard

Lancaster HC also confirms that both pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre are poor quality. Neither pitch has been resurfaced for a number of years, with one (built 2005) considered worse than the other and receives limited use due to safety concerns.

Table 6.6: Summary of community available half size AGP quality

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Pitch size	Surface type	Year built (refurbished)	Pitch quality
17	Carnforth High School	1	Half size	Sand Filled	2007	Poor
86	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	1	Half Size	Sand Filled	2000	Poor

Comparison to previous study

The overarching quality of community available full size hockey suitable pitches has decreased since 2018. In cohesion with reports from Lancaster HC, the pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre have reduced in quality from good to poor. Both pitches are now well beyond their recommended life span and need refurbishment. The pitch at University of Cumbria Sports Centre has also reduced from good to standard quality.

⁴⁴ See Appendix 3 for the non-technical assessment for artificial grass pitches

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Management and security of tenure

All AGPs in the District are located at educational sites and are managed in house by the education providers onsite.

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Availability

The table below summarises usage levels of the full size AGP provision in the Lancaster District based on booking sheets supplied by the operators, it should be noted that Central Lancaster High School pitch has not been included as although it is considered available for community use, the pitch is not accessed because of its poor quality. This is compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM). This applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). This totals 18 hours midweek and 16 hours on a weekend

Table 6.7: Availability and usage of full size, community available AGPs across Lancaster District

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Hockey club users	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Midweek usage					Weekend usage				
					Affiliated hockey usage	Affiliated football usage	Other sports club usage ⁴⁵	Informal / Recreational ⁴⁶	Actual spare capacity	Affiliated hockey usage	Affiliated football usage	Other sports club usage ⁴⁷	Informal / Recreational ⁴⁸	Actual spare capacity
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	Lancaster HC Lancaster Nomads HC Lancaster University HC	Weekdays: 12 hours Weekends: 7.5 hours Total: 19.5 hours	33%	33%	-	8%	25%	87%	-	-	-	13%
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	Lancaster HC Lancaster Nomads HC Lancaster University HC	Weekdays: 12 hours Weekends: 7.5 hours Total: 19.5 hours	33%	33%	-	8%	25%	87%	-	-	-	13%
112	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	Lancaster	Lancaster & Morecambe HC	Weekdays: 14 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 30 hours	14%	72%	-	14%	0%	31%	19%	-	12%	38%

Due to excessive use of the pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre by the University for several sports, Lancaster HC and Lancaster Nomads HC suggests that there is very limited spare capacity for additional midweek bookings as can be seen in the table above, with all the times available to book considered to be at undesirable times such as 5pm-6pm. Lancaster HC is also looking to add another session midweek for junior training demand, however, finding available sessions best suited for its membership is difficult. In addition, Lancaster & Morecambe HC reports that it currently only accesses sessions for its juniors from 4pm-5pm this is due to demand for use of the pitch at the University of Cumbria Sports Centre for football training. The Club suggests that if it had a later session for its juniors, it would likely have additional members as many cannot currently make the sessions.

⁴⁵ Walking Football/Rugby Union Skill Training

⁴⁶ Recreation usage includes demand from leisure football leagues, Active Communities and other similar organisations.

⁴⁷ Walking Football/Rugby Union Skill Training

⁴⁸ Recreation usage includes demand from leisure football leagues, Active Communities and other similar organisations.

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Ancillary provision

The quality of ancillary facilities across the Lancaster District has been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

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, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing. The table below identifies the findings for sites that are actively utilised for hockey across Lancaster.

Table 6.8: Summary of ancillary provision quality accompanying full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Ancillary facilities quality
22	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	1	Standard
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	2	Good
112	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	Lancaster	1	Good

In total, three of the full AGPs are accompanied by good quality ancillary provision, whilst the remaining one AGP at Central Lancaster High School is accompanied by standard quality ancillary provision.

6.3: Demand

There are four hockey clubs based in the Lancaster District which in total accommodate three senior men's, nine senior women's and four dedicated junior teams.

The table below examines each club's participation figures for the 2022/23 season for all Category One and Category Two players. These are the participants that must access hockey suitable AGPs for their demand.

Table 6.9: Summary of number of teams

Name of club	Site used	Senior men's teams	Senior women's teams	Junior	Mixed	Total
Lancaster HC	Lancaster University Sports Centre	-	3	3	-	6
Lancaster & Morecambe HC	University of Cumbria Sports Centre	2	3	1	-	6
Lancaster Nomads HC	Lancaster University Sports Centre	-	2	-	-	2
Lancaster University HC	Lancaster University Sports Centre	1	1	-	-	2
Total	-	3	9	4	0	16

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Table 6.10: England Hockey affiliation figures 2022/23 (Category One and Two)

Name of club	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior boys (14-16)	Junior girls (14-16)	Junior boys (11-13)	Junior girls (11-13)	Mini mixed (5-10)	Total
Lancaster HC	-	46	-	13	4	10	11	84
Lancaster & Morecambe HC	25	45	3	8	5	4	9	99
Lancaster Nomads HC	-	35	-	2	-	-	-	37
Lancaster University HC	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	30
Total	40	141	3	23	9	14	20	250

Comparison to previous study

Team numbers and general participation levels have decreased since the 2018 study with Lancaster & Morecambe HC, Lancaster HC and Lancaster Nomads HC all accommodating a reduced number of senior teams. Junior and mini participation at the former two clubs has also reduced. Anecdotal evidence from the clubs indicates that this in part can be accredited to the reduced quality of playing provision.

Future demand

Growing participation is the number one aim within EH's strategic plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Growth in participation will not only come from the traditional 11 a side game but from the informal, recreational ways to play hockey such as small sided hockey, which can be played at any time during the week or at weekends.

Though there remains a desire from EH to increase participation within the club/league based game, not all future demand may be realised entirely as new formalised teams playing at peak time. Some clubs may decide to offer pay and play opportunities to participants or offer small sided formats in a bid to increase participation and club memberships by providing a different hockey offer.

Increased demand from new participants will lead to a requirement for increased capacity on available artificial grass pitches at peak time, but also midweek and on Sundays to deliver other formats of hockey activity. At present, it is not necessarily clear as to what format this may take or when it is likely to take place, however, it is clear that there will be a requirement for access to increased capacity on artificial grass pitches across the area. This should be considered when assessing demand for artificial grass pitches in the future, as not only will they be needed for peak match play times and midweek training to accommodate increased participation within the formalised hockey environment, but also throughout the week and at non-peak times to offer wider opportunities for play.

Based on population projections to 2033 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for AGP provision that will arise from any growth. This is worked out by converting existing senior demand to team generation rates, in addition to including levels of participation to include those which is not formally categorised such as mini and junior demand and match equivalent sessions to calculate future requirements.

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The PPC identifies a growth in training demand in the Lancaster District of 0.69 hours for seniors and 0.07 additional hours for juniors and match play demand of 0.31 pitches (0.23 match equivalent sessions for adults and 0.08 match equivalent sessions for juniors).

Hockey Heroes

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

There are no Hockey Heroes courses operating in the District.

Back to Hockey

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

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

There is one Back to Hockey session available in the Lancaster District at University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus) and is run and organised by Lancaster & Morecambe HC.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision.

There is currently no reported latent demand in the District.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Lancaster District due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

There is no known imported demand into the District.

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing provision for home fixtures outside of Lancaster, despite being from within the District.

There is no known exported demand out of the District.

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Peak time demand

For matches, most of the senior hockey activity in the Lancaster District takes place on a Saturday, whereas most junior activity occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is midweek evenings, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

Match play

The PPS Guidance suggests that a full size AGP with sports lighting is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday (peak time). With teams playing on a home and away format, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams on a Saturday. One team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP. However, given restrictions on start times by the local league structures that senior teams play in, in the Lancaster District; the number of matches accommodated during the peak period reduces from four to three, equating to six home teams playing on a home and away basis.

In total, there are 12 senior teams from clubs based within the Lancaster District playing on a Saturday. Based on the above, three full size hockey suitable AGPs is sufficient to meet demand. However, please note this is from a quantity perspective only and does not take into accessibility and quality issues. As identified above, the two pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre are poor quality. One of the pitches at the site is considered to be of a considerably worse quality than the other and is likely to need a resurface sooner, if this pitch was to fall out of use, then there would be significant issues to enable the pitches to accommodate match play demand.

Training

It is considered that there are enough pitches to accommodate demand for all the clubs at present. However, it should be noted that all AGPs are currently being utilised for hockey and other sports demand (football training) during the week. At present although slots are available midweek some clubs suggest that the time slots are not favourable and therefore have not progressed with increasing the number of sessions and this may be affecting participation. Similarly, as Lancaster HC suggests it is looking to add an additional night for its junior training, however, due to availability of the pitches it has not been able to secure a time slot which is suitable to support the growth of its junior section.

6.5: Conclusion

There is an adequate supply of hockey suitable AGPs in the Lancaster District to accommodate match play demand. However, there are issues reported with training demand for clubs in the District as detailed above. This is mainly due to availability and access of pitches to accommodate current and future training demand, although spare capacity is available the times available are at undesirable times.

In addition, the quality of one pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre is considered poor and is decreasing in quality continually, if it falls out of use and is not resurfaced soon, this will create further issues with training demand being accommodated for clubs in the District.

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Comparison to previous study

The overarching conclusion is the same as the previous study with there being a suitable number of full size hockey suitable pitches in the District to accommodate hockey demand. With this being said, due to the worsening of pitch quality there is now an immediate need for refurbishment of specific pitches.

Summary - artificial grass pitches

- ◀ **There is an adequate supply of hockey suitable AGPs in the Lancaster District to accommodate match play demand. However, there are issues with training demand apparent for clubs in the District. This is due to a combination of accessibility and quality issues.**

Supply

- ◀ There are six full size, hockey suitable AGPs in the Lancaster District across five sites all located in Lancaster Analysis Area, of these, two pitches are unavailable for community use at HMP Lancaster Farms and Lancaster Girls Grammar School. All four which are available for community use also have sports lighting.
- ◀ There are three small size sand based AGPs in the District across three sites. Two of which are available for community use.
- ◀ All the community available hockey suitable AGPs are located on educational sites and are managed internally by each educational organisation.

Quality

- ◀ Of the four full size community available hockey suitable AGPs in the Lancaster District, three are rated as poor quality and one as standard quality.

Demand

- ◀ There are four hockey clubs based in the Lancaster District which in total accommodate three senior men's, nine senior women's and four dedicated junior 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 and administers the sport locally across Lancaster. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

Consultation

Five tennis clubs are identified in the Lancaster District and three of these clubs have responded to consultation requests, resulting in a 60% response rate.

Table 7.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Bolton-le-Sands TC	Yes
Bowerham Lawn TC	No
Lancaster TC	Yes
Lunesdale Lawn TC	No
Slyne-With-Hest TC	Yes

7.2: Supply

There are 70 tennis courts identified in the District Lancaster across 21 sites. Of which, 34 courts across 13 sites are available for community use and 36 courts across eight sites are unavailable for community use.

The Lancaster Analysis Area contains the highest number of community available courts with 19 (56%), with the Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area having 14 (41%) available courts. The Heysham and Morecambe Analysis Area has the least amount of community available courts with only one (3%).

Table 7.2: Summary of the number of courts in Lancaster

Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
Carnforth/Rural	14	1
Heysham and Morecambe	1	13
Lancaster	19	22
Total	34	36

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). All unavailable courts in the Lancaster District are located at school sites.

It should be noted that Slyne-with-Hest TC reports aspirations of developing an additional tennis court onsite at Hest Bank Recreation Ground, although funds would need to be secured for such a project.

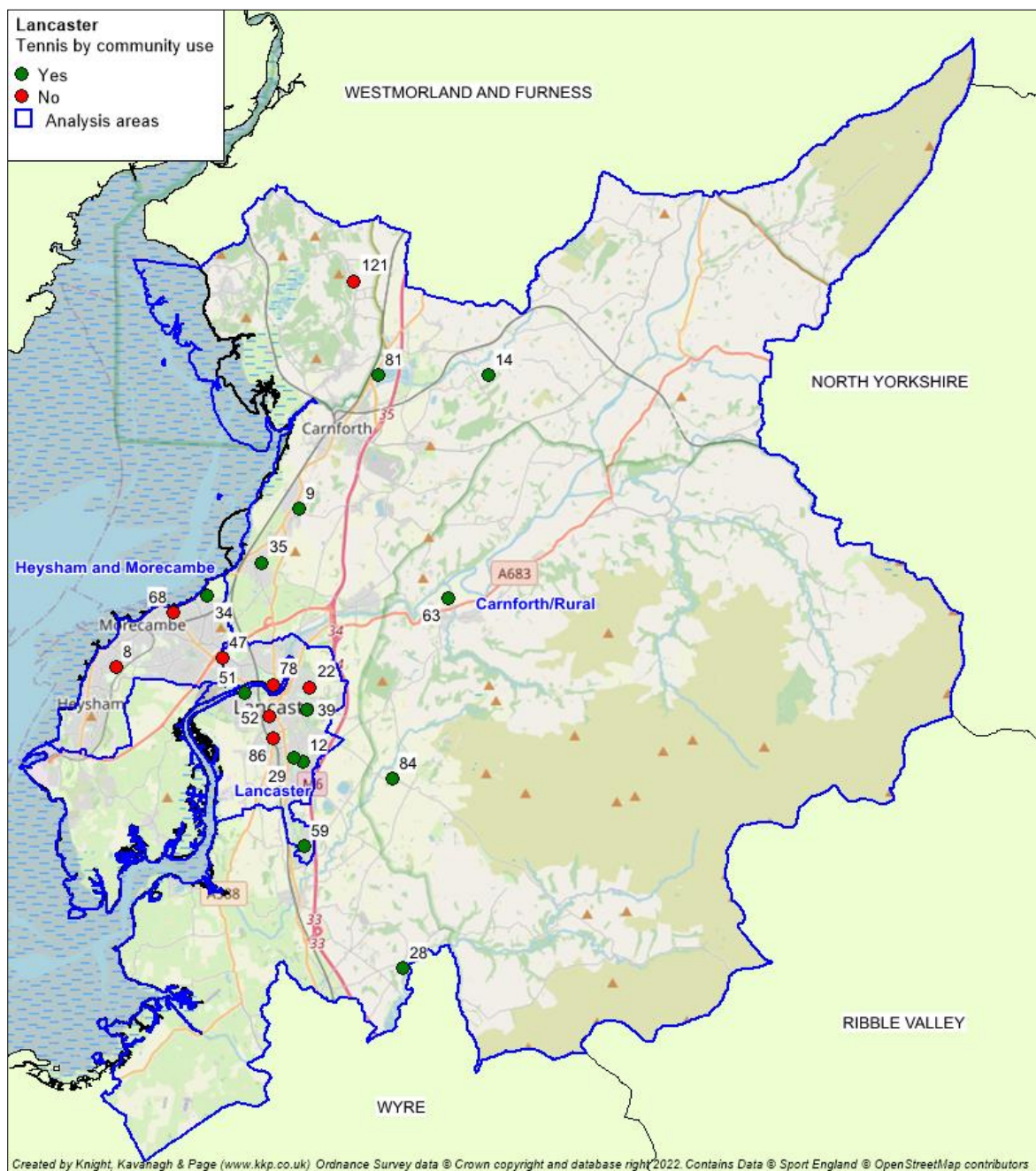
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Comparison to previous study

There has been an overall decrease in supply of tennis courts since the 2018 study. Available courts have decreased slightly from 36 to 34 courts due to courts at Lancaster University Sports Centre being no longer marked. Whilst unavailable courts have decreased by eight from 44 to 36 due to a number of courts no longer being marked at Carnforth High School on the sand based AGP.

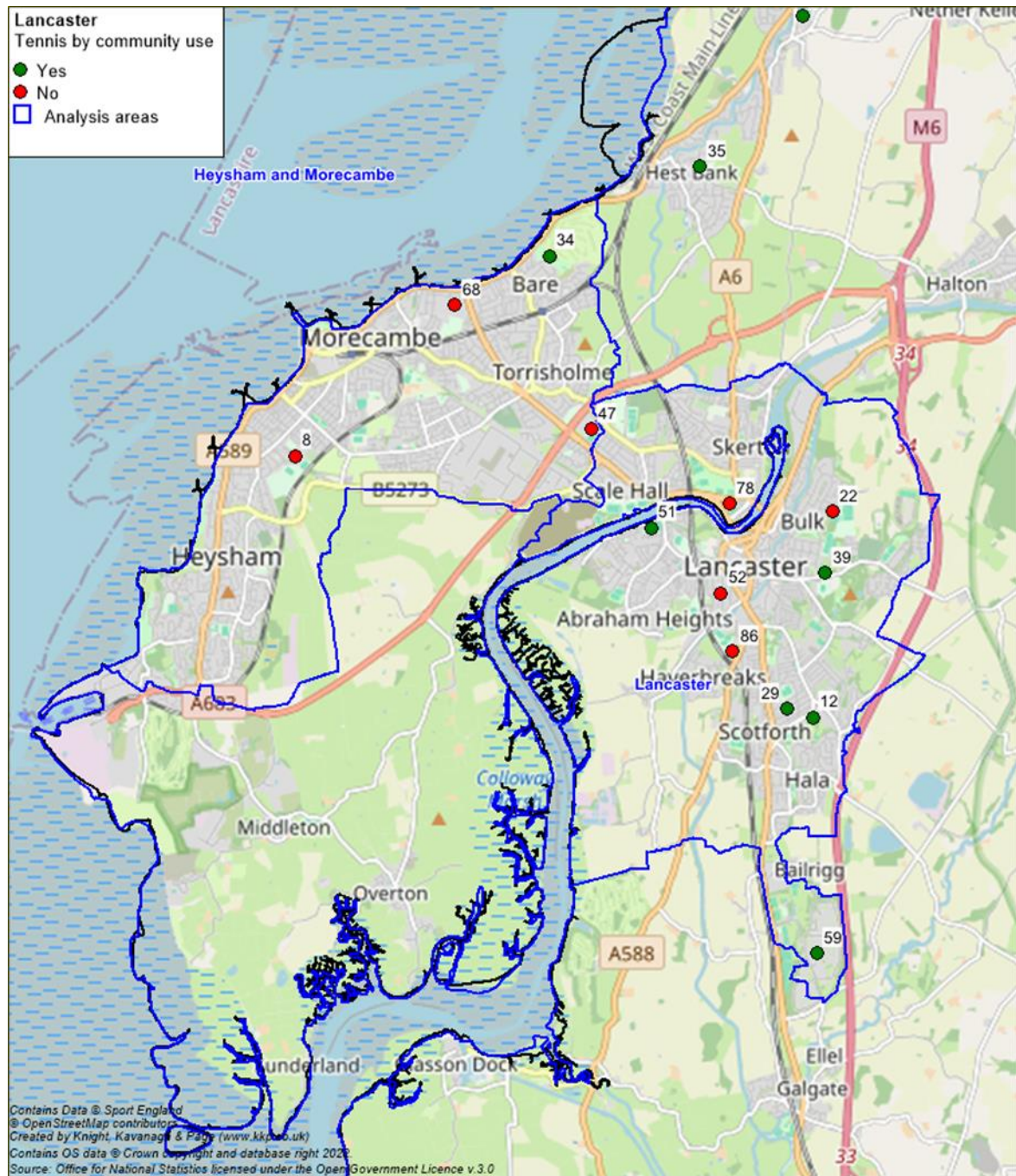
Figure 7.1 shows the location of the courts servicing Lancaster District, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 7.3.

Figure 7.1: Location of tennis courts in Lancaster District



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Figure 7.1: Location of tennis courts in Lancaster and Heysham and Morecambe analysis areas



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Table 7.3: Tennis courts in Lancaster

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
8	Bay Leadership Academy	Heysham and Morecambe	Education	No	5	No	Macadam	Standard
9	Bolton-le-Sands Playing Fields	Carnforth/Rural	Parish Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Poor
12	Bowerham Lawn Tennis Club	Lancaster	Sports Club	Yes	4	Yes	Artificial Turf	Good
14	Capernwray Hall	Carnforth/Rural	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
22	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	Education	No	2	No	Polymeric	Standard
28	Dolphinholme Village Hall	Carnforth/Rural	Parish Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
29	Palatine Park	Lancaster	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Poor
34	Happy Mount Park	Heysham and Morecambe	Council	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam	Standard
35	Hest Bank Recreation Ground	Carnforth/Rural	Parish Council	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
39	Highfield Recreation Ground	Lancaster	Community Organisation	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
47	Lancaster and Morecambe College	Heysham and Morecambe	Education	No	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Artificial Turf	Good
52	Lancaster Girls Grammar School	Lancaster	Education	No	12	No	Artificial Turf	Standard
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	Education	Yes	8	Yes	Macadam	Good
63	Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club	Carnforth/Rural	Sports Club	Yes	3	No	Grass	Standard
63	Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club	Carnforth/Rural	Sports Club	Yes	2	Yes	Artificial Turf	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
68	Morecambe Bay Academy	Heysham and Morecambe	Education	No	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
78	Our Lady's Catholic College	Lancaster	Education	No	3	No	Macadam	Standard
81	Pine Lake Resort	Carnforth/Rural	Private	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Standard
84	Quernmore Recreation Club	Carnforth/Rural	Parish Council	Yes	1	Yes	Artificial Turf	Good
86	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	Lancaster	Education	No	5	Yes	Artificial Turf	Poor
121	Yealand Church of England Primary School	Carnforth/Rural	Education	No	1	No	Macadam	Poor

Lunesdale LTC reports that although its two artificial courts are of standard quality at Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club, they are coming to the end of their life span. The Club has plans to resurface these courts over the coming years to ensure they do not become out of use. In addition to this, the Club has also started to utilise these courts for pickleball.

Disused provision

Since the previous study in 2018, the courts at Carnforth High School are no longer marked out on the sand based AGP.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Management and security of tenure

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Lancaster. Most are provided by education sites, although the Council manage three sites, parish councils manage four sites, sports clubs manage three sites and community organisations/private owners managing a site each.

Table 7.4: Tennis courts by management type (number of courts)

Availability for community use	Education	Council	Sports club	Parish/town council	Community organisation	Private
Available	8	5	12	6	2	1
Unavailable	36	-	-	-	-	-
Total	44	5	12	6	2	1

Bolton-le-Sands TC currently has an annual rental agreement with the Bolton-le-Sands Parish Council for use of its courts at Bolton-le-Sands Playing Field. The Club is currently in discussions with the Parish Council over the future management of the facilities onsite, with the Club aspiring to take the courts over on a long term lease, to allow it to raise grants to improve the facilities.

Court type

Most outdoor courts in the Lancaster District have a macadam surface (38 or 54%), with 21 being of this type and available for community use. Ten courts have an artificial turf surface which are all available for community use, three courts have a grass surface at Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club with two courts having a polymeric surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam and artificial turf 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 in place for eventual refurbishment.

Sports lighting

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

In Lancaster, 34 tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just under half (49%) of the total provision. Of these, 21 courts are available for community use.

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for more usage of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members.

Bolton-le-Sands TC aspires to add sports lighting to both its courts at Bolton-le-Sands Playing Field, with funding required to do so. If the Club is able to take on management of the courts on a lease and becomes an LTA affiliated club, it would then be able to apply for an LTA interest free loan to fund the lighting.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme

The LTA's facility loan scheme provides interest free loans from £25,000. The funding stream will prioritise investment into low-cost indoor structures and sports lights to enable communities to grow participation by accessing all year-round facilities. The objectives of the fund are:

- ◀ To provide indoor or sports lit and year-round playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- ◀ To enhance facilities to create better playing environments to encourage play all year (link to 'what we will fund').
- ◀ To retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- ◀ To offer and increase both non-member pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- ◀ To grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
- ◀ To provide online booking through ClubSpark with courts available through LTA Play.

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 levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In Lancaster, 29 courts (41%) are overmarked by netball/basketball provision, with most of these located at school sites where curriculum activity makes this necessary.

Quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments undertaken in July 2023 and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g., vandalism and/or littering).

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

Of the courts in Lancaster, 18 (26%) are assessed as good quality, 41 (58%) as standard quality, and 11 (16%) as poor quality. All good quality courts are available for community use, whilst the poor quality courts in the District are located at Yealand Church of England Primary Schol, Ripley St Thomas CE Academy, Dolphinholme Village Hall, Palatine Park and Bolton-le-Sands Playing Field.

Table 7.5: Quality of tennis courts in Lancaster

Availability for community use	No. of good courts	No. of standard courts	No. of poor courts
Available	18	11	5
Unavailable	-	30	6
Total	18	41	11

Bolton-le-Sands TC reports that it is looking to secure a long term lease for the courts at Bolton-le-Sands Playing Field, once this is agreed it will apply for a grant to support the funding to resurface the two poor quality courts onsite.

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Comparison to previous study

Since 2018, the quality of courts in the District has remained similar with overall percentage of good quality provision decreasing from 33% to 26%. In comparison, standard quality provision has reduced from 55% to 58% of all grass squares. Whilst poor quality provision has increased from 11% to 16%.

Renovation fund⁴⁹

The LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public 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.

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.

Ancillary provision

Slyne-with-Hest TC reports ancillary provision at its home site to be of good quality. However, the Club suggests that it needs better shower facilities within its clubhouse. No other clubs' reports issues with the ancillary provision onsite.

For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not always specific for tennis, which is the case at Palatine Park. As such, access can be limited even at sites that allow for community use.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

7.3: Demand

It is reported that demand for tennis provision during and since the Covid-19 pandemic has increased substantially compared to prior levels when court restrictions have not been in place (potentially linked to tennis being one of the first sports to be allowed to resume). This should therefore be monitored moving forward to ensure that any growth can be accommodated for if the increases are sustained.

Competitive tennis

As only three (out of five) clubs have responded to consultation requests, Lunesdale Lawn TC and Bowerham Lawn TC membership data was provided from the LTA. Therefore, the Lancaster District membership totals 494 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 370 senior and 124 junior members as shown in the table below.

⁴⁹<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 7.6: Current tennis demand by club

Name of club	No. of senior members	No. of junior members	Total number of members
Bolton-le-Sands TC	31	9	40
Bowerham Lawn TC	100	26	126
Lancaster TC	87	28	115
Lunesdale Lawn TC	87	26	113
Slyne-With-Hest TC	65	35	100

Comparison to previous study

Of the three clubs that have responded to consultation, Bolton-le-sands TC and Lancaster TC have seen their demand decrease by 47% and 17% respectively. Whilst Slyne-with-Hest TC and Bowerham Lawn TC have seen their demand increase by 11% and 22% respectively.

Informal and parks tennis

Away from club courts, usage can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored, especially at sites that are free to access as is the case at Capernwray Hall, Dolphinholme Village Hall, Palatine Park, Happy Mount Park. 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.

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities and other providers to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, LTA Play and Gate Access, which are further detailed below.

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.

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- ◀ 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.

Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which result 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

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 Lancaster, no parks tennis leagues are currently in operation.

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LTA Youth Start

This is the fun starter course for children who have never played the sport before or may have played very little. Packed full of fun games and training drills, it also gives parents the chance to join in too. For £34.99, kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

In Lancaster, there is currently an LTA Youth Start course at Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club and Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club.

Tennis for Free

Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that works in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low-income areas.

Tennis for Free offers a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', available to clubs that wish to open their doors to non-members.

Through its offer, Tennis for Free aims to:

- ◆ Reinvigorate under-used public facilities.
- ◆ Make tennis a sport for all.
- ◆ Make tennis more financially accessible in the UK.
- ◆ Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities through tennis.

No Tennis for Free sessions currently operate in or around the Lancaster District.

LTA Big Tennis Weekend

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (in May, July and September) that are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

No sites in the Lancaster District currently host or are scheduled to host a Big Tennis Weekend.

Padel

One of the LTAs key strategies is to find new ways to grow participation and padel is an innovative format of tennis that is fun, flexible, easy to play and extremely sociable. Padel 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, as it is not power dominant.

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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.

One of the fastest growing sports across Europe, it has also been integrated into the LTA and is now recognised as a format of tennis. This has provided a platform to facilitate the growth of the sport, with tennis venues throughout Great Britain exploring the potential opportunities it can bring to a facility.

There are currently no padel tennis courts in the Lancaster District. With no clubs identifying demand for any padel courts.

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, the headline findings of which are below:

- ◆ Around five million people play once per year with the majority of this in parks.
- ◆ 46% of tennis played by those over 14 years old 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 years old 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 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.

In addition, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 2,732 people within the Lancaster District, which represents approximately 1.8% of the District's population compared to a national average of 1.7%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand is marginally higher than what would otherwise be expected.

Future demand

Of the three responding clubs, all have identified aspirations to increase demand, which totals 87 members.

Table 7.7: Future tennis demand by club

Name of club	No. of senior members	No. of junior members	Total no. of members
Bolton-le-Sands TC	12	20	32
Lancaster TC	10	15	25
Slyne-with-Hest TC	20	10	30

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Away from club-based demand, it is considered that all remaining future demand will be picked up via the latent/unmet demand noted above and attracted to non-club and particularly local authority courts.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

The LTA suggests that a hard court without sports lighting can accommodate 40 members whereas a hard court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. It should be noted that these figures relate to LTA viability guidelines for clubs and are not the maximum capacity. The figure relates to what most clubs, based on the level of provision, would find sustainable. As grass courts are only available for 12 weeks of the year they are not included in capacity analysis. Using this, the table below identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs, taking into account current demand.

Table 7.8: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	User	Current demand (members)	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance	Future demand	Future capacity balance
9	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	Bolton-le-Sands TC	40	80	40	32	8
12	Bowerham Lawn Tennis Club	Bowerham LTC	126	240	114	-	114
35	Hest Bank Recreation Ground	Slyne-with-Hest TC	100	120	20	30	10
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster TC	115	180	65	25	40
63	Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club	Lunesdale LTC	113	120	7	-	7

For club-based tennis, there is considered to be sufficient provision to meet current demand. Additionally, when considering club future demand aspirations, one site would be slightly oversubscribed, Hest Bank Recreation Ground. Although this is marginal, the site and club should be monitored to ensure that the facilities can continue to cater for its members at Hest Bank Recreation Ground. Given the courts are already good quality and floodlit, new courts would be required to theoretically meet all future demand.

For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the large amount of unmet and latent demand evidenced both nationally and in Lancaster. There is instead a clear need to improve the supply and quality in ways that can attract, and better accommodate, more users, specifically the courts provided at Dolphinholme Village Hall, Palatine Park and Happy Mount Park.

7.5: Conclusion

It is considered that at club sites there is enough courts to cater for both current and future demand overall. However, if future demand is realised at Hest Bank Recreation Ground, the courts could become oversubscribed.

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At a non-club level there are issues around both quantity and quality of courts to support more casual tennis play. Although a number of courts are located in park sites all of these courts are rated as poor or standard quality. In order to encourage participation and protect courts from unofficial use, improving the quality whilst also exploring the opportunity to install systems such as Gate Access is key. In addition, due to levels of latent/unmet demand in non-club settings both nationally and in the Lancaster District, the opportunity to develop new provision should also be explored.

Comparison to previous study

Since the previous study, the overall picture remains the same. Clubs are able to cater for current and the majority of future demand. Whilst on a non-club level the issues remain the same, with poor and standard quality courts.

Tennis summary

- ▶ **For club-based tennis, there is considered to be sufficient provision to meet demand. Additionally, when considering club future demand aspirations, supply is still sufficient to meet future demand at all courts apart from at Hest Bank Recreation Ground. If future demand is realised at Hest Bank Recreation Ground, the courts could become oversubscribed.**
- ▶ **For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the large amount of latent/unmet demand evidenced both nationally and in the Lancaster District. There is instead a clear need to improve the supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users, specifically the courts provided at Dolphinhholme Village Hall, Palatine Park and Happy Mount Park.**

Supply

- ▶ There are 70 tennis courts identified in the Lancaster District across 21 sites. Of which, 34 courts across 13 sites are available for community use and 36 courts across eight sites are unavailable for community use.
- ▶ Most are provided by education sites, although the Council manage three sites, parish councils manage four sites, sports clubs manage three sites and community organisations/private owners managing a site each.
- ▶ Most outdoor courts in the Lancaster District have a macadam surface (38 or 54%), with 21 being of this type and available for community use. Ten courts have an artificial turf surface which are all available for community use, three courts have a grass surface at Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club, with two courts having a polymeric surface.
- ▶ In the Lancaster District, 34 tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just under half (49%) of the total provision. Of these, 21 courts are available for community use.

Quality

- ▶ Of the courts in Lancaster, 18 (26%) are assessed as good quality, 41 (58%) as standard quality, and 11 (16%) as poor quality. All good quality courts are available for community use, whilst the poor quality courts in the District are located at Yealand Church of England Primary School, Ripley St Thomas CE Academy, Dolphinhholme Village Hall, Palatine Park and Bolton-le-Sands Playing Field.

Demand

- ▶ Five clubs are identified in the Lancaster District, as only three (out of five) clubs have responded to consultation requests, Lunesdale Lawn TC and Bowerham Lawn TC membership data was provided from the LTA. Therefore, the Lancaster District membership totals 494 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 370 senior and 124 junior members as shown in the table below.
- ▶ Away from club courts, usage can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored, especially at sites that are free to access. 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.
- ▶ In the Lancaster District, LTA Youth Start programmes are currently run at Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club and Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club.

PART 8: ATHLETICS

8.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics, which is the development and membership body for athletics and running clubs in England. It has a National Head of Clubs and Participation as well as a team of five club support managers across the Country, with one of these covering activities in the Lancaster District as part of the North region.

England Athletics is currently exploring three alternative approaches in designing new athletics provision. Traditional 400m athletic tracks are becoming increasingly problematic to sustain and refurbish with any new facilities generally considered impractical due to cost and the amount of land required for such a development.

These three designs, outlined below, present alternative approaches to athletics provision as to offer more affordable and feasible means of creating athletics tracks. It should be noted that England Athletics has developed each of these with the German manufacturer 'Polytan' which help design each type of facility.

Compact track

The first of the three alternative designs is a 'compact track' which is an affordable entry level athletic facility featuring a sprint straight with an accompanying jump lane and shot put space. This provision is the smallest of the three and is installed at sites with limited available land. Usually located at educational facilities and within community/club settings aimed at junior athletes to provide a facility to improve fundamental athletic skills.

Mini track

A 'mini track' is a sports lit synthetic oval track built to a maximum 200m. An advantage to a mini track design is it leaves a large space in the centre of the oval track to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump/shot put, or alternatively it can be used for other sports such as football pitches or an outdoor gym/BMX track. Such facilities are to be located within educational and community settings. Aimed at young people and adults taking their first steps into running and athletics.

Active track

Finally, an 'active track' is a synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance (similar to a formula one circuit), in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field (in line with Sport England's Playing Field Policy). This is installed at sites where a 400m oval would not be feasible as it allows for adaptations to the shape in order to suit land in its current state.

Consultation

Consultation has taken place with both Lancaster and Morecambe AC and Lancaster University, and in addition, information has been provided from England Athletics to inform this section.

8.2: Supply

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There is one formal athletics track in the Lancaster District located at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre in the Lancaster Analysis Area, which is an eight lane, synthetic 400 metre track. The track is fully sports lit and provides all accompanying field event facilities including a hammer cage, javelin, high jump, long jump and shot put area.

Table 8.1: Summary of athletics tracks in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Length	Surface type	Sports lighting
90	Salt Ayre Leisure Centre	Lancaster	400m	Synthetic	Yes

Comparison to previous study

There has been no change to the supply of athletics tracks in the Lancaster District since the 2018 study.

Management

The track at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre is owned by the City Council and managed via the onsite leisure centre which is also responsible for its maintenance. Lancaster and Morecambe AC manages and maintains the onsite clubhouse. As the track is part of the local authority leisure stock, maintained access for the Club is considered to be secured.

Quality

Key factors impacting upon the quality ratings of athletics facilities include the condition and age of the track surface, the prominence of the line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use. For the full site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

The non-technical assessment undertaken in August 2023 by KKP identifies the track and accompanying track and field facilities as standard quality with a good quality accompanying ancillary facility, with maintenance carried out to the track considered by Lancaster and Morecambe AC to be limited and basic, with the track decreasing in quality over recent years.

TrackMark⁵⁰

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.

Salt Ayre Leisure Centre is TrackMark compliant.

England Athletics reports that due to the East and North Lancashire and Southern Cumbria areas are poorly serviced in terms of outdoor competition venues. It has identified that Salt Ayre Leisure Centre is ideally located for such a venue to service these areas. In order for the track to meet county/regional standards of competition there is a need to reinstate a Pole Vault facility. The Club also reports that the water jumps are not sufficient and therefore cannot be utilised, improvement in these is also required to ensure it meets requirements for being a competition venue. As well as completing a Unit 6: Measurement and Levels Survey.

⁵⁰ <https://www.uka.org.uk/about/what-we-do/facilities/>

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Ancillary facilities

The athletics track onsite at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre is serviced by a purpose built clubhouse beside the track. It consists of two changing rooms, toilets, clubroom and kitchen facilities and is good quality.

8.3: 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.

Table 8.2: Summary of track and field club membership

Name of club	Home site	Number of members
Bowland Fell Runners	-	6
Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club	Salt Ayre Leisure Centre	194
Lancaster Runners	-	31
-	Total	231

Comparison to previous study

Track and field demand remains similar to the previous study in 2018, with one community club and one university athletics club utilising the track at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre.

Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club

Lancaster and Morecambe Athletics Club is a large club based at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre. It accommodates both male and female members at senior and junior level and whilst it specialises in track and field, it also operates cross-country running, road running and fell running sections.

In addition, the Club also accesses the Closed Cycling Track at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre and runs quarterly 5K events at the site.

Bowland Fell Runners

Bowland Fell Runners is an established fell racing club, with members competing in fell races throughout the UK. It also offers a number of social runs on the local fells throughout the Forest of Bowland AONB.

Lancaster Runners

Lancaster Runners is a road running club that caters for runners of all abilities. It meets once a week on Wednesday at 19.00.

Lancaster University Athletics Club

Lancaster University has an athletics club offering both recreational and competitive opportunities including within the BUCS leagues. The Club runs three sessions per week, two of which are based on campus with one track session at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre on Wednesday afternoons at 3pm. The track is approximately 23-minute drive (5.5 miles) from the university campus and students travel there by bus.

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Imported demand

There is an additional club which accesses Salt Ayre Leisure Centre track with Kendal Amateur Athletics Club (KAAC) importing demand from Kendal (Westmorland and Furness). It imports demand for one session per week on Thursday evenings from 6-8pm for track and field event training.

ParkRun

ParkRun is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all ParkRun events.

Williamson Park, Morecambe Prom and Ryelands Park currently accommodates the District's ParkRuns as seen below.

Table 8.3: Summary of ParkRun in Lancaster

Location	Event	Number of events	Average attendance
Williamson Park	Park Run	318	235
Morecambe Prom	Park Run	155	247
Ryelands Park	Junior Park Run	51	41

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners to get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle, including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 3,174 people in Lancaster District, which represents approximately 2.1% of the District's population compared to a national average of 2%.

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No clubs have a waiting list in place, and they are all actively looking for new members, on social media and club websites.

Future demand

All clubs are actively looking to grow membership, with no club having a waiting list and doing their utmost not to turn demand away.

England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as ParkRun, although again to what extent is difficult to quantify.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is considered that for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of 200 is required. This is based on figures and consultation provided by England Athletics. In the Lancaster District, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, as the one community track and field club currently based in the District (Lancaster and Morecambe Athletic Club) totalling 194 members, is only marginally below that of the recommended membership figure.

There is still a clear need to continue to grow levels of participation through actualising latent and future demand in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the track at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre.

8.5: Conclusion

As only Salt Ayre Leisure Centre is currently used for club athletics, there is a need to protect the facility and ensure that quality remains sufficient to accommodate the level of demand received.

The East and North Lancashire and Southern Cumbria areas are poorly serviced in terms of outdoor competition venues. It has identified that Salt Ayre Leisure Centre is ideally located for such a venue to service these geographical areas. In order for the track to meet the requirements to become an outdoor competition venue it needs to meet Unit 5 and 6 of England Athletics TrackMark accreditation. To meet these requirements, it needs to have a pole vault facility reinstated and also have a covered spectator seating area.

Away from track and field, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in the Lancaster District, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

Comparison to previous study

Since the previous study in 2018, improvements have been made to the field facilities at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre, however, not all facilities meet requirements for the track to become a full competition venue.

Supply remains the same, whilst demand remains similar to that in the previous study.

Athletics – supply and demand summary

- ◀ **In Lancaster District, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, with only two track and field clubs currently based in the District (Lancaster and Morecambe Athletic Club and Lancaster University Athletic Club). All other clubs are primarily road running clubs that do not access the track facilities.**

Supply

- ◀ There is one formal athletics track in the Lancaster District located at Salt Ayre leisure Centre, which is an eight lane, synthetic 400 metre track.
- ◀ The track is fully sports lit and provides all accompanying field event facilities including a hammer cage, javelin, high jump, long jump and shot put area.
- ◀ Due to no pole vault and insufficient quality of water jumps, the track has limitations on what type of competition it accommodates.
- ◀ The track at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre is owned and managed by the City Council.

Quality

- ◀ The non-technical assessment undertaken by KKP identified the track and accompanying track and field facilities as standard quality, with maintenance carried out to a basic standard.
- ◀ The changing room provision at Salt Ayre leisure Centre is rated to be of good quality, with no major issues raised.

Demand

- ◀ Four clubs have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in the Lancaster District.
- ◀ Lancaster and Morecambe Athletic Club and Lancaster University Athletics Club both use Salt Ayre Leisure Centre as its base.
- ◀ Williamson Park, Morecambe Prom and Ryelands Park currently host Park Runs and Junior Park Runs in the District.
- ◀ All clubs are seen to be actively looking to grow membership, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 3,174 people in the Lancaster District, which represents approximately 2.1% of the District's population compared to a national average of 2%.
- ◀ None have waiting lists in place, and they are all actively looking for new members, on social media and club websites.

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PART 9: BOWLS

9.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in the Lancaster District is played on crown greens, with a typical season running in the Summer from May until September. The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport. More locally the sport is run and administered by County Bowling associations, and clubs within the Lancaster District generally affiliate to the Lancashire County Crown Green Bowling Association (LCGBA) competing in either the Lancaster Bowling League or Morecambe Bowling League.

Flat green bowls is another version of bowls played in England, governed separately by Bowls England. However, this format of the sport is predominantly played in the South of England.

Consultation

There are 27 bowling clubs identified playing in the Lancaster District. Through online survey and telephone consultation, a total club response rate of 52% (14 of 27 clubs) has been achieved. Those that responded are shown in the table below. Multiple attempts have been made to contact and gain responses from the unresponsive clubs with support of Lancaster City Council.

It should be noted that a low response rate for bowling clubs isn't uncommon nationally.

Table 9.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Response?
Bare Village BC	No
Bolton Le Sands BC	Yes
Burrowbeck BC	Yes
Carnforth BC	Yes
Cockerham BC	No
Cumberland View BC	No
Dolphinholme Crown Green BC	Yes
Galgate BC	Yes
Hornby BC	Yes
Jubilee BC	Yes
Lancaster University BC	No
Lansil BC	No
Lune Road BC	Yes
Luneside & Rosebank BC	Yes
Millhead Crown Green BC	No
Overton BC	Yes
Palatine BC	No
Parkside BC	Yes
Quernmore BC	Yes
Bay Mixed BC	No
Silverdale BC	Yes
Skerton BC	Yes
Station Hotel BC	Yes
Slyne with Hest BC	No
Trimpell BC	No

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Club name	Response?
Warton & District BC	No
Westside Memorial Village Crown Green BC	No

9.2: Supply

There are 29 bowling greens in the Lancaster District located across 24 sites, of which, five provide more than one green. These sites are Bare Village Club, Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields, Highfield Recreation Green, Lansil Sports & Social Club and Palatine Park. All greens are available for community use.

Lansil Sports & Social Club hosts two clubs, Lansil BC and Station Hotel BC. Station Hotel BC relocated to the site when it was evicted from its previous site The Station Hotel in Caton, and as a result moved to Lansil Sports & Social Club in early 2023. Similarly, Quernmore Recreation Ground hosts two clubs, Quernmore BC and Burrowbeck BC. The Trimpell Club also hosts two clubs Trimpell BC and Cumberland View BC.

Table 9.2: Summary of community available greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens
Carnforth/Rural	13
Heysham and Morecambe	5
Lancaster	11
Total	29

As seen in the table above the Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area has the most greens with 13 (45%), followed by the Lancaster Analysis Area with 11 (38%). The least amount of provision is in the Heysham and Morecambe Analysis Area with five (17%) greens.

Comparison to previous study

Overall, there has been a loss of one green since the previous study in 2018. Although there has been a loss of three greens at Cumberland View, The Bay Horse Inn and The Station Hotel, one green at Palatine Park and one green at Lansil Sports & Social Club have been brought back to use, this is due to a marginal increase in demand locally, including the relocation of Station Hotel BC to Lansil Sports and Social Club.

Disused provision

Three greens across three sites in the Lancaster District are identified as being disused, located at Cumberland View (ID: 137) in the Heysham and Morecambe Analysis Area, The Bay Horse Inn (ID: 105), and The Station Hotel (ID: 107) both of which are in the Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area. Two of the disused greens have been converted into beer gardens located at Cumberland View and The Station Hotel, whereas a chicken coop now occupies the bowling green at The Bay Horse Inn.

Ownership/management

As seen in the table below most bowling greens are owned and managed by the local authority, private ownerships, or the respective sports club.

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Table 9.3: Breakdown of bowling greens in the Lancaster District

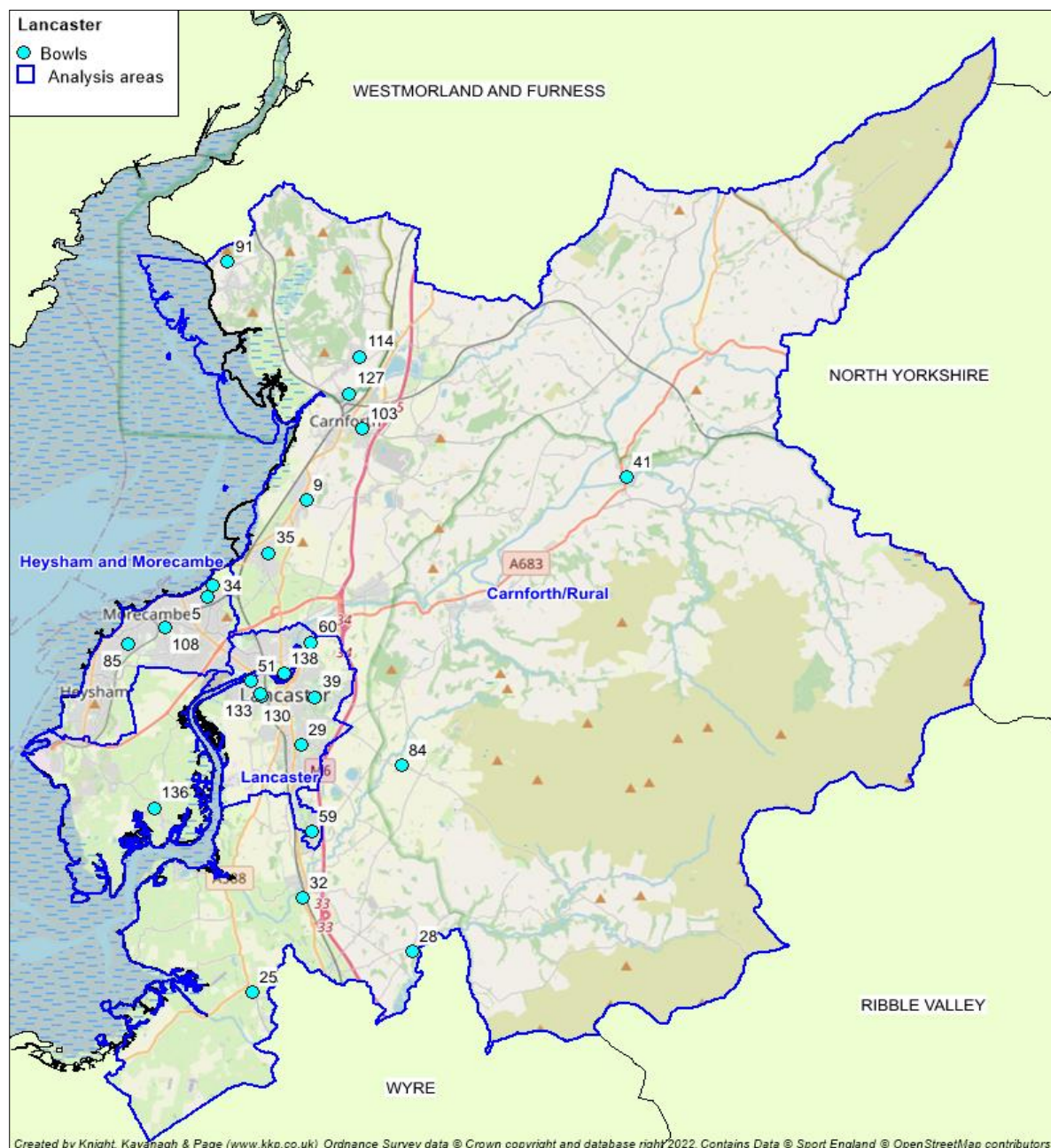
Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	User(s)	No. of greens	Management
5	Bare Village Club	LA4 6DF	Heysham and Morecambe	Bare Village BC	2	Sports Club
9	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	LA5 8DW	Carnforth/Rural	Bolton Le Sands BC	2	Parish Council
25	Cockerham Bowling Club	LA2 0EF	Carnforth/Rural	Cockerham BC	1	Sports Club
28	Dolphinholme Village Hall	LA2 9BU	Carnforth/Rural	Dolphinholme BC	1	Sports Club
29	Palatine Park	LA1 4ED	Lancaster	Palatine BC	2	Council
32	Galgate Recreation Field	LA2 0LQ	Carnforth/Rural	Galgate BC	1	Parish Council
34	Happy Mount Park	LA4 6AQ	Heysham and Morecambe	Jubilee BC	1	Council
35	Hest Bank Recreation Ground	LA2 6JB	Carnforth/Rural	Slyne with Hest BC	1	Council
39	Highfield Recreation Ground	LA1 3ES	Lancaster	Parkside BC	2	Sports Club
41	Hornby Bowling Club	LA2 8JY	Carnforth/Rural	Hornby BC	1	Sports Club
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	LA1 5QU	Lancaster	Lune Road BC	1	Sports Club
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	LA1 4XX	Lancaster	Lancaster University BC	1	Education
60	Lansil Sports & Social Club	LA1 3PE	Lancaster	Lansil BC Station Hotel BC	2	Sports Club
84	Quernmore Recreation Club	LA2 9EF	Carnforth/Rural	Quernmore BC Burrowbeck BC	1	Sports Club
85	Regent Park	LA3 1AG	Heysham and Morecambe	Bay Mixed BC	1	Council
91	Silverdale Bowling Club	LA5 0RT	Carnforth/Rural	Silverdale BC	1	Sports Club
103	Taps on the Green	LA5 9LR	Carnforth/Rural	Carnforth BC	1	Private
108	The Trimpell Club	LA4 4UP	Heysham and Morecambe	Trimpell BC Cumberland View BC	1	Sports Club
114	Warton & District Bowling Club	LA5 9QH	Carnforth/Rural	Warton & District BC	1	Sports Club
127	Millhead Recreation Ground	LA5 9HD	Carnforth/Rural	Millhead Crown Green BC	1	Sports Club
130	Luneside & Rosebank Bowling & Recreation Club	LA1 5NT	Lancaster	Luneside & Rosebank BC	1	Sports Club

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	User(s)	No. of greens	Management
133	Westfield Memorial Village	LA1 5QG	Carnforth/Rural	Westfield Memorial Village Crown Green BC	1	Community Organisation
136	Ship Hotel	LA3 3HD	Carnforth/Rural	Overton BC	1	Parish Council
138	Skerton Liberal Club	LA1 2AJ	Lancaster	Skerton BC	1	Sports Club

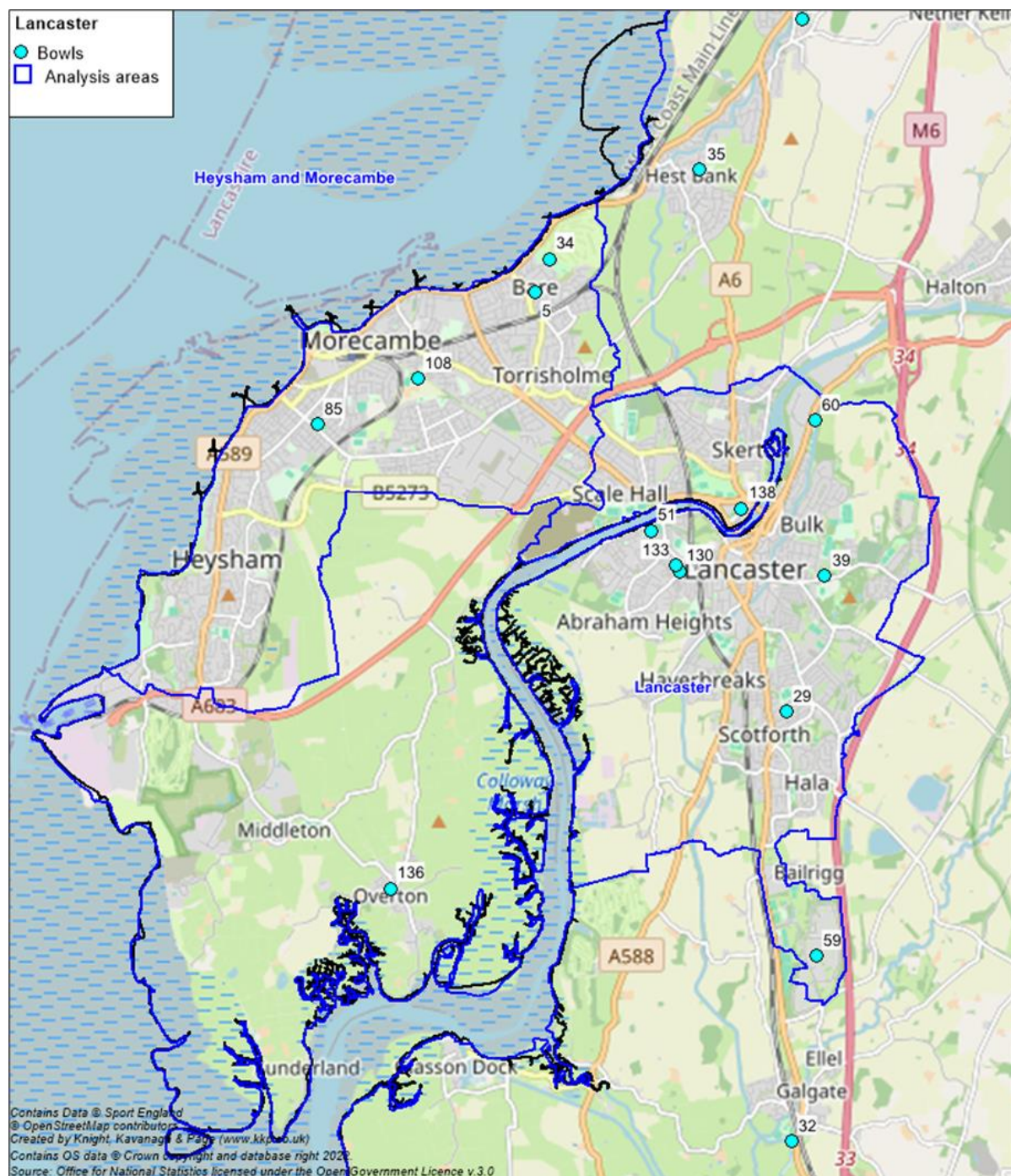
Figure 9.1 below highlights the location of all outdoor bowling greens in Lancaster District. For a key to the map, see Table 9.3.

Figure 9.1: Location of bowling greens in Lancaster District



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Figure 9.2: Location of bowling greens in Lancaster and Heysham and Morecambe analysis areas



Quality

Following a non-technical assessment of greens in the Lancaster District and cross referencing the findings against club consultation, most greens (24 or 83%) are rated as good quality, with four greens (14%) rated as standard quality two of which are located at Palatine Park, and one green (3%) at Millhead Recreation Ground rated as poor quality.

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The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-70%), Poor (<70%) and include, but are not limited to, the examination of; evenness of playing surface, condition of ditches/boarding, quality of surrounding hard areas, disability access, evidence of litter/leaf fall/fouling/inappropriate use and quality of ancillary provision (clubhouse/pavilion/car parking / floodlights/fencing).

Table 9.4: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	No. of greens	Quality of green(s)
5	Bare Village Club	LA4 6DF	2	Good
9	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	LA5 8DW	2	Good
25	Cockerham Bowling Club	LA2 0EF	1	Good
28	Dolphinholme Village Hall	LA2 9BU	1	Good
29	Palatine Park	LA1 4ED	2	Standard
32	Galgate Recreation Field	LA2 0LQ	1	Good
34	Happy Mount Park	LA4 6AQ	1	Good
35	Hest Bank Recreation Ground	LA2 6JB	1	Good
39	Highfield Recreation Ground	LA1 3ES	2	Good
41	Hornby Bowling Club	LA2 8JY	1	Standard
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	LA1 5QU	1	Good
59	Lancaster University Sports Centre	LA1 4XX	1	Good
60	Lansil Sports & Social Club	LA1 3PE	2	Good
84	Quernmore Recreation Club	LA2 9EF	1	Good
85	Regent Park	LA3 1AG	1	Good
91	Silverdale Bowling Club	LA5 0RT	1	Good
103	Taps on the Green	LA5 9LR	1	Standard
108	The Trimpell Club	LA4 4UP	1	Good
114	Warton & District Bowling Club	LA5 9QH	1	Good
127	Millhead Recreation Ground	LA5 9HD	1	Poor
130	Luneside & Rosebank Bowling & Recreation Club	LA1 5NT	1	Good
133	Westfield Memorial Village	LA1 5QG	1	Good
136	Ship Hotel	LA3 3HD	1	Good
138	Skerton Liberal Club	LA1 2AJ	1	Good

Even though most greens across the Lancaster District are good quality, they still require substantial levels of dedicated maintenance to sustain this quality.

A green is considered good quality if it has a high percentage of grass coverage, an even playing surface and limited signs of wear and tear on surrounding ditches/boarding and hard standing areas. In addition, there must be little to no evidence of litter, dog fouling, leaves and inappropriate usage of the green.

The green at Millhead Recreation Ground, is assessed as poor quality due to the playing surface being uneven as well as showing signs of wear and tear.

No fencing at Hornby BC leaves the green unprotected and exposed to unofficial use but is still considered a standard quality green. Elsewhere, Palatine Park, and Taps on the Green are also standard quality although Carnforth BC located at Taps on the Green has raised issues with the ditches/boarding surrounding the greens, whilst also showing small amounts of wear and tear.

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Similarly, improvements to the Ship Hotel green has been detailed during consultation from Overton BC, with focus on improving the quality of the boards/ditching surrounding the green. It has received a quote for the work required and is currently awaiting planning permission.

Despite having a good quality green at Galgate Recreation Field, Galgate BC reports that the quality of its green has reduced in quality post Covid stating that the evenness of the green is poor.

Access to funding would be required for clubs to complete any improvements with half of the respondents having applied for or received grants from the Harold and Alice Bridges Charity.

Comparison to previous study

The quality of greens has remained similar to 2018 with the overall percentage of good quality community available provision decreasing only slightly from 90% to 83%. In comparison, standard quality provision has increased from 7% to 14%. Whilst poor quality provision has stayed the same at 3%.

Ancillary facilities

Of the 27 club sites in the Lancaster District, 26 have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house. Westfield Memorial Village is the only site to not have such provision in place. The quality of these facilities ranges from purpose-built brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters. Four sites are accompanied by good quality facilities whereas the remaining 19 sites have standard quality ancillary provision.

From the clubs that responded to consultation, Galgate BC, Jubilee BC, Silverdale BC, and Station Hotel BC state that their sites have suffered from vandalism within the last year, primarily from youths breaking into the clubhouses/pavilion to gain access resulting in damages and stolen provision.

Galgate BC reports that vandalism has caused damage on its clubhouse at Galgate Recreation Field. Similarly, Silverdale BC reports undertaking repairs due to vandalism of its clubhouse at Silverdale Bowling Club.

Luneside & Rosebank BC is looking to undertake small scale developments to improve its site. It plans to install solar panels, make kitchen improvements, install LED floodlights, tarmac the access pathway, improve insulation, and add a safety railing to the shed. The Club is actively pursuing grants and has received some funding for the solar panel project.

Dolphinholme BC has future plans for a new pavilion at Dolphinholme Village Hall but is yet to secure funding for the project.

No other issues or future plans for ancillary provision were highlighted through consultation with clubs.

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Sports lighting

In the Lancaster District, just over half (52% or 15 greens) are serviced by sports lighting at the following sites (only one green at Lansil Sport & Social Club and Bolton-le-Sands Playing Fields has sports lighting):

- ◀ Bare Village Club
- ◀ Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields
- ◀ Taps on the Green
- ◀ Cockerham Bowling Club
- ◀ Dolphinhholme Village Hall
- ◀ Galgate Recreation Field
- ◀ Hest Bank Recreation Ground
- ◀ Happy Mount Park
- ◀ Lansil Sports & Social Club
- ◀ Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club
- ◀ Luneside & Rosebank Bowling & Recreation Ground
- ◀ Quernmore Recreation Club
- ◀ Skerton Liberal Club
- ◀ The Trimpell Club
- ◀ Warton & District Bowling Club

Greens with sports lighting offer opportunities to access provision for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months. However, they are relatively rare across the Country.

9.3: Demand

Current demand

There are 27 bowling clubs identified as playing in the Lancaster District although only nine have responded to consultation requests to date. Membership of the responsive clubs where known totals broken down by club in the table below.

Table 9.5: Membership for bowls clubs across Lancaster

Club name	Senior males	Senior females	Juniors (U18)	Total
Bolton Le Sands BC	50	29	3	82
Burrowbeck BC	14	-	-	14
Carnforth BC	50	10	-	60
Dolphinhholme BC	30	20	-	50
Galgate BC	47	23	-	70
Hornby BC	34	17	1	52
Jubilee BC	12	6	1	19
Lune Road BC	50	20	2	72
Luneside & Rosebank BC	35	37	-	72
Overton BC	30	23	-	53
Quernmore BC	29	9	-	38
Silverdale BC	32	20	-	52
Skerton BC	43	17	2	62
Station Hotel BC	32	8	-	40
Total	488	239	9	736

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The largest club according to known membership is currently Bolton-le-Sands with 82 members, followed by Luneside & Rosebank with 72 members as well as Lune Road BC. The smallest club is Jubilee BC with only 19 members. Of the nine clubs that responded to the consultation there are only five clubs that have junior members, those without stated that they struggled to attract younger members. The average bowls club membership in the Lancaster District, where known, is 53 members.

It should be noted that Burrowbeck BC is a sub team of Quernmore BC which competes in the Lancaster Bowling League, it uses the same site and still identifies as Quernmore BC.

Comparison to previous study

Since the previous study, the average membership of clubs (where known) has seen minimal increase with the average in 2018 being 52 members and the average now 53 members.

Future demand

The BCGBA is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation. As such, it is taking active steps at a county and national level to encourage younger players.

Of responding clubs, four highlight plans to increase membership. These aspirations total 162 additional members and would equate to a 34% increase in participation if achieved. Linked to the above, most clubs that have plans to increase membership aspire to add junior members, equating to a total of 38 junior members.

Table 9.6: Future demand aspirations

Club name	No. of senior members	No. of junior (U18) members	Total members
Dolphinholme BC	10	-	10
Luneside & Rosebank BC	100	30	130
Overton BC	4	6	10
Silverdale BC	10	2	12

Latent and unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of greens for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example where a club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is currently no latent demand which is highlighted through consultation.

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool⁵¹ enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so.' The tool identifies latent demand of 285 people that would like to participate in the sport within Lancaster. This represents approximately 0.19% of the District's population compared to a national average of 0.16%.

⁵¹ See Appendix 2
September 2023

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Notwithstanding the above, none of the bowling clubs in the Lancaster District are reported as operating at capacity, with all clubs willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within the Lancaster District who would like to start participating, could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

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

The BCGBA does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club.

However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. Therefore, capacity ratings for bowling greens in the Lancaster District 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 the Lancaster District 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 9.7: Bowling green supply and demand analysis

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Settlement Area	No. of greens	Total members	Current capacity	Future members	Future capacity
9	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	Bolton-le-Sands	Carnforth/Rural	2	82	38	-	38
28	Dolphinholme Village Hall	Dolphinholme BC	Carnforth/Rural	1	50	10	10	0
32	Galgate Recreation Field	Galgate BC	Carnforth/Rural	1	70	10	-	10
34	Happy Mount Park	Jubilee BC	Morecambe and Heysham	1	19	41	-	41
41	Hornby Bowling Club	Hornby BC	Carnforth/Rural	1	52	8	-	8
51	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lune Road BC	Lancaster	1	72	12	-	12
60	Lansil Sports & Social Club	Station Hotel BC	Lancaster	2	40	80	-	80
84	Quernmore Recreation Club	Burrowbeck BC Quernmore BC	Carnforth/Rural	1	52 ⁵²	8	-	8
91	Silverdale Bowling Club	Silverdale BC	Carnforth/Rural	1	52	8	12	4
103	Taps on the Green	Carnforth BC	Carnforth/Rural	1	60	0	-	0
130	Luneside & Rosebank Bowling & Recreation Club	Luneside & Rosebank BC	Lancaster	1	72	12	130	190
136	Ship Hotel	Overton BC	Carnforth/Rural	1	53	7	10	3
138	Skerton Liberal Club	Skerton BC	Lancaster	1	62	2	-	2

The table above shows there are currently four clubs operating above the recommended capacity: Galgate BC, Lune Road BC, Luneside & Rosebank BC and Skerton BC.

Of the remaining ten clubs, eight are currently operating within the recommended capacity, however, Silverdale BC, Overton BC, and Dolphinholme BC all have future member aspirations that would see them go above the recommended capacity. Luneside & Rosebank BC which already operate above the recommended capacity, reports aspirations to significantly increase its member by 130 members. This would see the site significantly oversubscribed if achieved.

⁵² Burrowbeck BC (14 members) Quernmore BC (38 members) combined.

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Carnforth BC is currently at capacity and any increases to its members should be monitored to ensure sustainability.

Based on responses from consultation, none of the above clubs specifically mention a need for an additional bowling green to accommodate existing or further demand. Although Station Hotel BC suggest that it could possibly accommodate an additional two mixed senior teams if another green was available.

Despite not wanting to increase the number of members, it should be seen that Jubilee BC operate under the recommended capacity albeit only marginally by one member. It is recommended that the Club look to increase membership to ensure that the green remains sustainable.

Clubs with high memberships play both competitive matches and recreational matches throughout a full week to offer something for everyone within their respective membership bases, and to that end, peak time pressures are reduced for this reason.

Clubs which have a substantial level of demand need to be monitored to ensure they have the appropriate quantity and quality of provision. The BCGBA identifies that clubs operating with a membership of over 60 members per green could have capacity issues. Emphasis in this regard should therefore be on supporting clubs with aspirations to improve their sites as this will likely improve the capacity for the provision to accommodate increased levels of demand.

9.5: Conclusion

It should be noted and considered that the consultation response with bowls clubs in the Lancaster District was relatively low at 52%, therefore there are limitations of the assessment need and future work may be required in the future to better understand the position across the District.

Although all current demand is accommodated for, Carnforth BC, Galgate BC, Lune Road BC, Luneside & Rosebank BC, and Skerton BC are operating at or above the recommended capacity levels and should be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.

Total membership for the 14 responsive clubs equates to 736 and on this basis the average bowls club membership in the Lancaster District is 53 members. Of these clubs, four highlight aspirations to increase membership including Dolphinhholme BC, Luneside & Rosebank BC, Overton BC, and Silverdale BC. Three of these plan to increase junior membership in line with BCGBA aims at a county and national level to encourage younger players, however, many stated it is difficult to promote to this age group. These clubs all suggest that future demand can be adequately accommodated on their existing green. However, if future demand comes to fruition, all four clubs will be above the recommended capacity and with Luneside & Rosebank BC already in this position, and based on future aspirations, there may be a need for this club to access more greens elsewhere to meet any additional demand.

Comparison to previous study

Since the previous study the picture remains the same. It is considered that as a whole the clubs and greens can currently cater for current and future demand. A number of greens are now marginally above the recommended capacity; however, the clubs do not express an issue with capacity on greens at present.

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Bowls summary

- ◀ **Five clubs are operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.**
- ◀ **In general, future demand expressed can be accommodated on existing greens. However, if future demand comes to fruition, Luneside & Rosebank BC would see its site significantly over subscribed.**

Supply

- ◀ There are 29 bowling greens in the Lancaster District located across 24 sites, of which, five sites are accommodating more than one green. All greens are available for community use.
- ◀ The Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area has the most greens with 13 (45%), this is followed by the Lancaster Analysis Area with 11 (38%). The least amount of provision is in the Morecambe and Heysham Analysis Area with five (17%) greens.
- ◀ Most bowling greens are owned and managed by the Local Authority, private ownerships, or the respective sports club.
- ◀ Most greens (24 or 83%) are rated as good quality, with four greens (14%) rated as standard quality and one green (3%) at Milhead Recreation Ground rated as poor quality.

Demand

- ◀ There are 27 bowling clubs identified as playing in the Lancaster District although only 52% have responded to consultation requests to date. Where known, membership of the responsive clubs' totals 736.
- ◀ The largest club according to known membership is currently Luneside & Rosebank BC, with 72 members, followed closely by Galgate BC with 70 members. The smallest club is Jubilee BC with only 19 members.
- ◀ Of the responding clubs, four clubs highlight plans to increase membership. These aspirations total 162 additional members.

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PART 10: RUGBY LEAGUE

10.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in Britain and Ireland. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League, and the Championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game structure in the UK. The RFL also administers the amateur and junior game across the country in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

Most community club rugby league is played throughout the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered as a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training can also be required throughout the winter months.

Senior rugby league is played on a pitch measuring 100 x 68 metres. The preferred pitch size for U7s, U8s and U9s is 60 x 40 metres, whereas for U10s and U11s it is 80 x 30 metres, with U12s and above generally playing on senior pitches. Teams from U7s to U11s are known as primary teams, whilst teams from U12s to U18s known as junior teams.

Consultation

There is one community based rugby league club in the Lancaster District: Heysham Atoms ARLFC. Consultation was undertaken via video call to inform this section of the report.

There is also intermural demand originating from Lancaster University. Information for this demand was gathered through consultation with the University and will be referenced throughout the section where appropriate.

10.2: Supply

There are no dedicated rugby league pitches identified in the Lancaster District at present with Heysham Atoms currently utilising pitches at Vale of Lune RUFC. The Club currently pays rent to use the facilities onsite, with two pitches marked for dual use during the summer.

Similarly, the demand from Lancaster University (one men's team) plays its competitive demand on the rugby union pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre.

Comparison to previous study

Since the collation of the supply and demand data in 2018 there has been a loss of dedicated rugby league provision in the District with the senior pitch at Trimpell Sports & Social Club no longer actively marked.

Security of tenure

Security of tenure refers to the rights of occupation on playing field and infrastructure. Clubs and stakeholders generally fall into the bracket of owner-occupier, tenant or licensee. The table below identifies the current tenure position of each rugby league club.

Table 10.1: Rugby league clubs security of tenure

Club	Tenure arrangement	Secure?
Vale of Lune RUFC	Yearly rent agreement	No

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Future provision

Heysham Atoms RLFC has come to an agreement with the Council and Westgate Wanderers FC to join the lease at King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe) whilst extending it to a 25 year lease. The Club is due to relocate to the site at the end of the 2023 season with matches beginning to played from the 2024 season. However, if the pitch is not ready at King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe) the Club will retain its pitch at Vale of Lune RUFC. Additionally, it will hold the pitch in reserve if required for future use.

Plans are in place to have a senior rugby league pitch marked at King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe), whilst also have a dual use pitch which will cater for both rugby league and football. In addition, Heysham Atoms RLFC aspires to have an extension built on the clubhouse to include a kitchen and seating area to cater for matchdays.

Pitch quality

The pitch currently utilised at Vale of lune RUFC is rated as M0/D1 which is poor quality. The pitch receives limited maintenance reflecting its poor quality. With the pitch also being utilised for rugby league during the summer, this results in limited time to undertake out of season maintenance of pitches.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facilities including the condition of the clubhouse, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, medical room, car parking and boundary fencing.

Ancillary provision at Vale of Lune RUFC is of standard quality. It has several changing rooms and function/bar which it operates. The toilets require updating, with other remedial work required to the clubhouse to improve the quality.

10.3: Demand

Demand for rugby league in the Lancaster District tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training. As the majority of rugby league play takes place during the summer period, when the nights are lighter, a significant amount of training takes play on pitches in addition to the competitive match play.

Competitive play

There is one affiliated rugby league club located in the Lancaster District, Heysham Atoms ARLFC. The Club accommodates nine teams in total as shown below.

Table 10.2: Summary of teams

Club	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys (13-18yrs)	Junior girls (13-18yrs)	Mini mixed (7-12yrs)
Heysham Atoms ARLFC	2	1	1	-	5

As discussed, there is also one men's team from Lancaster University known as Lancaster Lynx RLFC.

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Comparison to previous study

Demand for rugby league has increased since the previous study with one additional senior men's team, one senior women's team and two more dedicated mini teams. This increase has solely been generated from the only community club in the District, Heysham Atoms ARLFC.

Training

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed.

Full details of each of the clubs training schedules are detailed in the table below.

Table 10.3: Training demand summary

Club	Midweek training requirements	Match equivalent sessions (MES)
Heysham Atoms ARLFC	Two training nights of two hours per week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This is inclusive of all club teams.	Three MES per week (Senior and junior midweek training)

For reference Lancaster Lynx RLFC train on the 3G pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre.

Displaced demand

Displaced demand is existing demand that is being met by provision outside of the Lancaster District boundary. There are a number of reasons why displacement may occur such as a central venue league, where one location/site is used as the venue for all competitive fixtures with no teams having home or away fixtures or because teams choose to hire pitches outside of the boundary due to pitch quality or hire costs.

Currently, no Lancaster District based teams are travelling outside of the District to access pitches.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, housing growth and using population forecasts. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Population increase

Future competitive growth

Based on population projections to 2031 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

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For reference total current population in 2022 of 148,119 will increase to 153,809 by 2031. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 10.4: 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 session ⁵³
Men (19-45yrs)	1:14011	0.08	0	0
Women (19-45yrs)	1:26690	0.04	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:5705	0.04	0	0
Girls (13-18yrs)	0	0	0	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:1641	0.19	0	0

As seen above, no full future teams are to be generated by population growth.

Participation increase

Heysham Atoms ARLFC reports that it is looking to introduce an additional team at Under 16s to support bridging the gap between junior and senior rugby league.

10.5: Supply and demand analysis

The rugby union pitch utilised at Vale of Lune RUFC, is the pitch that has no sports lighting and is located furthest north on the clubhouse side of the road. This pitch is assessed as poor quality and it is deemed, by RFL, to have capacity for one match equivalent session per week.

Based on demand equating to 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week, Heysham Atoms ARLFC is currently overplaying the pitches by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is primarily due to the pitch being used for both match and training demand and due to its poor quality rating. This demand has not been included for within the current rugby union pitch capacity analysis in the rugby union section, due to demand being removed from the end of the 2023 season.

As the Club is moving to a new site which plans to have one senior pitch and one dual use rugby league/football pitch these pitches should be of good quality. Good quality pitches provide three match equivalent sessions per week, this will ensure that the demand can be catered for without overplaying the pitches and causing lasting damage.

10.6: Conclusion

Overall, based on the supply and demand analysis, it is evident that there is an insufficient supply of rugby league provision in the Lancaster District to accommodate for both current and anticipated future levels of demand.

The priority for rugby league in the Lancaster District is to ensure development of rugby league facilities at King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe) for the relocation of Heysham Atoms ARLFC. Maintenance programmes should be put in place to ensure pitches don't become overplayed.

⁵³ 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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Comparison to previous study

A direct comparison to the previous study is not possible as there is currently no dedicated rugby league provision in the District.

Summary – Rugby league

- ◀ **There is an insufficient supply of provision in the Lancaster District to accommodate for both current and anticipated future levels of demand for rugby league.**
- ◀ **The priority for rugby league in the Lancaster District is to ensure development of rugby league facilities at King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe) for the relocation of Heysham Atoms ARLFC. Maintenance programmes should be put in place to ensure pitches don't become overplayed and that there is adequate capacity for the growth of the Club.**

Supply

- ◀ There no dedicated rugby league pitches marked in the Lancaster District.
- ◀ Heysham Atoms RLFC has come to an agreement with the Council and Westgate Wanderers FC to join the lease at King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe). The Club will relocate with plans in place to have a senior rugby league pitch marked at King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe), whilst also using other areas of the site for training and junior pitches.

Demand

- ◀ There is one affiliated rugby league club located in the Lancaster District, Heysham Atoms ARLFC. The Club accommodates nine teams.
- ◀ Future demand from population increases is projected as zero teams.

Capacity

- ◀ As the Club is moving to a new site which plans to have one senior pitch and one dual us rugby league/football pitch, these pitches should be of good quality. Good quality pitches provide three match equivalent sessions per week, this will ensure that the demand can be catered for without overplaying the pitches and causing lasting damage.

PART 11: CYCLING

11.1: Introduction

British Cycling is the NGB for all forms of cycling. It oversees six sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

- ◀ Track cycling – velodromes
- ◀ Road cycling – closed road circuits
- ◀ Mountain biking – trails
- ◀ BMX racing – race/pump tracks
- ◀ Cycle speedway – cycle speedway tracks
- ◀ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues

British Cycling aids in the development of all six formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. The popularity of cycling has increased since recent elite sporting success in the Olympics and Paralympics as well as in other major championships.

11.2: Supply

There is one dedicated cycling facility in Lancaster. One closed road cycling circuit is located at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre in the Lancaster Analysis Area. The track is 0.8 miles long and is a tarmac surface.

The course is of good quality and is utilised by a number of clubs as detailed below.

Nearby cycling facilities

Despite there being a closed road cycling circuit facility in the Lancaster District there is no BMX Race or BMX Pump track within the Lancaster District, as well as no registered mountain bike trails. Within neighbouring authorities there are a number of cycling facilities which are likely to be utilised by Lancaster District residents:

- ◀ Burton in Lonsdale Sports and Recreation Field – BMX Pump Track (North Yorkshire)
- ◀ Craven Leisure – BMX Pump Track (North Yorkshire)
- ◀ Gisburn Forest Hub – Mountain Bike Trails (Ribble Valley)
- ◀ Grizedale Forest Visitor Centre – Mountain Bike Trails (Westmorland and Furness)
- ◀ Ingleton Pump Track – BMX Pump Track (North Yorkshire)
- ◀ Queens Park (Windermere) – BMX Pump Track (Westmorland and Furness)

11.3: Demand

Lancaster Cycling Club

Lancaster Cycling Club has 45 affiliated members and promotes club time trials each Thursday from April to September. The Club utilise Salt Ayre Racing Cycle Circuit which is located at the Salt Ayre Leisure Centre and here it is able to include ten, six and two mile time trials to include racing for children over five years old as well as senior riders. Members race in open time trials, cycle cross and road races, as well as riding Sportive events and small group rides.

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Salt Ayre Cog Set

Salt Ayre Cog Set is a cycling club for young people (aged 6-18) based in the Lancaster District. The Club has 200 affiliated members and is a Go-Ride club, having achieved the Clubmark status that Sport England uses to determine well-run clubs across all sports. The Club runs Saturday morning road and mountain bike sessions at the Salt Ayre cycle track at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre from March until the end of October. Extra training sessions take place on Monday evenings through the racing season. The Club offers many other opportunities to ride including rides out, weekends away plus social events which take place throughout the year.

Cog Set Papyrus Racing Club

Cog Set Papyrus Racing Club has 35 affiliated members and is the race and development team affiliated to Salt Ayre Cog Set. The aim of the Club is to support those riders wishing to continue their cycling through the upper youth, junior and U23 ranks.

Lune Racing Cycling Club

Lune Racing Cycling Club has 55 affiliated members, a club which prioritises road races, criteriums, time trials and cyclocross races. The Club has three weekly training sessions with road cycling sessions on Sunday and Friday mornings and a closed road cycling session at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre on Tuesday evenings.

HSBC UK Go-Ride

HSBC UK Go-Ride is a British Cycling's development programme for young people. It offers a fun and safe way to introduce young people to the sport and provides a platform to improve cycling skills. People can get involved through holiday coaching programmes or through their local accredited club which allows them to sample the various disciplines of the sport. Progression is obtainable with Go-Ride Racing, offering competition for riders to transition from school or club coaching to inter club and open regional competitions.

Salt Ayre Cog Set is the only accredited Go-Ride cycling club based in the Lancaster District.

HSBC UK Breeze

HSBC UK Breeze is a British Cycling's development programme for women. It offers three categories (easy going, steady and challenging) to allow women of all abilities to get involved. The programme offers exercise whilst also creating a comfortable environment to meet new people.

There are no UK Breeze programmes currently operating in the Lancaster District.

Latent and unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient provision. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is currently no latent demand which was highlighted through consultation.

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Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in cycling but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 6,242 people who would like to participate in the sport within the Lancaster District which equates to 4.2% of the District population. This is marginally higher when compared to the national average of approximately 3.4%.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that future and latent demand does not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to participate in sport and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus by British Cycling to develop youth participation through the HSBC UK Go-Ride or HSBC UK Breeze schemes, which may lead to further increases in demand.

Future demand

British cycling believes that demand is likely to continue to increase in the future, although to what extent is difficult to quantify.

11.4: Conclusion

It is considered that there is sufficient closed road cycling facilities in the District with the Salt Ayre Leisure Centre facility servicing multiple clubs in the Lancaster District. It should be noted that there is no BMX or mountain bike trails within the District, however, there are a number within neighbouring authorities and therefore any residents from within the Lancaster District are likely to travel outside of the District to access such facilities.

With current and latent demand in the Lancaster District for cycling there is a need for further consultation with British Cycling to further determine the need to introduce more cycling initiatives and to consider future development of dedicated cycling facilities.

Cycling was not included in the previous PPOSS and therefore no comparison can be made to the previous study.

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Cycling supply and demand summary

- ◀ It is considered that there is sufficient closed road cycling facilities in the District with the Salt Ayre Leisure Centre facility servicing multiple clubs in the Lancaster District.
- ◀ There is no BMX or mountain bike trails within the District, however, there are a number within neighbouring authorities and therefore any residents from within the Lancaster District are likely travel outside of the District to access such facilities.

Cycling supply summary

- ◀ There is one dedicated cycling facilities in the Lancaster District, a closed road circuit track at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre.
- ◀ The track is considered to be of good quality.

Cycling demand summary

- ◀ Lancaster Cycling Club has 45 affiliated members and promotes club time trials each Thursday from April to September. The Club utilise Salt Ayre Racing Cycle Circuit which is located at the Salt Ayre Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Salt Ayre Cog Set runs Saturday morning road and mountain bike sessions at the Salt Ayre cycle track at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre from March until the end of October. Extra training sessions take place on Monday evenings through the racing season.
- ◀ Cog Set Papyrus Racing Club has 35 affiliated members and is the race and development team affiliated to Salt Ayre Cog Set. The aim of the Club is to support those riders wishing to continue their cycling through the upper youth, junior and U23 ranks.
- ◀ Lune Racing Cycling Club has three weekly training sessions with road cycling sessions on Sunday and Friday mornings and a closed road cycling session at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre on Tuesday evenings.
- ◀ There is one Go-Ride accredited cycling club (Salt Ayre Cog Set), whilst there is no Breeze programmes operating within the Lancaster District.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in cycling but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 6,242 people who would like to participate in the sport within the Lancaster District which equates to 4.2% of the District's population. This is marginally higher when compared to the national average of approximately 3.4%.

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PART 12: GOLF

12.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 730,000 members belonging to one of 1,800 affiliated clubs and a further 3.5 million people playing independently outside of club membership. Emerging data from England Golf suggests that there are now over four million golfers in England, representing an increase of 1.7 million golfers since 2019. Additionally, there has been an increase in affiliated membership of approximately 110,000 members.

There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated Heritage Coast sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or listed Historic Parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

This section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within the Lancaster District.

12.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

Table 12.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

Within the Lancaster District, there are six golf venues that provide facilities conforming with the above definitions, as identified in Table 12.1 and Table 12.2 below. Four are located in the Carnforth/Rural Analysis Area and there is one each in the Lancaster and Heysham & Morecambe analysis areas.

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Table 12.2: Golf facilities within Lancaster

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area
4	Ashton Golf Centre	1200163	LA2 0AJ	Carnforth/Rural
37	Heysham Golf Club	1101601	LA3 3JH	Carnforth/Rural
53	Lancaster Golf Club	1101602	LA2 0AJ	Carnforth/Rural
60	Lansil Sports And Social Club	1101603	LA1 3PE	Lancaster
72	Morecambe Golf Club Ltd	1101604	LA4 6AJ	Heysham and Morecambe
93	Silverdale Golf Club	1101120	LA5 0SP	Carnforth/Rural

Standard hole golf courses

All six golf sites within the Lancaster District provide one standard hole course, with four 18-hole courses and two 9-hole courses in place. These are summarised in the table below.

Table 12.3: Summary of standard hole provision in the Lancaster District

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage ⁵⁴			Slope rating
4	Ashton Golf Centre	9	32	2,221	2,099	1,982	-
37	Heysham Golf Club	18	70	6,350	6,105	5,558	121 - 130
53	Lancaster Golf Club	18	71	6,512	6,269	5,791	121 - 139
60	Lansil Sports And Social Club	9	35	2,770	2,608	2,436	114 - 126
72	Morecambe Golf Club Ltd	18	67	5,791	5,551	5,391	124 - 126
93	Silverdale Golf Club	18	70	5,666	5,354	4,964	123 - 127

Of the four 18 holes courses, Lancaster Golf Club provides the longest offering, with Silverdale Golf Club providing the shortest. However, both are in the range of what you would expect from traditional provision. Shorter courses tend to offer some variety that may appeal more so to a defined market that would not feel comfortable playing lengthier provision e.g., beginner and/or casual golfers.

Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase. Whilst this is the case at Ashton Golf Centre, total yardage at Lansil Sports and Social Club represents approximately half that of a traditional 18-hole golf course.

Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the world. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that the courses in the Lancaster District are generally considered to be more difficult than the mean, with them collectively ranging from 114-139 (the slope rating varies depending on which tee is used).

⁵⁴ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

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No slope rating is provided for Ashton Golf Centre as the site is unaffiliated to England Golf. This means that an assessment has not taken place.

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game. That being said, there are no Par 3 golf courses provided in the Lancaster District, although Casterton Golf Club provides a Par 3 golf course close to the District in Westmorland and Furness. Therefore, it is likely this caters for many beginner and casual players from the Lancaster District, predominantly from the Carnforth area.

Driving range bays

There are currently two driving ranges within the Lancaster District at Heysham Golf Club and Lancaster Golf Club. Heysham Golf Club is open for pay and play whilst the driving range at Lancaster Golf Club is mainly used for coaching and members. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the driving range at Heysham Golf Club is mainly utilised by golf club members, and it is unlikely that there is much demand from external users.

Table 12.4: Summary of driving range bays in Lancaster

Site ID	Site name	No. of bays	Floodlit?	Pay and play?
37	Heysham Golf Club	6	Yes	Yes
53	Lancaster Golf Club	9	Yes	Yes

Nationally, many driving range providers are updating their facilities with modern technology in a bid to increase demand, such as through the installation of automatic tees or via entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. Such provision allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback. At present, it is unknown whether either of the driving ranges utilise such technology.

Due to the nature of facilities on offer, it is likely that there is limited access to driving ranges in the Lancaster District by external members, with most usage taking place by members of the clubs. With no standalone facility it is unlikely that beginner golfers would look to access facilities a members clubs when starting their golfing journeys.

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England; members clubs, proprietary clubs and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

Table 12.5: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more

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Management type	Description
	localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment.

In Lancaster, all the golf clubs bar Ashton Golf Centre are members clubs whereas the Ashton Golf Centre is classed as a municipal course.

Table 12.6: Summary of ownership/management in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site name	Management type
4	Ashton Golf Centre	Municipal
37	Heysham Golf Club	Members
53	Lancaster Golf Club	Members
60	Lansil Sports And Social Club	Members
72	Morecambe Golf Club Ltd	Members
93	Silverdale Golf Club	Members

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Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past few years, many facilities have altered their pricing structures to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf has positively encouraged this as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available.

For instance, some now offer five and/or six day memberships (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over).

Recent analysis carried out by England Golf indicates an increasing number of clubs now operate a waiting list (approximately one third of all clubs).

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901. In the Lancaster District, membership to five of the six courses is lower than this figure although significantly so at Lansil Sports and Social Club (£375) although the Club provides a 9-hole course rather than an 18-hole course. The only club to offer membership above the national average is Lancaster Golf Club, its membership is priced at £1,176.

Green fees are available at all five sites. Aston Golf Centre provides the cheapest offering although this would include two rounds of the same 9-hole course. This is closely followed by Morecambe Golf Club, which has the cheapest 18-hole offering. Lancaster Golf Club has the most expensive green fees.

Table 12.7: Pricing structures at golf facilities within Lancaster

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Weekday fee	Weekend fee
4	Ashton Golf Centre	N/A	N/A	£15	£15
37	Heysham Golf Club	N/A	£847	£40	£45
53	Lancaster Golf Club	N/A	£1,176	£50	£60
60	Lansil Sports And Social Club	N/A	£375	£18	£18
72	Morecambe Golf Club Ltd	N/A	£830	£30	£30
93	Silverdale Golf Club	N/A	£695	£32	£32

In addition to the courses above, the driving range at Heysham Golf Club is accessible for pay and play usage. It costs £3.50 for 50 balls or £6 for 100 balls. However, a range pass is required upfront which costs £40, this also includes a voucher for 500 balls.

Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better the course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

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Quality of the golf courses in the Lancaster District is relatively good across the five sites, with no significant issues identified. All of the courses are considered to be good quality with the venues having dedicated green keeping staff which provide frequent and sophisticated maintenance regimes that operate all-year round.

Additionally, there has been no issues identified with ancillary provision at any of the sites. However, from a golfing perspective, given the current emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g. by providing gender specific changing facilities.

12.3: Demand

Around 2004, participation in golf began declining; however, recent signs show that the reduction has not only levelled off but that demand has started to increase, especially following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both in 2020 and 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people were able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf has provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g. by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses have reported a near doubling of usual demand compared to pre-pandemic levels, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to retain increased participation in the long-term.

Membership

England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 407, which is based on a central national handicap platform.

Club-specific membership figures are no longer available via England Golf although average membership across the five affiliated clubs in the Lancaster District (Heysham, Silverdale, Morecambe, Lancaster and Lansil) equates to 451. Therefore, total membership across these clubs equals 2,255.

The above figures indicate that golf club membership in the Lancaster District is higher than the national average.

Membership trends

In line with a national trend of increasing membership, membership across the Lancaster District has increased since 2015. From 2015 to 2018, membership levels in the District had been decreasing, with average membership dropping from 417 in 2015, peaking at 424 in 2017, before dropping to 412 in 2018. However, from 2018 to 2023, average membership has jumped to 451, representing a 9% growth in golf club membership across the District since 2018.

Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has increased across England in recent years, usage figures within the Lancaster District are not known, as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf. However, it would be expected that demand would be highest at Lansil Sports and Social Club, Morecambe Golf Club, Silverdale Golf Club and Ashton Golf Centre given the operational structures in place and the cheaper price points for access.

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Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities.

There is no known unmet demand at golf sites in the Lancaster District with no waiting lists identified for membership, and each site that operates a membership scheme is advertising and welcoming applications online, suggesting that they are all open for new members.

Furthermore, no clubs are turning away pay and play users at times when such usage is allowed. Most pay and play rounds across the sites can be booked online or via telephone.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision. To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,725 people within the Lancaster District.

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e., through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

In addition, England Golf has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility, with the population broken down into nine golfing segments.

These segments are defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members
- ◀ Older traditionalists
- ◀ Younger traditionalists
- ◀ Younger fanatics
- ◀ Younger actives
- ◀ Late enthusiasts
- ◀ Occasional time pressed
- ◀ Social couples
- ◀ Casual fun

Across the Lancaster District, Lansil Sports and Social Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 36,462 people falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time. Silverdale Golf Club has the smallest potential demand, equating to 16,329 people.

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from "relaxed members" (4,356 people), whilst the lowest is from "older traditionalists" (1,697 people).

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

In the Lancaster District, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future levels of demand and how much future demand they can accommodate.

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

With six golf facilities in the Lancaster District and a mix of 18-hole and 9-hole courses, supply is well placed to meet demand. This is especially the case given the various operational structures in place, with some facilities prioritising membership and others prioritising pay and play usage and with some offering a high price point and others offering a low price point. This suggests that all types of established golfers are being catered for.

Notwithstanding the above, the only less-traditional formats of the game catered for within the Lancaster District are the nine hole golf courses at Lansil Sports and Social Club and Ashton Golf Centre. Whilst Casterton Golf Club is deemed to be well located to accommodate this demand from some population centres within the District. There may be a gap in demand for an informal golf facility within the District, which would support the offer for more entry level style facilities for those new to the game (i.e. more accessible driving range bays, shorter courses and pitch & putt courses).

Cross-boundary demand for golf is common nationally due to the nature of the sport. Golfers do not necessarily recognise local authority borders, and many will choose a facility for a whole range of reasons other than where it is located, with factors including quality, availability, cost and where friends/family play. This can be especially pronounced at venues located close to neighbouring authorities and if there is a comparative lack of provision within those authorities.

12.5: Conclusion

With supply well placed to meet demand in the Lancaster District, emphasis should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided, with options explored to increase demand to more sustainable levels. England Golf can assist in this regard, primarily through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

In addition, opportunities should be explored to improve the mix of facility within the District and offer more entry level style facilities for those who are new to the game.

Golf was not included in the previous PPOSS and therefore no comparison can be made to the previous study.

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Golf – supply and demand summary

- ◀ **With six golf facilities in the Lancaster District and a mix of 18-hole and 9-hole courses, supply is well placed to meet demand.**
- ◀ **Notwithstanding the above, there may be a gap in demand for a par three golf facility within the Lancaster District.**
- ◀ **In the meantime, emphasis should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided, with options explored to increase demand to more sustainable levels.**

Golf – supply summary

- ◀ There are currently six golf venues in the Lancaster District.
- ◀ All six golf sites within the District provide one standard hole course, with four 18-hole courses (Lancaster, Heysham, Morecambe and Silverdale golf clubs) and two 9-hole courses (Ashton Golf Centre and Lansil Sports and Social Club) in place.
- ◀ There are two driving ranges identified (Heysham Golf Club and Lancaster Golf Club).
- ◀ No Par 3 course is identified.
- ◀ Lancaster, Heysham, Morecambe Silverdale and Lansil golf clubs are members clubs whereas Ashton Golf Centre is a municipal course.
- ◀ In the Lancaster District, membership to all but one course is lower than the national average for membership costs with Lancaster Golf Club being above the national average and highest in the District with a pricing of £1,176 which suggests the facility is relatively high-end.
- ◀ In terms of quality of the golf facilities, it is relatively good across the Lancaster District with no significant issues identified.

Golf – demand summary

- ◀ Club-specific membership figures are no longer available via England Golf although average membership across the five affiliated clubs in the Lancaster District (Heysham, Silverdale, Morecambe, Lancaster and Lansil) equates to 451, which exceeds the national average of 407.
- ◀ There has been a 9% growth in demand across the Lancaster District since 2018.
- ◀ England Golf's mapping tool identifies a significant amount of potential demand, with Lansil Sports and Social Club shown to have the highest population base.
- ◀ Pay and play usage is unknown but is likely to be highest at sites such as Ashton Golf Centre, Lansil Sports and Social Club and Morecambe Golf Club the operational structure in place and the lower price point.

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PART 13: OTHER SPORTS

13.1: American football

Introduction

American football in the UK is governed and administered by the British American Football Association (BAFA). Adult men's contact teams play within its National Leagues (BAFANL) on Sunday afternoons and play five home fixtures per regular season with a playoff system to follow for those which qualify. Junior (U19) contact football is played as a full 11v11 format league season whilst youth (U17) contact football is played as a 5v5 format with full equipment and tackling based across a series of day tournaments as part of a festival structure.

The men's and junior seasons run from April to August with junior games starting at noon followed by adults at 3pm. Youth teams play 5v5 games on smaller pitches, usually two pitches marked widthways across a large pitch. Women's contact is 7v7 format game which also operates on a tournament series basis much like youth football. Flag football (a non-contact version of the game) operates both men's and women's competitions and is played at younger junior age groups, offering an alternate route into participation.

Supply

There are no dedicated American football pitches within the Lancaster District and all matches are played on either natural turf rugby pitches dually used for other sports or on the 3G pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre. Lancaster University Sports Centre has rugby union pitches rated as good quality, which are overmarked for American Football when required.

Training takes place on either natural turf pitches or in the case of Lancaster University, a 3G pitch equipped with shock pad to better support contact sport (particularly contact rugby union for which is certified as World Rugby complaint).

Demand

There is one American football club in the Lancaster District located at Lancaster University. In addition, Morecambe Bay Storm previously operated within the Lancaster District, however, it folded at the start of the 2022 season.

Morecambe Bay Storm

Morecambe Bay Storm is a community club formed in 2016. It has one contact team which previously played in the BAFANL leagues. The Club was based at Trimpell Sports & Social Club and matches were played on the rugby league pitch onsite on Sunday afternoons. In 2022, the Club announced that it had withdrawn its team from the BAFA league for the 2022 season. It is currently unknown whether the Club is looking to re-establish itself.

Lancaster Bombers

Lancaster University American football club is known as the Lancaster Bombers. The Club has one team playing in the BUCS leagues on Sunday afternoons.

Training takes place on artificial grass pitches and is all accommodated on campus, with a total of three and a half hours training per week on the 3G pitch onsite.

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Matches are played on Sunday afternoons on the grass rugby union pitches, or alternatively the 3G pitch is used for another hour and a half training session on weekends when there is no scheduled fixture.

Capacity analysis

As evidenced within Part 5: Rugby Union, American football use of rugby union pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre can be accommodated sufficiently and continued use by both sports can be sustained on the basis that the existing maintenance regime and drainage functions are maintained or improved.

Conclusion

Overall, there is sufficient capacity on sports pitches presently used for American football to accommodate current levels of demand. With the Lancaster University Sports Centre being able to accommodate demand from Lancaster Bombers as long as current quality and maintenance levels are sustained.

Comparison to the previous study

Since the previous study, Morecambe Bay Storm has folded. Therefore, there is now no community American Football Club within the Lancaster District, with all demand now coming via the university. Therefore, Trimpell Sports & Social Club no longer has a pitch marked.

American football summary

- ◀ **Supply of facilities for American football can sufficiently cater for current levels of demand based on present levels of maintenance, access and total sporting use.**
- ◀ **Natural turf pitches used for American football are dually used for other sports and robust maintenance regimes must be employed and overall use by all sports monitored to ensure that sufficient capacity and quality exists to continue to sustain dual usage.**
- ◀ There is one American football club with one team. Based at Lancaster University (Lancaster Bombers).
- ◀ All matches are played on natural turf pitches used for other sports at Lancaster University (rugby union).

13.2: Lacrosse

Introduction

Lacrosse is a contact sport played using a small rubber ball and long-handled stick to catch and hold the lacrosse ball. It is governed nationally by English Lacrosse. Despite there being no community clubs recorded as playing within the Lancaster District, it is played by Lancaster University.

Supply

There is just one dedicated grass lacrosse pitch in the Lancaster District, located at Lancaster University Sports Centre and used only by the University teams.

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Demand

Lancaster University fields one men's and two women's lacrosse teams, each playing on Wednesday afternoons in the BUCS leagues. Though the site has a grass pitch available, the majority of matches are played on the second of two AGPs onsite, with the grass pitch used as a reserve in the instance that the AGP is required for hockey use or that both lacrosse teams are drawn to play at home.

Training takes place twice a week, for two hours on Tuesdays on the AGP pitch on campus and on Sundays for 90 minutes on the 3G pitch.

Conclusion

Current facilities available and accessible for university lacrosse can sufficiently cater for the level of demand. Should growth in participation lead to additional teams (or indeed growth in hockey teams requiring use of AGP capacity), this demand increase can be met through greater use of the grass hockey pitch onsite.

Comparison to previous study

Since the previous study, the only demand remains from the University.

Lacrosse summary

- ◀ **Supply of facilities for lacrosse can sufficiently cater for current levels of demand on either artificial or natural turf pitches, whilst future growth and generation of additional teams can be met through increased use of the grass pitch onsite.**
- ◀ Only Lancaster University fields lacrosse teams and there are no community clubs. The University has one men's and two women's team.
- ◀ All match play and training is accommodated onsite. Matches are played on the AGP or grass pitch when programming requires, with training held on the AGP or 3G pitch.

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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 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.

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport 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

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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.

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 (2023)

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:

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- ◀ 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.

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.

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- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Time for Change: The FA Strategy (2020-2024)

The new FA strategy aims to take the FA and English football forward with bold leadership and ambitious targets to build on the progress of the last four years. It identifies six Game Changer objectives and eight Serve the Game objectives which demonstrate its determination to substantially change the fabric of the game and address key societal issues.

The Game Changer objectives are:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Serve two million + through a transformed digital platform
- ◀ Equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Deliver 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free from discrimination
- ◀ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and Women's Super League

These are underpinned by its eight Serve the Game objectives, which are:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high performance workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ **Grow and nurture the core**
 - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
 - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
 - ◀ Invest in club facilities
 - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
 - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
 - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
 - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
 - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
 - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
 - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
 - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket

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- ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
- ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
- ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
 - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
 - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
 - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
 - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
 - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
 - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
 - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ **Support our communities**
 - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
 - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
 - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
 - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

Game Objectives:

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

Driving Objectives:

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences

Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce.

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Rugby Football League Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021

The RFL is currently in the process of developing a new facilities strategy. However, its most recent strategy aims to establish rugby league as “a growing sport, available throughout the country, that is recognised as providing positive experience for all participants and spectators, in environments that are welcoming, inclusive, vibrant, safe and comfortable - encouraging people to return again and again, featuring:

- ◀ Financially viable and sustainable professional clubs creating stable employment opportunities, showcasing local, national and international playing talent, and leading the sport’s development - and making a difference - in their own communities;
- ◀ Welcoming community clubs, putting players first, offering recreational enjoyment for children and adults alike in a safe and inclusive environment;
- ◀ A central organisation that stands out for excellence, innovation, mutual respect, integrity and inclusion that understands its role in servicing the wider sport;
- ◀ A sports that lives its values in all its decisions and actions.

This vision is underpinned by 13 core principles, including:

- ◀ **An integrated whole sport.** Each constituent part of the sport will have a responsibility to ensure the good health of the entire game;
- ◀ **Return on investment.** Investment will be targeted to ensure the sustainability of member clubs, and growth in the number and quality of players thus seeking an effective return for the game;
- ◀ **Financial parameters.** Financial distributions will be undertaken to ensure the whole of the game will move forward together;
- ◀ **Geographic expansion.** Geographic expansion of the sport should be carried out in a proportionate and sustainable manner.

Rugby League World Cup ‘Inspired by 2021’ Legacy Programme

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of an ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey is currently in the process of developing a new facilities strategy, however, the current facilities strategy can be found [here](#) and is summarised below.

Vision: For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- ◀ **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**
 - There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- ◀ **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**
 - The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.
- ◀ **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

LTA Facilities Investment Strategy – Vision for the 2020 and beyond

The LTA has developed a programme of action based on seven core strategies. These are:

- ◀ Visibility – Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ◀ Innovation – Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ◀ Investment – Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
- ◀ Accessibility – Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
- ◀ Engagement – Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game.
- ◀ Performance – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ◀ Leadership – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.

The LTA Facilities Investment Framework sets out how it intends to deliver the investment to support community accessible tennis facilities. The focus will be on:

- ◀ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Park tennis
- ◀ Tennis clubs
- ◀ Schools and other educational establishments

The key principles of the framework are to:

- ◀ Help fund projects through interest free loans.
- ◀ Invest in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◀ Invest where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◀ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◀ Targeted investment that is demand-led.
- ◀ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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”.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment sheet

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"/>		
If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues						
Weather at time of visit & date of visit						
Pitch Issues:						
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)						
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments	
Playing surface						
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%	Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No	See size chart below for recommended dimensions
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe	
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short	Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage	
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)						
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	

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Cricket pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Cricket										
Please complete one form per pitch										
Site reference		Site Name								
6 figure grid reference		No of Pitches:								
Pitch ID		No of wickets:	Natural		Non turf					
Weather at time of visit:										
Availability										
<small>Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused</small>										
General comments/observations										
*You will need a cricket ball and ruler to assess wicket quality as indicated										
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 (use the guidance notes to help complete)				
About the cricket outfield										
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor		<80% falls below the ECB basic standard					
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor		Ideally 12mm - 25mm					
Evenness	Even		Uneven		Ball should run without deviation or ramp					
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes		Immediate action required	May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager					
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes		Immediate action required	e.g. informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site					
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes		Immediate action required	e.g. from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc may also wish to refer to user survey					
						section total				
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							
						section total				
Grass Wickets										
Presence of line markings	Yes		No		i.e. is wicket smooth and uniform					
Evidence of rolling	Yes		No		3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square					
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes		No							
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes		No							
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes		No		Scale: 80%+ = Yes, 80%< = No					
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound/bounce?	Yes		No		Please note that <80% falls below the ECB basic standard					
						section total				
Changing/ Pavilion										
Umpires provision	Yes		No							
Toilets	Yes		No							
Hot/cold water	Yes		No							
Heating	Yes		No							
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention							
						section total				
Non Turf Cricket Practice Nets										
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		Ideally assessed with a spirit level but can be achieved by eye.					
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							
						section total				
Maximum score	180	Scoring		Score	Percentage Score	Facility Present?				
		Outfield	0	0%	No					
		Artificial Wickets	0	0%	No					
		Grass Wickets	0	0%	No					
		Changing/Pavilion	0	0%	No					
		Non Turf Practice	0	0%	No					
		Overall score	0	0%						
				Potential Rating:	Poor					

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches										
Site reference			Site Name							
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID							
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)			Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)			
Availability			Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused							
Type of pitch	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad) Sand Dressed		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm) Sand Filled		Short Pile 3G (40mm) Water based					
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)										
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments		
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years			
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.			
Access for disabled players, i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate					
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No							
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No							
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No							
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No							
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No							
Maximum score	93		Scoring:	Poor <=50 Standard 51-79 Good 80+		Total Score	0		Potential Rating	Poor

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Grass rugby league pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Quality Assessment - Rugby League							
Please complete one form per pitch							
Site reference	<input type="text"/>	Site Name	<input type="text"/>				
6 figure grid reference	<input type="text"/>	Pitch ID(s)	<input type="text"/>				
Number of rugby league pitches on availability?	<input type="text"/>	Pitch size	<input type="text"/> (Senior, Junior, Primary)				
Weather at time of visit	<input type="text"/>	Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?	<input type="text"/>				
Pitch Issues:							
<input type="text"/>							
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)							
Element	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments	Scores	
Playing surface							
Grass Coverage	Good	Adequate	Poor	>90% Good <80% Poor		0	
Size of pitch	Preferred size	Meet minimum size	Not adequate	See RFL Pitch Size Guidance: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk		0	
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Good	Adequate	Poor			0	
Length of grass	Good	Adequate	Poor	20mm - 60mm: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/		0	
Evenness of pitch	Flat	Moderate	Severe			0	
Problem Area: Evidence of dog fouling	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots			0	
Problem Area: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots			0	
Typical weekly usage (match equivalent sessions)	6 or less	7 - 9	10 plus	Refer to club survey & other information gathered		0	
Does the maintenance schedule meet RFL requirements?	Yes	In part	No	See RFL Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/		0	
Pitch ancillary facilities						Section total	0
Are goalposts safe?	Yes		No			0	
Is the site secure or open?	Secure		Open			0	
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No			0	
Is the pitch enclosed by perimeter fence?	Yes		No			0	
Is there a training area separate to match pitch(es)?	Yes		No			0	
Is there a covered stand?	Yes		No			0	
Ancillary facilities						Section total	0
Is there a clubhouse onsite?	Yes		No			0	
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No			0	
Adequacy of changing accommodation (exterior)?	Good	Adequate	Poor			0	
Adequacy of changing accommodation (interior)?	Good	Adequate	Poor			0	
Is there an official room?	Yes		No			0	
Is there a dedicated medical room?	Yes		No			0	
Are accessible facilities provided?	Yes		No			0	
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No			0	
Section total						0	

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Bowling green non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green						
KKPref	<input type="text"/>					
Site name:	<input type="text"/>					
Number of greens	<input type="text"/>					
Flat/crown	<input type="text"/>	Community Use?	<input type="text"/>			
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)						
Element	Rating			Comments		
About the greens						
Grass cover	Over 70%	<input type="checkbox"/>	40-69%	<input type="checkbox"/>	less than 40%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evenness of surface	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signs of wear and tear	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>
Condition of ditches/boarding	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes		<input type="checkbox"/>	No		<input type="checkbox"/>
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ancillary facilities						
Changing Accomodation	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Toilets	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Car parking	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
General comments about the site:						
<input type="text"/>						

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Tennis court non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Courts									
KKPref									
Site name:									
Number of courts -	Tennis	Netball	Basketball	Five-a-side					
General Playground or specific sports court area?									
Court surface	Management		Community Use?						
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale		Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School						
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Comments		
About the courts									
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				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Changing Accomodation									
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No						
About the equipment									
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No						
Practice wall	Yes		No						