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LANCASTER DISTRICT

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2018

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CFA	County Football Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
ET	England Touch
FA	Football Association
FC	Football club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCC	Lancaster City Council
LCFA	Lancashire County Football Association
LCF	Lancashire Cricket Foundation
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf pitch
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby union football club
S106	Section 106
TGR	Team generation rate
WR	World Rugby

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Lancaster City Council (LCC) and its partners. This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

The primary purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Lancaster District. The Strategy will be produced in accordance with Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013 as updated in March 2014) and the national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout the District.

Though in practice the document serves all of the functions of a PPS, it is titled a PPOSS in order to reflect the coverage of outdoor sports within the scope of the study, in addition to those grass pitch sports already within the PPS Guidance.

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 healthy communities. Paragraph 96 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.

The Lancaster Local Plan needs to be based upon a robust evidence base. Paragraphs 97 and 97 of the NPPF¹ discuss assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields".

¹ Revised NPPF, July 2018

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Why the PPOSS is being developed

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

Strategic:

- It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. The PPOSS will act as a tool for Lancaster City Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for pitch sports in the future.
- It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities a playing pitch strategy can evidence the need for a range of capital grants. Current funding examples include the Sport England Funding Programmes, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery. The site-specific action plan that will form an integral part of this PPOSS will identify and prioritise sites that require improvements and where the funding should be secured from.

Planning:

- The PPOSS will provide important evidence to support the Lancaster District Local Plan.
- It will support planning policies on green infrastructure, recreation, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being in the emerging Lancaster District Local Plan.
- Evidence for Community Infrastructure Levy and Developer Contributions

Operational:

- It can help improve management of assets, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- The Action Plan will identify sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- An assessment of all pitches (in use and lapsed) will be undertaken to understand how pitches are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

Sports development:

- It helps identify which sites have community use and whether that use is secure or not.
- It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed to address any identified deficits in pitch provision.
- It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams/user groups.
- It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams/community needs.

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Aims and objectives

The key drivers for developing the PPOSS include:

- ✦ Aims and objectives for improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
- ✦ Sports development programmes and changes in how the sports are played.
- ✦ The need for evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
- ✦ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ✦ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ✦ Potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites.
- ✦ Budgetary pressures to ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- ✦ The need to develop a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- ✦ Prioritisation of internal capital and revenue investment.
- ✦ The need to provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

The objectives of the project will be to:

- ✦ Provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs for playing pitches;
- ✦ Provide information to assist performance management and asset management,
- ✦ Provide information to underpin:
 - ✦ the protection, enhancement and improvement of the existing pitch stock,
 - ✦ improvements in community access to educational and non-local authority pitches;
- ✦ To provide a basis for establishing new pitch requirements arising from new housing developments or improvements to existing where demand can be satisfied by increasing capacity.
- ✦ To provide a framework for delivering government policies for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement and healthy living;
- ✦ To provide good-quality information and evidence of need for funding bids for new and improved provision;
- ✦ To ensure that the Council strategy has strong links to all NGB facilities strategies;
- ✦ To provide the context for sports development of pitch sports which aims to develop the range of opportunities available.

Lancaster District Local Plan

The Council is currently in the process of preparing a new Local Plan for the area up to 2031, though it's housing requirement is to be calculated to 2034. This will seek to identify significant areas of development growth, in particular via the delivery of strategic sites in South Lancaster, South Carnforth and to the East and North of the City.

The new Local Plan will consist of a Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD and a Review of the Development Management DPD (the latter was originally adopted in December 2014). This will supplement a suite of other DPDs including a Morecambe Area Action Plan and an Arnsdale and Silverdale Area of Natural Beauty (AONB) DPD which is currently undergoing examination. Work is also going to begin on preparing a Bailrigg Garden Village Area Action Plan.

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Draft versions of the Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD and a Review of the Development Management DPD were approved for Publication in December 2017; and submitted to the Government in May 2018. Once adopted the two DPDs will form the core elements of the new local plan; which replace the Lancaster District Core Strategy (2008) and remaining policies of the original Lancaster District Local Plan (2004).

Given the potential scale of growth proposed, and the implications such growth may have on existing provision, it is important for the council to have clarity over existing levels of open space and what types of provision should be delivered via the strategic growth proposed and any other smaller scale developments (whether through onsite or offsite contributions).

Associated strategies

The study sits alongside the emerging Open Space Strategy (OSS) which is provided separately to this report. The previous open space study included a typology of formal outdoor sports; however, this is instead now covered within this PPOSS.

Any site categorised as outdoor sports provision in the previous OSS study but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e. available for wider community use) is included within the new OSS update as a type of open space. Playing field or sport sites purely for sporting use are included only within this PPOSS. For sites with a multifunctional role, double counting between the two studies does not occur as the PPOSS looks at the number of pitch/sports facilities at a site and not hectares of land (prescribed as per Sport England Guidance).

Agreed scope

This Assessment Report provides detail in respect of what exists in the District, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It also considers the demand for facilities based on population distribution and planned growth. The full list of sports facilities covered is set out below.

Pitch sports will be assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy.

Pitch sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Third generation artificial grass (3G) pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (including use for hockey)
- ◀ Lacrosse
- ◀ American football
- ◀ Ultimate Frisbee

Outdoor sports will be assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). Non-pitch outdoor sports require a different methodology to assess demand and supply to that used for pitch sports.

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Outdoor sports:

- ◀ Outdoor bowling greens
- ◀ Outdoor tennis courts
- ◀ Athletics tracks
- ◀ Outdoor netball courts

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.

A steering group has and will continue to lead and drive this PPOSS forward during its development and also to ensure the delivery of its recommendations and actions.

The membership of the group is balanced and representative of the different parties and key drivers behind the work and the providers and users of playing pitches in the study area.

The Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS 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, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

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

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

Study area

The strategy covers the entirety of Lancaster District; however, the data gathered has been presented in a particular way to enable further analysis by smaller Analysis Areas. There are also a number of sports teams from outside the specified area that use pitches within Lancaster District and sports teams from inside Lancaster District that use facilities outside of the area. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when producing this assessment report.

For the purpose of this analysis, Lancaster District has been broken down into three Analysis Areas. They are (with resident population²):

- ◀ Carnforth & Rural (40,684)
- ◀ Heysham & Morecambe (50,158)
- ◀ Lancaster (52,675)

² Data Source: ONS Mid-2016 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

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The Analysis Areas are in line with the Council's emerging Open Space Strategy and ward-based plans to support the Council's ambition to provide Lancaster District residents with access to high quality sport facilities at a neighbourhood level.

What makes the study area different?

Lancaster District is bordered to the South East by Ribble Valley and to the South West by the Fylde Coast authority of Wyre. It forms part of the Lancashire County boundary with Yorkshire, bordering Craven to the East. To the north the District borders the more rural authority of South Lakeland, whilst to the West lies the West coast of England and the Irish Sea.

Lancaster District consists of the Historic City of Lancaster, the coastal towns of Morecambe and Heysham and the railway town of Carnforth. The District is also home to an extensive rural hinterland which includes the Lune Valley and parts of both the Forest of Bowland and Arnsdale & Silverdale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The District also has strong links to both the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks and is on the shores of Morecambe Bay which is recognised internationally for its environmental value.

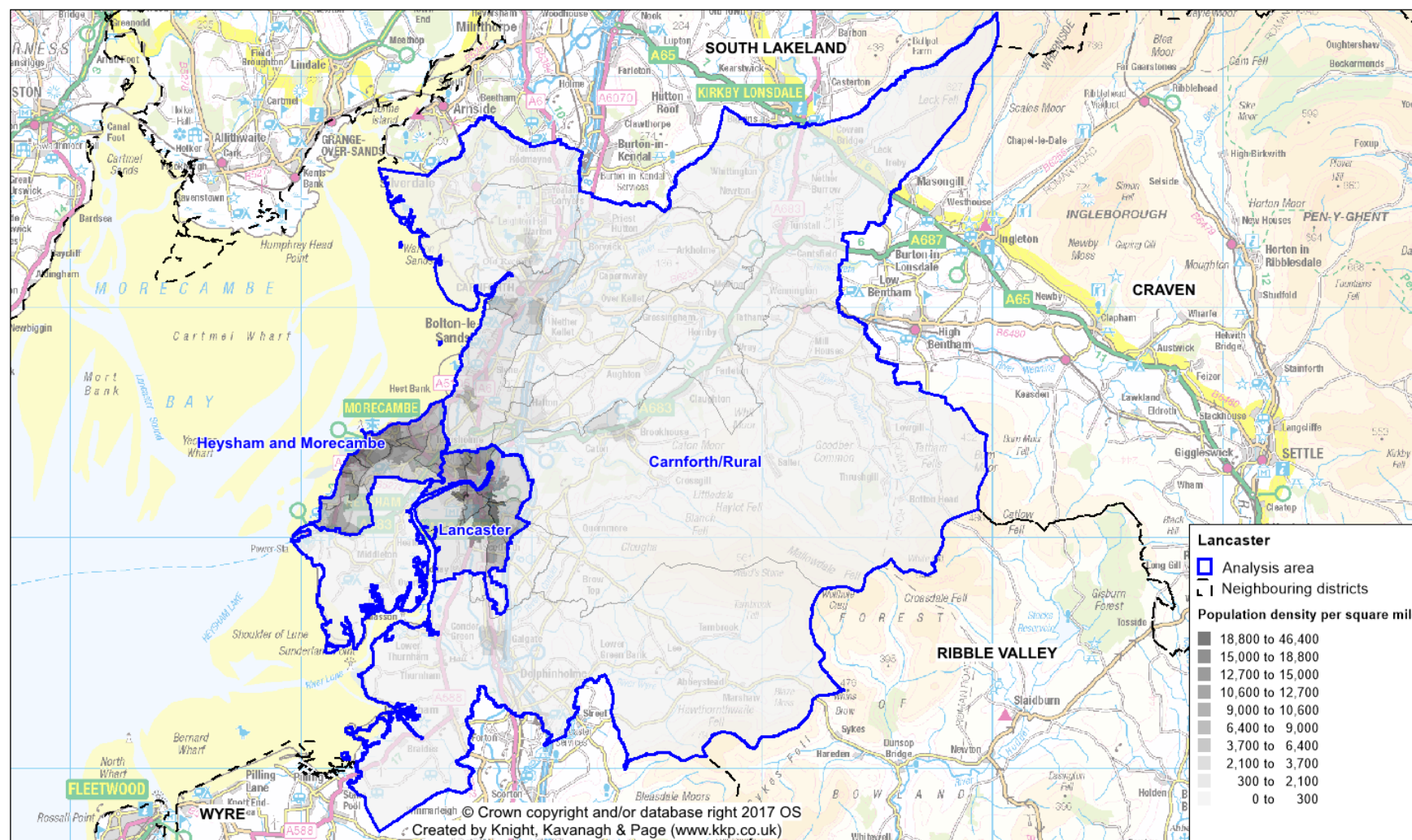
The District comprises a densely populated centre (Lancaster City Area) accommodating two universities and a largely student population. Lancaster has a long history which dates back to Roman times, the City has developed over the ages to be an important administrative and cultural centre of Lancashire. Due to its historic nature and evolution, the City has been developed to a high density with open spaces placed on the edges of the settlement. This has led to deficiencies in certain types of open space provision.

Similarly, the towns of Heysham & Morecambe are also more densely populated in relation to other parts of the District and coastal tourism and industry are key drivers of economy and sources of attraction in the area. Morecambe's role as a coastal resort has created a legacy of high density development connected to residential guest houses, particularly in Morecambe West End. This results in open space provision being restricted in these areas. The recent improvements to Morecambe Town Centre through the implementation of the Morecambe Area Action Plan has delivered significant improvements to the public realm with further work ongoing to improve connections between the town centre and the promenade.

In contrast, much of the remainder of the District is rural and there are many more rural settlements such as Bolton-le-Sands, Millhead and Silverdale; whilst Carnforth is an historic area of railway industry with little accessible green space for sport, recreation and play. Carnforth's historic legacy as an industrial town, associated with the railway and connected ironworks, has left little opportunity for formal open space within the town centre area and limited other open space provision within its urban core.

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Figure 1.1: Map of the District study area with analysis areas



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

It is essential that a PPOSS is based on the most accurate and up-to-date information available for the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides details about how this information has been gathered in Lancaster District.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

PPS 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'.³ It should be noted that the reference to five years within the Order is purely in relation to whether Sport England should be consulted in a statutory capacity. The fact that a playing field may not have been marked out for pitch sport in the last five years does not mean that it is no longer a playing field. That remains its lawful planning use whether marked out or not

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

Although the statutory definition of a playing field is the whole of a site with at least one pitch of 0.2ha or more, this PPOSS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, 5v5 mini football pitches. 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 (AGPs).

As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the pitches within Lancaster District. However, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusion of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database. The Council and NGBs supported 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 as an electronic file):

- ▶ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ▶ Ownership and management type
- ▶ Security of tenure
- ▶ Total number, type and quality of pitches

³. www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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Accessibility

Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of playing pitches also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ✦ **Community use** - pitches 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** - pitches 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** - pitches 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** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.
- ✦ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These fall outside of Sport England’s statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site.

Table 1.1: Disused and lapsed sites in Lancaster District

Site name	Analysis area	Sport(s)	Status (last used)	Comments
The Bowerham Hotel	Lancaster	Bowling	Disused (2015)	Proposal to develop upon the green which is no longer maintained for use.
Glasson Dock Bowling Club	Carnforth & Rural	Bowling	Disused (2005)	Linked to neighbouring Victoria Inn which was purchased to be refurbished, however plans have since changed, with the owners considering development. Local residents fighting to retain what is a listed building.
Lancaster Moor Hospital Cricket Club	Lancaster	Cricket Bowling	Disused (2005)	Pavilion has since been demolished and the bowling green is to be lost to residential development. Site now maintained as public open space with S106 contribution secured allocated to Far Moor.

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Site name	Analysis area	Sport(s)	Status (last used)	Comments
Skerton Community High School	Lancaster	Football Cricket Tennis/ Netball	Disused (2014)	County Council site. Two pitches, previous cricket square and three courts. Playing field land still exists but site now not accessible. Plans for future use are unknown.
Acre Moss Lane	Heysham & Morecambe	Football	Disused (2016)	County Council site. Former Westend Primary School playing field leased to Northgate FC which dug up the field to install drainage works but left the site dug up. Now left in unusable condition.

Furthermore, there are some sites with disused playing pitches no longer marked, however the sites as a whole remain operational as they are either protected or serve a wider function such as a public park and therefore are not likely to be considered for potential development.

Table 1.2: Disused pitches or outdoor sports facilities in Lancaster District

Site name	Analysis area	Sport(s)	Status (last used)	Comments
Douglas Park	Heysham & Morecambe	Bowling	Disused (2016)	Two bowling greens now disused.
Regent Park & Gardens	Heysham & Morecambe	Bowling	Disused (2016 & 2008)	Two greens now lie disused, reducing the total number maintained for use from three to one.
Palatine Avenue Bowling Greens	Lancaster	Bowling	Disused (2005)	Two greens now lie disused, reducing the total number maintained for use from three to one.
Freemans Wood	Lancaster	Football Cricket	Lapsed (1990)	Owned by a private property investment company registered in Bermuda which had submitted an informal planning proposal in 2010 to build housing in Freeman's Wood. Local residents fighting to have Freeman's Wood designated a Village Green under the Commons Act 2006. A Village Green is a type of Common used primarily for recreational purposes and local residents must prove they have done so for at least 20 years.
University of Cumbria	Lancaster	Tennis	Disused (2016)	Now lie disused due to moss growth on the court surface.
Ryelands Park	Lancaster	Cricket	Disused (2005)	Non-turf pitch now in poor quality and unusable.
Barton Road Playing Fields	Lancaster	Football	Disused (2016)	One football pitch previously marked at this County Council owned site. Now serves as public open space with adjoining community centre.

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Site name	Analysis area	Sport(s)	Status (last used)	Comments
Overton Football Pitch	Carnforth & Rural	Football	Lapsed (2005)	One football pitch was previously marked on this privately owned site. However, it has not been used for over five years and is currently home to Middleton facilities.

In addition to the above, there are a number of existing sites containing pitches which are presently marked but unused. These are listed within the relevant sport section.

Any sites omitted from the PPOSS, having been overlooked, whether used, disused or lapsed, are subject to the same conditions as those detailed herein. Any such site is not to be considered as not required or surplus as part of the planning process.

Quality

The capacity of pitches 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 a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances, it can result in a pitch being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

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

The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch.

These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

The non-technical site assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs) were undertaken by the Council in 2017; and subsequently subjected to a process of check and challenge with NGBs in 2018 to ensure any changes that may have occurred since were identified and considered within the audit. In addition, users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches in Lancaster District tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◆ Organised competitive play
- ◆ Organised training
- ◆ Informal play

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In addition, unmet and displaced demand for provision is also identified on a sport by sport basis. Unmet demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of pitches (and ancillary facilities) was available. Displaced demand refers to teams that are generated from residents of the area but due to any number of factors do not currently play within the area.

Current and future demand for playing pitches is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. The report is informed by data collated by the Council in 2017 (2016/17 football and rugby union seasons), supported by additional telephone and survey consultation with netball and bowling stakeholders and clubs undertaken by KKP.

Face to face consultation was carried out by the Council with some key clubs. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes, a survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

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 where required.

The response rates of such consultation are as follows:

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	44	26	59%	Face to face
Football teams	199	144	72%	Survey
Cricket clubs	13	12	93%	Face to face
				Survey
Rugby union clubs	2	2	100%	Survey
Rugby league clubs	1	1	100%	Survey
Hockey clubs	5	4	80%	Survey
Tennis clubs	7	6	86%	Survey
Bowling clubs	25	18	72%	Survey
				Telephone ⁴
Athletics clubs	2	1	50%	Face to face
Netball leagues	2	2	100%	Telephone ³

The consultation process sought to capture demand information and associated issues relating to all affiliated sports clubs using playing pitches in Lancaster District.

⁴ Undertaken by KKP in 2018

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Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using population projections, and proposed housing growth (if available), an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Population growth

The current resident population in Lancaster District is 143,517⁵. By 2034 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the Lancaster District Local Plan period) the District's population is projected to increase to 152,990⁶ representing an increase of 9,473 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 6.6%) according to ONS data.

Team generation rates (TGRs) 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 in the study area. TGRs throughout this assessment are projected to 2034 in line with the Council housing requirement.

Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases, to the ONS population increases in each Analysis Area. This figure is then applied to the TGRs and is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

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

- ✦ Recent trends in the participation in playing pitch sports.
- ✦ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate in pitch sports.
- ✦ Feedback from pitch sports clubs on their plans to develop additional teams.
- ✦ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

Housing growth

The submitted Local Plan identifies a requirement to deliver 12,000 new homes in the District too? 2034, at an approximate rate of circa 522 new homes a year. Significant residential development within the strategic allocations will generate additional demand which may require the creation of additional sports facilities (explored further through Housing Growth Scenarios within the subsequent PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan), combined with the need for a new primary school within each strategic site, as well as a new secondary school within the Bailrigg Garden Village Broad Location for Growth.

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 (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

⁵Source: ONS Mid-2016 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

⁶ Data Source: ONS 2014-based projections 2014-2034

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Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions⁷ 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.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

Develop the current picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site by site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area by area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced 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. Scenario testing occurs in the strategy report and therefore does not form part of the assessment report.

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 playing pitch provision in Lancaster District. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section D).

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch sports in Lancaster District. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plan (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

⁷ A match equivalent session (MES) can be either a match or a training session

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in Lancaster District is Lancashire FA (LFA). 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 7 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.

Consultation

In 2017 the Council sent out a survey to all football clubs playing in the District. Consultation represents a 59% club response rate and 72% team response rate. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report, with additional consultation undertaken with LFA to qualify reported issues and identify any issues which have arisen since the initial club consultation.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 130 grass football pitches across 77 sites in Lancaster District. There are 113 pitches across 68 sites are identified as being available for community use on some level⁸, whilst 17 pitches across nine sites are unavailable for community use.

Of the 133 pitches available for community use, 63 pitches (56% of available supply) are identified as being available but have no regular competitive club use throughout the football season. However, in some cases these pitches may serve a wider benefit in terms of informal play and training.

There are also three FA or FIFA certified 3G pitches on which competitive football matches are sanctioned to be played, detailed later in the section and further in Part 7.

Table 2.1: Summary of grass pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Pitch type					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Carnforth & Rural	12	5	21	3	-	41
Heysham & Morecambe	13	2	10	4	-	29
Lancaster	19	6	10	5	3	43
Total	44	13	41	12	3	113

⁸ During the 2017/18 season

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Most available pitches in Lancaster District (40%) are adult sized which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches at some sites. This is not ideal for youth players and is not in line with the recent FA Youth Review. Just 13 available pitches are youth 11v11 sized representing 11% of the available supply which is low in relation to the District, though proportionate to the number of youth teams (22 teams at U13, U14 and U15 – 11% of all teams) which should be playing matches on this sized pitch.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. Please refer to the table below for more detail:

Table 2.2: FA recommended grass/3G pitch sizes

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

Disused sites/lapsed sites

There are five disused or lapsed playing field sites which previously accommodated football pitch provision (detailed fully in Part 1: Introduction and Methodology). Two are owned by Lancashire County Council.

The former Skerton Community High School (Lancaster Area) closed in 2014 and now lies disused. Amongst other sports facilities, the front of the site was marked with two dual use pitches used for football for at least part of the academic term.

County Council owned playing fields at Acre Moss Lane (Heysham & Morecambe Area) formerly used by Westend Primary School now also lie disused and in an unusable condition. The site was leased to Northgate FC which dug up the field in order to install drainage works which was 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. The site has been subject to controversy due to the landowner seeking to develop the site for housing which has remained accessible as public open space.

Barton Road Playing Fields is owned by Lancashire County Council and previously had one football pitch marked on the site. Until recently, one set of posts remained on site; however these have now been removed, with the site serving as a public open space with the adjoining community centre. This site is currently considered disused.

There was formerly a football pitch marked on land owned by a local farmer, at Overton Football Pitch. Said pitch has not been used for over five years and is currently home to Middleton facilities.

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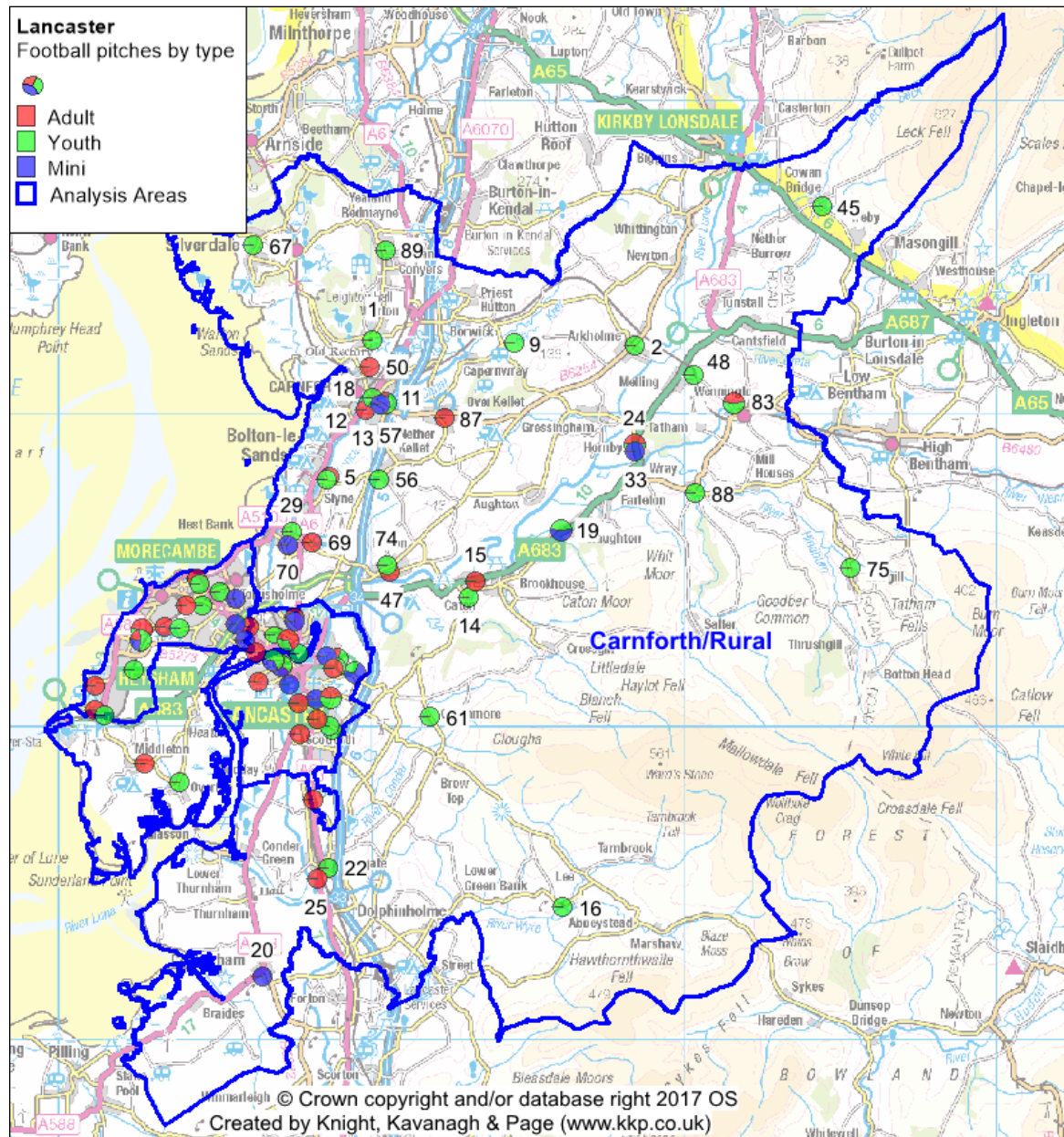
Current sites at risk

Carnforth Rangers FC site, known locally as Quarry Park, is proposed for loss to residential development to include the wider quarry site and land South of the site not designated as playing field. The site contains one adult pitch with a poor quality pavilion, as well as a concrete spectator stand on one side. The site is served by poor accessways via an unmarked dirt track from Kellet Road. It is surrounded by land known as Lundsfield Quarry which is identified in the Lancaster Local Plan as having potential for residential development to accommodate approximately 200 new dwellings. However, there are proposals for Quarry Park to be incorporated into the potential scheme which would generate a need to relocate the Club. Carnforth Rangers FC is the largest community club in the District with 19 affiliated teams, both adult male and juniors and finding a solution is a priority.

The Council reports that land has been identified for the possible relocation of the existing Quarry Park facilities which would be lost as part of the proposed development. Whilst the nature of the future management model is yet to be established, this brings opportunity to extend this re-provision through S106 contributions to deliver a broader and more centralised offer for outdoor sport in the area, as well as to more sustainably provide for demand generated by the new housing developments in Carnforth.

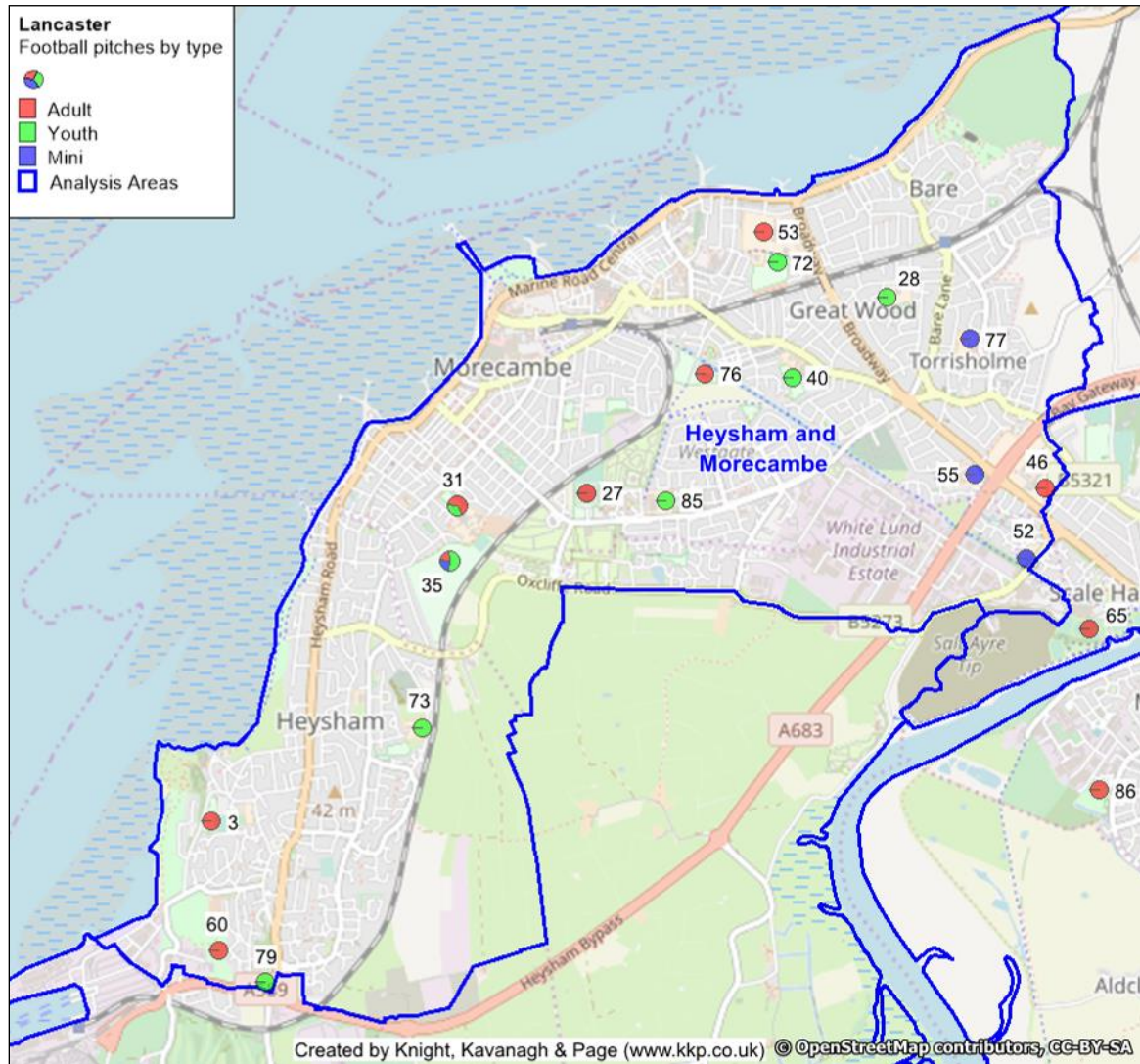
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Figure 2.1: Map of grass football pitch provision within the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area



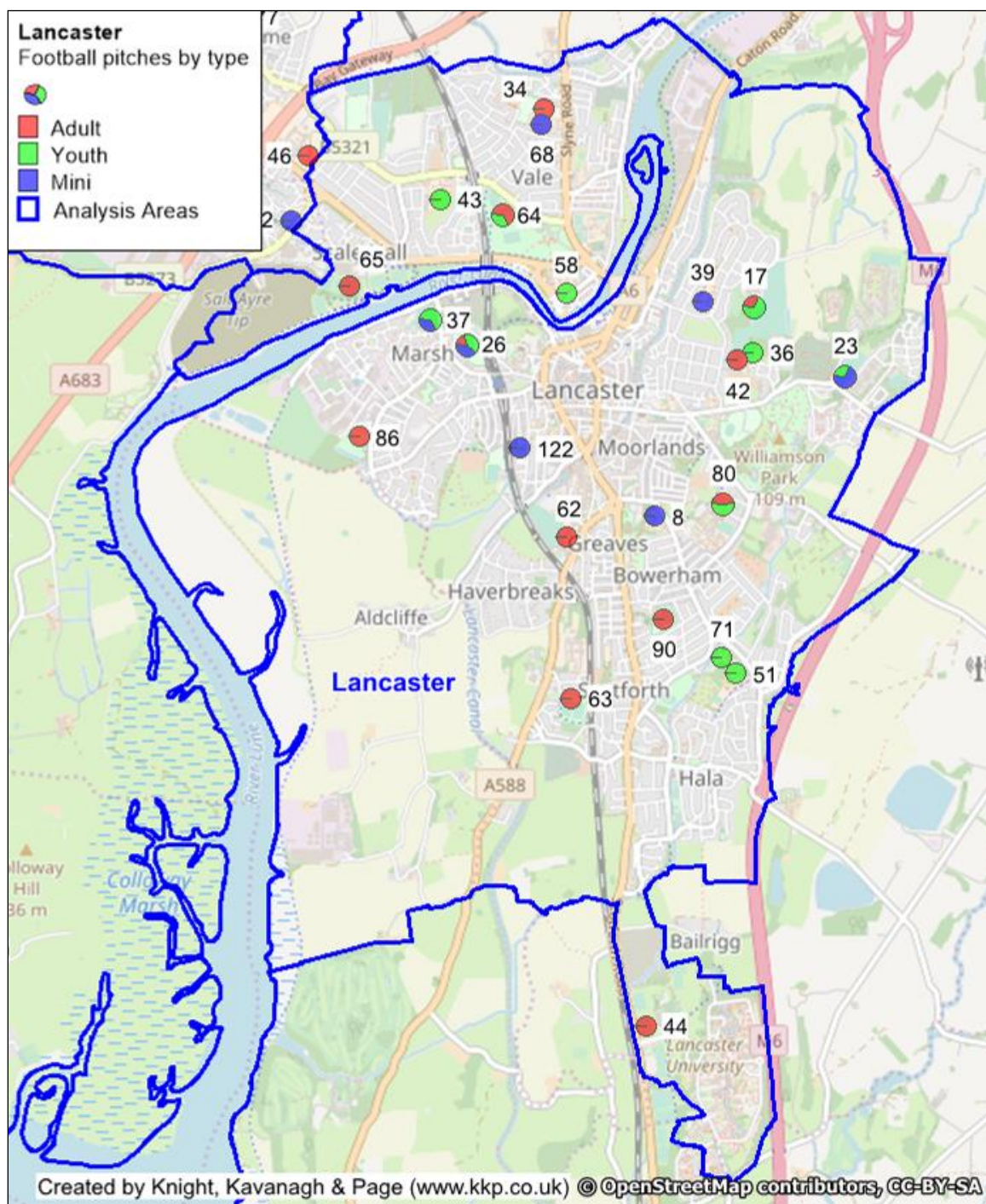
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Figure 2.2: Map of grass football pitch provision within the Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area



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Figure 2.2: Map of grass football pitch provision within the Lancaster Analysis Area



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Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in Lancaster District has been assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments (as determined by the FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating. Percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows;

- ❖ Poor = 0-49.9%
- ❖ Standard = 50-79.9%
- ❖ Good = 80%+

As such, each pitch has a quality rating of either good, standard or poor.

Pitch quality is primarily influenced by the carrying capacity of the site; often pitches are over used and lack the required routine maintenance work necessary to improve drainage and subsequent quality. It is likely that pitches which receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work will be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games able to take place each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches which are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

Table 2.3: Summary of football pitch quality (pitches available for community use)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	1	19	24
Youth 11v11	1	6	6
Youth 9v9	1	30	10
Mini 7v7	-	5	7
Mini 5v5	1	-	2
Total	4	60	49

The pitch quality ratings determined through a combination of non-technical assessments and user feedback show most pitches available for community use are rated as standard quality (53%), with 43% rated as poor and only four pitches as good, equating to just 4%.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than Council parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. Private site hire is often at full cost recovery. However, the cost of self-maintenance can be limited by funds or equipment available and consequently some clubs may not be able to carry out the required level of maintenance each year, instead targeting specific areas of the pitch or times of the year, sometimes not every season.

One of the main reasons for poor pitch quality is limited pitch maintenance or a lack of available funds to carry out appropriate maintenance. Other reasons include:

- ❖ Over marked pitches
- ❖ Uneven and hard surfaces
- ❖ Overplay in bad weather
- ❖ Casual use
- ❖ Unauthorised usage
- ❖ Quads and motorbikes usage

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- ✦ Dog fouling/litter
- ✦ Lack of investment and limited maintenance including infrequent grass cutting
- ✦ Lack of remedial work i.e. seeding
- ✦ Adult matches churning up pitches before afternoon youth games

The Council reports that its grounds maintenance team does not have access to verti-draining equipment to regularly aerate the pitches it maintains throughout the season. Several playing field sites in the District are particularly vulnerable to waterlogging, flooding or located on floodzones. No Council managed sites are known to have underlying drainage systems, whilst the lack of equipment to aerate the surface prevents surface water from draining into the soil below, leading to standing water and match cancellations.

Access to verti-drain equipment would help to improve quality at Council maintained sites, whilst technical assessment is required to understand where some may benefit from installation of a dedicated drainage system. Far Moor (Lancaster) has been identified as draining poorly and the Council is working with LFA to understand the technical challenges affecting pitch quality and recommended solutions.

FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

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 FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP). As part of the PIP, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

One site in Lancaster District has received an assessment as part of the PIP process, the key findings of which are outlined below:

Giant Axe (15th December 2016)

- ✦ Renovation and repairs carried by subcontractor and fertiliser applied. Basic in-season grass cutting and line marked performed by the Council.
- ✦ Identified issues with worm casts. Recommended to avoid organic fertilisers so not to exacerbate the problem.
- ✦ Groundcover is below benchmarking percentage with high proportion of bare areas, caused by the worm casts, which will in turn cause the surface to become uneven.
- ✦ Water pooling on the outside pitches due to sloping can be reduced through application of sand dressing (currently applied to the stadium pitch) combined with verti-draining to aerate the surface.
- ✦ An intensive maintenance schedule is required with the correct machinery and equipment managed by trained and motivated ground staff including decompaction, fertiliser application and seeding.

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Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches is an issue at some sites in Lancaster District, particularly in more rural and less accessible areas, with youth 9v9 pitches often marked into the middle of adult pitches or mini pitches marked onto adult or youth pitches. Some are regularly subject to youth and mini play followed by adult and youth play. This sustained and intense use over short periods of time can impact on pitch quality and allows little time for the surface to rest and recover. Use of smaller pitches marked within larger pitches typically causes focused and specific wear due to the high traffic on certain overlapping areas such as the middle third of adult pitches.

Teams play on incorrect pitch types at the following sites, mostly to accommodate mini soccer teams on adult pitches:

- ✦ Cockerham Playing Fields (Cockerham Juniors FC)
- ✦ Carnforth High School (Carnforth Rangers FC)
- ✦ Caton Sports Field (Caton Terriers FC)
- ✦ Giant Axe (Lancaster City FC)
- ✦ Low Road Playing Fields (Halton JFC)
- ✦ Barrows Lane (Heysham Blue Star FC)
- ✦ Royal Albert Playing Field (Highgrove JFC)
- ✦ Galgate Recreation Field (Lancaster City Youth FC)
- ✦ Willow Lane (Marsh United)
- ✦ Slyne with Hest Football Club (Slyne with Hest FC)
- ✦ York Road Playing Field (Storeys of Lancaster FC)
- ✦ Millhead Recreation Ground (Warton Warriors FC)

It is not uncommon for pitches to be dually used for more than one grass pitch sport; particularly at schools where the curriculum may be structured in a way that the pitches are used for one sport for a number of weeks followed by another within the same season.

Ancillary facilities

In some cases, clubs may play at sites without changing facilities but in practice do not require access to them even if they are available. This is a particular trend nationwide in that most mini and youth teams are using changing facilities increasingly less and that access to toilet facilities are of greater priority.

Access to changing rooms should be considered a greater priority at sites used for adult football and/or older youth age groups. Furthermore, access to good quality exclusive toilet facilities is considered by The FA to be a key priority at sites hosting women's and girls' football, whilst women's teams also require exclusive and separated areas of changing and shower facilities where pavilions may be shared to service other pitches used by male adult or junior teams.

The Council indicates that Barrows Lane and Peel Avenue both have an adult football pitch but are not serviced by onsite changing facilities. Whilst the latter is not recorded as used by community teams, Barrows Lane is used by three junior teams (U9, U12, U13) from Heysham Blue Star FC.

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The existing changing pavilion at Far Moor is reported to be poor and in unusable condition. The Council plans to develop new ancillary provision onsite to support planned improvements to pitch quality and reconfiguration of pitch sizes towards a site driven at junior football. This considered, changing room provision is of less priority for mini soccer teams and the development of good quality toilet, social space and storage locker provision is more suitable solution for the future nature of use.

Poor quality changing rooms at Ryelands Park are located within the Grade II listed building onsite. As part of wider scheme to redevelop the Park, the Council is considering options to develop new changing provision nearer to the pitches to better serve the cultural and sporting elements of the site.

Pitches at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre are served by changing provision within the main leisure centre building. Home and away teams share the same changing room but also share it with other leisure centre users which is far from ideal and can create congestion at peak times when up to six football teams are using the three pitches. This has reportedly led to issues between football users and the centre operator, with mud and dirt from football users brought back into the building after matches perceived to affect the attractiveness and experience for other centre users.

Carnforth Rangers FC reports that it presently does not use the changing provision at Carnforth High School as they come at additional cost to the pitches. However, the Club reports that there is no access to toilet facilities within the main sports centre which is closed on Sunday mornings.

Changing facilities at York Road Playing Field are reportedly of poor quality and resident club Storeys of Lancaster FC has previously contacted LFA regarding potential to access grant funding to improve changing facilities amongst other things. Whilst the Club has access to the pitches through license, the building itself is leased from the Council.

FA's Safeguarding Operating Standards

Lancashire FA is now required to comply with FA safeguarding operating standards. As part of this, LFA recognises and advocates all football pitches require, as a minimum, access to toilet facilities for players for safeguarding and health & safety purposes. Furthermore, it is expected that pitch providers work in partnership with site users to ensure that the associated changing room and toilet requirements are accessible. Though LFA strives to obtain this as a minimum requirement across its administrative areas, it is key to acknowledge that it does not have ownership or influence over all sites used for affiliated football and whilst it is able to influence and support site provision through partnership working (especially with local authorities), it is not directly able to do so at all sites such as those which may be privately operated.

Security of tenure

Just 25 teams (or 13%) are recorded as playing on Council managed pitches and are therefore considered to have secure tenure as part of the Council's maintained sports and leisure provision offering. The Council manages seven sites with grass football pitches, the majority of which (five), are within the Lancaster Area, though it does undertake basic maintenance at some sites as a contracted service.

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A significant proportion of teams rent either grass or 3G pitches at education sites, none of which are considered to have secure tenure through a formal agreement. Not including teams fielded by the schools, colleges or universities, a total of 41 community club teams (or 21%) play at education sites where use is not secured.

Schools and academies generally state their own hire policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use. The reasons for not allowing community use vary. The most common example is that the schools want to protect pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues. Other reasons include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a lack of profitability. In total, six primary schools, two secondary schools and one university do not allow community use of some or all of their grass pitches.

Moreover, some schools that do provide community use, do so without providing security of tenure, meaning they could cease external use at any point. To prevent this, it is recommended that club users enter more formal Community Use Agreements (CUA) with schools.

Several football pitch sites in more rural parts of the District are managed by parish/town councils and maintained by parish groundsmen or subcontractors. The following seven sites are identified as being parish council managed, all in the Carnforth & Rural Area:

- ✦ Arkholme Village Hall
- ✦ Bolton le Sands Playing Fields
- ✦ Cockerham Playing Fields
- ✦ Galgate Recreation Field
- ✦ Hest Bank Recreation Ground
- ✦ Low Road Playing Fields
- ✦ Middleton Park

Some sites are leased to local football clubs which self-manage facilities and either maintain themselves or via subcontractor. However, several of these are used by just a few teams and have no onsite facilities as a means of revenue generation, with some providing social facilities at local pubs after matches. This lack of revenue generation impacts on pitch quality as insufficient funds can be directed at pitch maintenance or equipment to remediate pitches to the standard required.

Both Giant Axe (Lancaster City FC) and Willows Lane (Marsh United FC, changing room only) are leased to clubs from the District Council. Furthermore, York Road Playing Field is exclusively licensed for use by Storeys of Lancaster FC. Licenses are generally applicable to sites where public access must be retained without boundary or being obstructed, most often applicable in the case of parks where pitches are not the primary purpose. However, it should be noted that where a license is in place, this is often not sufficient to meet the criteria of most large-scale capital grant funding streams (a minimum of 25 years) and thus the landowner (in this case the Council) would need to act as the lead applicant in partnership with the site user club or group.

Caton United FC is deemed to have unsecure tenure at Caton Sports Field. The site is owned by a private brewery and the Club annual rents the site although the Club maintains the pitch. Mini teams from Caton Terriers also use the site occasionally at weekends from training and this use is subsequently also unsecure.

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2.2: Demand

A total of 199 teams are identified as playing matches within the District shown below. Of these, 34 community club or education teams (19% of community club or education teams) and 34 intra-mural league student teams are recorded as consistently playing matches on 3G pitches during 2017/18 season. The remaining 131 teams play on grass football pitches.

Table 2.4: Summary of football team demand in Lancaster District

Age group	Number of teams playing on grass	Number of teams playing on 3G
Senior Men's (16-45) ⁹	41	40 ¹⁰
Senior Women's (16-45)	4	1
Youth Boys (10-15)	38	14
Youth Girls (10-15)	3	2
Mini-Soccer Mixed	45	11
Total	131	68

Increases in the number of mini teams does not always lead to an increase in adult teams because nationally and locally there has been a trend of 11 aside adult men's teams decreasing due to players opting to play small sided versions of the game or choosing to drop out of the sport altogether. The way in which people, especially adult men, want to play football is changing. People want to be able to fit it in to their busy lifestyle and the small sided formats and shorter games allow players to do this without giving up their weekends. If this trend continues there is likely to be an increase in demand for 3G pitches.

National League System (NLS)

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

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

Morecambe FC is the only professional club that plays above the football pyramid in League Two of the English Football League, the fourth tier of English professional football.

Lancaster City FC is the only team in the District which plays within the National League System (NLS) in the Northern Premier League Premier Division. The League is at Step 4

⁹ For the purposes of demand U17 and U18 teams are considered to require adult pitches, though it should be noted that these age groups affiliate to their respective County FA as junior teams.

¹⁰ 34 intra-mural university league teams, six community club or education teams

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of the NLS and as such Lancaster City FC is subject to meeting Grade D ground grading requirements, which are presently met at Giant Axe.

A common issue for clubs entering the pyramid is changing facilities. For Step 7 football (ground grading H), changing rooms must be a minimum size of 18 square metres, exclusive of shower and toilet areas. The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they have to achieve the appropriate grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. This, however, does not apply to clubs being promoted to Step 7 (as they must meet requirements immediately).

Galgate FC is two promotions away from entering Step 7 of the pyramid; which would then require the Club to meet minimum ground requirements.

All clubs are currently able to meet their league requirements, although improvements may be needed in some instances for clubs to progress.

Training

Access to affordable floodlit training facilities is a key issue for most clubs in the District, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams.

There are five operational full sized 3G pitches in the District, all of which, are available for community use in some capacity. Not only is it difficult for teams to access sufficient training capacity but those at larger clubs are spread across a number of venues to find available timeslots. Sand based AGPs both full and small sized are able to be used, however, clubs still report demand for greater access to floodlit 3G provision. Access to AGPs for training is covered further in Part 7: Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches.

Some teams report occasionally training on match pitches on Saturday mornings, particularly junior teams. Training at this time eliminates the need to access floodlit training provision or AGPs. In a similar manner, some teams may train on match pitches or surrounding playing field areas throughout the summer as light allows for use of grass facilities which are generally cheaper to hire than artificial pitches, however clubs must be aware that use of public open space without hire carries liability.

Walking football

Walking football¹¹ is a slower paced version of football, primarily aimed at people over 50 years of age. The rules are adapted so not to permit running, allow very little contact and for example throw-ins are replaced by kick-ins. Walking football forms part of the FA Just Play! Initiative which aims to give the casual participant a chance to just turn up to a venue and play football on a less formal basis, as opposed to the regular commitment of club training and fixtures. The rules of walking football were formally agreed and launched by the FA in February 2017 and participation across the Country is reported to be growing.

Walking football is generally played on 3G pitches or indoors, whilst matches are permitted to be held on grass pitches though considered less preferable. Walking football may also offer participation opportunities for disabled players, though disability formats of football exist exclusively and are generally played indoors in sports halls.

¹¹ <http://www.lancashirefa.com/more/walking-football>

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Walking football sessions in Lancaster are held on the grass pitch at Low Road Playing Fields led by the The Centre @ Halton, whilst there is also an indoor session at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre run by Active Lives Lancaster. Morecambe FC Community Sports previously held walking football sessions on the 3G pitches at Globe Arena, however, the pitches are no longer accessible.

Unmet and latent demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to 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.

Halton Juniors FC operates a waiting list of around ten children, though across several different age groups rather than sufficient to create a whole new team. This is reportedly due to squad sizes and not being able to accommodate these players in existing squads. The Club states that available coaches to resource teams is a greater issue than facilities in this regard at present.

Latent demand is potential demand which it is believed could be actualised with greater access to or improved facilities.

Morecambe Ladies & Girls FC reports that with greater access to better facilities it could create at least another two girl's teams and would have the potential to realise aspirations to become a development centre for female football. Latent demand of one team at each of the youth formats has been accounted for.

Trimpell & Bare Rangers FC reports that with better quality facilities it could field another two youth 11v11 teams.

Displaced/exported demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to 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 are six teams based and training in the District but playing matches on venues outside of the local authority area, these are as follows:

- ❖ Carnforth Rangers FC – Curwen Woods (Burton Thistle FC, South Lakeland)
- ❖ Cockerham Juniors FC – U13 and U15 at Les Blackburn Memorial Ground (Wyre)
- ❖ Cockerham Juniors FC – U11, U12a and U12b at Kirkland Village Hall (Wyre)

Conversely, no teams are identified as regularly importing demand into the District to play on grass football pitches.

Future demand

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

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Team generation rates (TGRs) are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth up to 2031¹².

Table 2.5: Team generation rates (District wide level)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams (2031)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (16-45)	29,033	50 ¹³	581	30,440	52.4	2
Senior Women (16-45)	28,661	5	5732	27,682	4.8	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	2,932	28	105	3,494	33.4	5
Youth Girls (12-15)	2,741	1	2741	3,335	1.2	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	1,504	21	72	1,659	23.2	2
Youth Girls (10-11)	1,322	4	331	1,592	4.8	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	3,036	31	98	3,093	31.6	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	2,918	25	117	2,995	25.7	0

Table 2.6: Team generation rates (by Analysis Area)

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)			
	Carnforth & Rural	Heysham & Morecambe	Lancaster ¹³	Total
Senior Men (16-45)	0	0	1	1
Senior Women (16-45)	0	0	0	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	1	2	1	4
Youth Girls (12-15)	0	0	0	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	0	0	0	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	0	0	0	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	0	0	0	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	0	0	0	0
Total	1	2	2	5

Population increases are likely to result in five additional teams when applied to individual analysis areas, which provides a more detailed representation of where exactly the predicated growth will occur than application of TGRs District wide.

It is forecasted that growth from population increases will be almost evenly spread across the three Analysis Areas. TGRs anticipate the greatest growth at the youth boys (12-15) age group, with some growth projected at the adult male age group also.

Team generation rates (TGRs) are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, TGRs 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 on developing girl's football nationally which is likely to lead to more girls' teams in the future and therefore increased demand for pitches.

¹² TGRs are based on population forecasts to 2031 which is in line with the Lancaster District Local Plan timeframe.

¹³ Excluding teams from Lancaster University Colleges which are accommodated on 3G.

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It is important to note that there has been a recent decrease nationally in participation at adult level and that the number of FA affiliated adult teams playing competitive football has dropped. Similarly, there has been a decline in the number of youth players making the transition from youth football to adult leagues. There are a number of adult only clubs in the District with just one or two teams. Whilst they may play a role in servicing more rural areas and providing opportunities to play, these clubs should be supported to ensure they are sustainable and potential links with junior clubs (formally or informally) should be encouraged to ensure a player pathway into adult football.

Lancashire FA has seen a decline in the County of adult men's teams, with the number of teams in October 2018 decreasing by 84 teams from the previous season. It is reported that this follows a similar trend seen over recent seasons.

2.3: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on Team Generation Rates (TGRs) which are driven by population increases as well as club development plans.

Table 2.7: Supply/demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Future total
Carnforth & Rural	-	7.5	7.5	-	0.5	0.5	8.5
Heysham & Morecambe	0.5	-	0.5	-	-	-	0.5
Lancaster	3.5	5	1.5	-	-	-	1.5
Total	4	12.5	8.5	-	0.5	0.5	9.5

There is presently insufficient capacity to cater for the level of demand using adult pitches. There is insufficient capacity District wide and especially the Carnforth & Rural Area which exhibits the most overplay, however, the Heysham & Morecambe Area exhibits minimal spare capacity. The future picture exacerbates this shortfall, with that demonstrated in the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area increasing and the shortfall in Lancaster remaining the same. The minimal spare capacity in the Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area is retained.

The current shortfalls are in part likely to be caused by the number of youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches (contrary to guidance in the FA Youth Review). As such, there is a clear need for an increase in youth 11v11 provision in order for this play to be transferred on to the correct pitch size to help reduce adult pitch shortfalls, or at sites where appropriate, for adult pitches to be potentially reconfigured to youth 11v11 sizes.

¹⁴ In match equivalent sessions per week

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Table 2.8: Supply/demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Future total
Carnforth & Rural	-	-	-	-	1	0.5	1.5
Heysham & Morecambe	-	-	-	1.5	-	1	2.5
Lancaster	0.5	-	0.5	-	-	0.5	-
Total	0.5	-	0.5	1.5	1	2	4

There is minimal capacity available for youth 11v11 play, largely due to most there being few youth 11v11 pitches in the District and most being located at education sites where capacity is not accounted for due to these sites offering unsecure tenure. As many youth 11v11 teams presently play on adult pitches, shortfalls from youth play are largely manifested on adult pitches rather than youth 11v11 pitches.

When applied to the correct pitch type, future demand generates shortfalls and further highlights the need for additional youth 11v1 provision or reconfiguration to this size. Current shortfalls are in practice likely to be greater given the number of youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches (contrary to guidance in the FA Youth Review). As such, there is a clear need for an increase in youth 11v11 provision in order for this play to be transferred on to the correct pitch size from adult pitches, or alternatively onto FA registered 3G pitches.

Table 2.9: Supply/demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Future total
Carnforth & Rural	0.5	-	0.5	-	1.5	-	1
Heysham & Morecambe	-	-	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Lancaster	1	1.5	0.5	-	-	-	0.5
Total	1.5	1.5	-	0.5	1.5	-	2

Overall, the current picture shows youth 9v9 pitches to be played to capacity across the District, though there is some minimal overplay evidenced in the Lancaster Area, countered by minimal capacity available in the Carnforth & Rural Area. Future demand increases through TGRs and latent demand cause an additional future shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week in the Heysham & Morecambe Area, whilst relocation of displaced demand from Cockerham Juniors FC back to the Carnforth & Rural Area generates a shortfall also.

¹⁵ In match equivalent sessions per week

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Table 2.10: Supply/demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁰	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Future total
Carnforth & Rural	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Heysham & Morecambe	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Lancaster	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-	-	-

District wide, mini 7v7 pitches are played to capacity, with spare capacity evidenced by the Carnforth & rural Area offset by overplay in the Heysham & Morecambe Area. There is presently relatively little use of mini pitches with several mini soccer teams playing matches on portions of adult pitches, therefore the extent of use is likely to be greater than what this analysis suggests, with mini soccer use manifested within the usage figures for adult pitches. TGRs forecast no increases in demand for mini soccer so this represents both the current and future picture.

Table 2.11: Supply/demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁰	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Future total
Carnforth & Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heysham & Morecambe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lancaster	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	1	-	1	-	-	-	1

There is minimal capacity on mini 5v5 pitches exhibited in the Lancaster Area. There is presently relatively little use of mini pitches with several mini soccer teams playing matches on portions of adult pitches, therefore the extent of use is likely to be greater than what this analysis suggests, with mini soccer use manifested within the usage figures for adult pitches. TGRs forecast no increases in demand for mini soccer so this represents both the current and future picture. TGRs forecast no increases in demand for mini soccer so this represents both the current and future picture.

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2.4: Capacity analysis

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

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

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

Table 2.12 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

The level of pitch usage is recorded in match equivalent sessions per week (MES). For football, pitches relate to a typical week within the season and one match per week equates to one match equivalent session per week if it occurs every week or more typically 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures).

Informal use

Where information is known, informal and unofficial use of pitches has been factored into current play. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime and through retaining some spare capacity to protect quality.

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that use additional to recorded community use will need to be factored into the total current weekly usage. 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 extent of use added is typically dependent on the level of play, the number of pitches onsite and whether there is access to an AGP elsewhere onsite allowing rotation and protection of impact on grass pitches.

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Table 2.12 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed as a result of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further community use based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity beyond the level of community use shown in Table 2.12. School sites which are available for community use but currently do not have any external use have been accredited one match equivalent session per week, per pitch, shown in italics to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to being completely unused.

Tenure at school sites is generally considered to be unsecure given the nature of rental unless a formal community use or service level agreement (SLA) exists. No schools are known to have existing SLAs with clubs or community organisations to secure access.

Peak time

Peak time demand for adult football pitches is Sunday morning. All youth and mini pitch formats also have a peak time of Sunday morning, which may create potential issues such as kick-off time clashes on adult pitches which are over marked for junior and mini football, or child welfare issues at sites where there are not sufficient changing facilities to service all pitches, as junior and mini teams require exclusive changing and shower areas which need to be carefully coordinated and managed.

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Table 2.12: Football pitch capacity analysis (used or available)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure ¹⁶	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ¹⁷ (MES)	Capacity balance ¹⁸	Comments
Carnforth & Rural													
1	Archbishop Hutton's Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Unsecure tenure – capacity
2	Arkholme Village Hall	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
5	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Potential capacity but to be retained to protect poor quality
6	Bolton-Le-Sands Church of England Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
9	Capernwray Hall	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	Trust	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
11	Carnforth High School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	4	2	2	Overplayed – no capacity for additional use
11	Carnforth High School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
11	Carnforth High School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
12	Carnforth North Road Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
13	Carnforth Rangers FC	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
14	Caton Community Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
15	Caton Sports Field	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Private	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
16	Cawthorne's Endowed School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
18	Christ Church C.E. Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
19	Claughton Brickworks	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	Has potential capacity to accommodate additional use
19	Claughton Brickworks	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Has potential capacity to accommodate additional use
20	Cockerham Playing Fields	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	1.5	4	2.5	Has potential capacity to accommodate additional use
22	Ellel St Johns C of E Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
25	Galgate Recreation Field	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	Overplayed – no capacity for additional use
29	Hest Bank Recreation Ground	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
45	Leck St Peters Church of England Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
47	Low Road Playing Fields	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	3.5	1	2.5	Overplayed – no capacity for additional use

¹⁶ Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council, Town and Parish Council and sports club ownership will be secure.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ Red indicates overplay, green indicates potential spare capacity and amber indicates at capacity.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure ¹⁶	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ¹⁷ (MES)	Capacity balance ¹⁸	Comments
48	Melling St Wilfrid C of E Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
49	Middleton Park	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
50	Millhead Recreation Ground	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	2	1	1	Overplayed – no capacity for additional use
56	Nether Kellet Community Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
59	Overton St Helens C of E Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
61	Quernmore CE Controlled Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
67	Silverdale St Johns Church of England Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
69	Slyne With Hest Football Club	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	Overplayed – no capacity for additional use
74	St Wilfrid's C of E Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
75	Tatham Fells C of E Voluntary Controlled School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
83	Wennington Hall School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
83	Wennington Hall School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
87	Wilson's Endowed C of E Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
88	Wray With Botton (Endowed) Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
89	Yealand Church of England Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
Heysham & Morecambe													
3	Barrows Lane Football Pitch	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Has potential capacity to accommodate additional use
28	Great Wood Primary School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
31	Bay Leadership Academy (formerly Heysham High School)	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	Academy	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
31	Bay Leadership Academy (formerly Heysham High School)	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	Academy	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
31	Bay Leadership Academy (formerly Heysham High School)	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	Academy	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
35	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	3	2	1	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use but quality is poor
35	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
35	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
35	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use but quality is poor
40	Lancaster Road Primary School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure ¹⁶	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ¹⁷ (MES)	Capacity balance ¹⁸	Comments
46	LMC Sport and Fitness	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	College	Unsecure	Adult		3	Poor	2	3	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
52	Morecambe & Heysham Grosvenor Park Primary School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
53	Morecambe Community High School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
53	Morecambe Community High School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
53	Morecambe Community High School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
60	Peel Avenue Playing Fields	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	-	1	1	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use but quality is poor
72	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
73	St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
76	Trimpell Sports & Social Club	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	2	2	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
77	Torrisholme Community Primary School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
77	Torrisholme Community Primary School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
79	Trumacar Community Primary School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
85	Westgate Primary School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
Lancaster													
8	Bowerham Community Primary School	Lancaster	Yes	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
17	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
17	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	2	4	2	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
23	Far Moor	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use but quality is poor
23	Far Moor	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use but quality is poor
23	Far Moor	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
26	Giant Axe	Lancaster	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	1	3	2	Potential to accommodate additional use but to be protected to ensure performance at Step 3 level
26	Giant Axe	Lancaster	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use but quality is poor
26	Giant Axe	Lancaster	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1 ¹⁹ 0.5 0.5	1	1	Overmarked and overplayed - no capacity for additional use
34	King George V Playing Fields (Lancaster)	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	2	2	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use

¹⁹ Use in italics denotes overmarked use by mini soccer teams

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure ¹⁶	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ¹⁷ (MES)	Capacity balance ¹⁸	Comments
36	Lancaster Christ Church C of E Primary School	Lancaster	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Yes-unused	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	-	6	6	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Yes-unused	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	-	4	4	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use
39	Lancaster Ridge Community Primary School	Lancaster	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
43	Lancaster Ryelands Primary School	Lancaster	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
51	Moorside Primary School	Lancaster	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
58	Our Lady's Catholic College	Lancaster	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
62	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	Lancaster	Yes-unused	Academy	Unsecure	Adult		4	Standard	4	8	4	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
63	Royal Albert Playing Field	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	5.5	2	3.5	Overplayed – no capacity for additional use
64	Ryelands Park Playing Fields	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use but quality is poor
64	Ryelands Park Playing Fields	Lancaster	Yes-unused	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	-	1	1	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use but quality is poor
65	Salt Ayre Leisure Centre	Lancaster	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Standard	0.5	6	5.5	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use
71	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	Lancaster	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	-	2	2	Potential capacity for further use but tenure not secured
80	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	Lancaster	Yes	University	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
80	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	Lancaster	Yes	University	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	Overplayed – no capacity for additional use
86	Willow Lane	Lancaster	Yes	Council/ Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	Overplayed – no capacity for additional use
90	York Road Playing Field	Lancaster	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	-	Played to capacity, no capacity to accommodate additional use
122	Lancaster Boys & Girls Club	Lancaster	Yes-unused	Community	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	-	2	2	Has potential capacity to accommodate some additional use but quality is poor

LANCASTER DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY - ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.13: Football pitches unavailable for community use

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Management	Security of tenure ²⁰	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating
24	Focus School - Hornby Campus	Carnforth & Rural	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor
24	Focus School - Hornby Campus	Carnforth & Rural	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor
27	Globe Arena (stadia pitch)	Heysham & Morecambe	No	Professional Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good
33	Hornby St Margarets C of E Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor
42	Lancaster Royal Grammar School Grass Pitches (Memorial Playing Field)	Lancaster	No	School	Unsecure	Adult		2	Standard
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	No	University	Unsecure	Adult		6	Good
55	Morecambe Road School	Heysham & Morecambe	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor
57	Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor
68	Skerton St Lukes C of E Primary School	Lancaster	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor
70	Slyne-With-Hest St Lukes C of E Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor

²⁰ Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council, town and parish Council and sports club ownership will be secure.

LANCASTER DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY - ASSESSMENT REPORT

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as 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.

Only sites which offer both potential spare capacity across the week and are able to offer secure tenure are considered possible to contribute spare capacity at peak time.

Where sites exhibit spare capacity at peak time but have poor quality pitches, all or a proportion of spare capacity has been retained to protect poor quality pitches.

Over marked pitches which are used and exhibit potential spare capacity have not been considered available to accommodate further play in order to protect pitch quality, given the nature of repeated and sustained use over a short period of time.

Match equivalent sessions

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

At this stage, match equivalent sessions do not equate to the number of pitches which are required/surplus. For example, an Analysis Area might show three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity but you would need to cross reference back to individual sites to determine where the spare capacity originates from. If it is spread across a number of sites then there is minimal spare capacity within the site which may be required to accommodate strategic reserve. If the spare capacity is on one pitch then it might indicate a need to create a different type of pitch to address a deficiency. This will be fully determined and recommendations will be made accordingly within the Strategy and Action Plan.

LANCASTER DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY - ASSESSMENT REPORT

Actual spare capacity

Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type.

Table 2.15: Actual Spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Carnforth & Rural	-	-	0.5	1	-
Heysham & Morecambe	0.5	-	-	-	-
Lancaster	3.5	0.5	1	-	1
Total	4	0.5	1.5	1	1

There are eight match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity located across six sites on 13 pitches. Any actual spare capacity at unsecured sites has been discounted from any totals as the long-term existence or access to those pitches cannot be relied upon in the future.

LANCASTER DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY - ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.14: Actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use availability	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Over marked	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES) per week	Site capacity ²¹ (MES) per week	Capacity balance ²²	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
Carnforth & Rural													
5	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Adult		1	No	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Capacity available at peak time to be retained to protect poor pitch quality
19	Claughton Brickworks	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity to accommodate additional peak time use
19	Claughton Brickworks	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity to accommodate additional peak time use
20	Cockerham Playing Fields	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Poor	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity to accommodate additional peak time use but need for qualitative improvement.
Heysham & Morecambe													
3	Barrows Lane Football Pitch	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Adult		1	No	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	No spare capacity available at peak time.
35	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Adult		1	Adult	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Capacity available at peak time to be retained to protect poor pitch quality
60	Peel Avenue Playing Fields	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	Adult		1	No	Poor	-	1	1	0.5	Unused but some capacity available retained to protect poor pitch quality
Lancaster													
23	Far Moor	Lancaster	Yes	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Capacity available at peak time to be retained to protect poor pitch quality
23	Far Moor	Lancaster	Yes	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	1	2	1	-	No spare capacity available at peak time.
26	Giant Axe	Lancaster	Yes	Adult		1	No	Good	1	3	2	1	Peak time availability to be retained to protect quality for Step 4 performance level use.
26	Giant Axe	Lancaster	Yes	Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Capacity available at peak time to be retained to protect poor pitch quality
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Yes-unused	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Good	-	6	6	1	Actual spare capacity to accommodate additional peak time use
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Yes	Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Good	1.5	3	1.5	-	No spare capacity available at peak time.
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Yes-unused	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Good	-	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity to accommodate additional peak time use
64	Ryelands Park Playing Fields	Lancaster	Yes	Adult		2	No	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity available reduce from 1.5 to 0.5 to protect poor pitch quality
64	Ryelands Park Playing Fields	Lancaster	Yes-unused	Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Poor	-	1	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity available reduce from 1 to 0.5 to protect poor pitch quality
65	Salt Ayre Leisure Centre	Lancaster	Yes	Adult		3	No	Standard	0.5	6	5.5	3	Actual spare capacity to accommodate additional peak time use

²¹ 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.

²² Red indicates overplay, green indicates potential spare capacity and amber indicates at capacity.

LANCASTER DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY - ASSESSMENT REPORT

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). 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.

Overplay on grass football pitches amounts to 15 match equivalent sessions per week over 13 pitches (across ten sites), the majority of which are on adult pitches (83% of overplay). In several cases this is due to poor quality pitches offering limited capacity for use compared to levels of team demand, or the use of adult pitches for both adult and junior football at some sites. Overplay can also be as a result of training sessions which take place on the pitches during the week, which can also cause damage to the pitch and reduce spare capacity.

Table 2.16: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Carnforth & Rural	7.5	-	-	-	-
Heysham & Morecambe	-	-	-	1	-
Lancaster	5	-	1.5	-	-
Total	12.5	-	1.5	1	-

Table 2.17: Overplay on football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Match equivalent sessions per week
11	Carnforth High School	Carnforth & Rural	Adult		1	2
25	Galgate Recreation Field	Carnforth & Rural	Adult		2	1.5
47	Low Road Playing Fields	Carnforth & Rural	Adult		1	2.5
50	Millhead Recreation Ground	Carnforth & Rural	Adult		1	1
69	Slyne With Hest Football Club	Carnforth & Rural	Adult		1	0.5
35	King Georges Playing Field (Morecambe)	Heysham & Morecambe	Mini	7v7	1	1
26	Giant Axe	Lancaster	Youth	9v9	1	1
63	Royal Albert Playing Field	Lancaster	Adult		2	3.5
80	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	Lancaster	Youth	9v9	1	0.5
86	Willow Lane	Lancaster	Adult		2	1.5
Total					13	15

LANCASTER DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY - ASSESSMENT REPORT

Football – grass pitch summary

- ◀ **Current supply of football pitch provision is insufficient with current shortfalls evident for adult pitches. However, much of the use contributing to present shortfalls is due to mini soccer and youth teams playing on adult pitches.**
- ◀ **When considering future demand, there will be shortfalls for adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches.**
- ◀ **These shortfalls could be serviced in part through greater use of 3G pitches where sanctioned to accommodate match play.**
- ◀ There are 130 pitches across 77 sites, with 113 pitches across 68 sites reported to be available for community use on some level. There are 17 pitches across nine sites unavailable for community use.
- ◀ There are three FA or FIFA certified 3G pitches, all full sized and floodlit, on which competitive football matches can be played.
- ◀ Most available pitches in Lancaster District (40%) are adult sized which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches at some sites. This is not ideal for youth players and is not in line with the recent FA Youth Review.
- ◀ Just 13 available pitches are youth 11v11 sized representing 11% of the available supply which is low in relation to the District, though proportionate to the number of youth teams (22 teams at U13, U14 and U15 – 11% of all teams) which should be playing matches on this sized pitch.
- ◀ The pitch quality ratings determined through a combination of non-technical assessments and user feedback show most pitches available for community use are rated as standard quality (53%), with 43% rated as poor and only four pitches as good, equating to just 4%.
- ◀ Changing facilities are a key issue at several football sites, with many ancillary facilities requiring modernisation including at Far Moor, Ryelands Park, York Road Playing Fields and Carnforth Rangers FC.
- ◀ Just 25 teams (13% of all teams) are recorded as playing on Council managed pitches and are therefore considered to have secured tenure as part of the Council's maintained sports and leisure provision offering.
- ◀ Not including teams fielded by the schools, colleges or universities themselves which have a vested interest in access to the respective sites, a total of 41 community club teams (21% of all teams) play at education sites where use is not secured.
- ◀ A total of 199 teams are identified as playing matches within the District. Of these, 34 community club or education teams (19% of community club or education teams) and 34 intra-mural league student teams are recorded as consistently playing matches on 3G pitches during 2017/18 season. The remaining 131 teams play on grass football pitches.
- ◀ Team generation rates based on population indicate the likely creation of one men's and four youth boys' 11v11 teams. This generates an additional requirement for 0.5 adult and two youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ In total, latent demand amounts to 1.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and 0.5 on youth 9v9 pitches, expressed from Morecambe Ladies & Girls FC and Trimpell & Bare Rangers FC.
- ◀ Several teams report a lack of accessible floodlit training facilities as a key issue, referring to specifically to a need for increased access to more 3G pitches.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity amounts to eight match equivalent sessions across six sites and 13 pitches.
- ◀ There are 13 pitches overplayed across ten sites, totalling 15 match equivalent sessions. Overplay generally derives from a combination of poor quality pitches with limited carrying capacity, often used by a number of teams playing various formats of age group football.

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PART 3: CRICKET

3.1: Introduction

Lancashire Cricket Foundation (LCF) serves as the governing and representative body for cricket within Lancaster District. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

Senior cricket is typically played on Saturdays, however; there is some play both on Sundays and midweek when teams typically play in short format competitions. There are also a few cricket leagues which service teams in Lancaster District. Some of the main leagues include:

- ◆ Northern Premier Cricket League (NPCL)
- ◆ Westmorland Cricket League (WCL)
- ◆ Westmorland Junior Cricket League (WJCL)
- ◆ Palace Shield Cricket Competition (PSCC)

The youth league structure in Lancaster District tends to be club based matches which are played midweek or on Sunday mornings dependant on age group. There is usually no conflict with access to squares and any midweek matches are usually played on different nights, whilst Sunday morning matches are played before senior matches in the afternoon. The main leagues for junior cricket is the (WJCL) and the Palace Shield Cricket Competition (PSCC).

Consultation

Consultation was carried out with 13 of the 13 cricket clubs playing in Lancaster District representing a 100% club response rate; 12 of these clubs are affiliated community cricket clubs, with one club representing Lancaster University.

3.2: Supply

In total, there are 14 natural turf cricket squares in Lancaster District located across 13 sites, two of which, are not available for community use, both located at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy.

Table 3.1: Summary of natural turf cricket squares available for community use

Analysis Area	Number available for community use
Carnforth & Rural	5
Heysham & Morecambe	3
Lancaster	4
Total	12

The natural turf cricket squares that are available for community use are fairly evenly located throughout the District, with Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area accommodating 42% (five squares) of the supply, Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area and the Lancaster Analysis Area accommodating 25% (three squares) and 33% (four squares) respectively.

LANCASTER DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY - ASSESSMENT REPORT

Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season although this may include training sessions where on occasions mobile nets may be used as a practice facility.

Please note that inclusion of a non-turf wicket for the management of fixtures would alleviate overplay issues, however this would be subject to league rules and minimum pitch specifications (the overall ground size is 115m which can accommodate a nine strip square – see ECB S9 pitch layout). Where possible the addition of a non-turf wicket could be considered for junior cricket (up to U15s) and potentially lower league cricket which will take the burden off remaining wickets due to intensification of use. This option should be considered on a site by site basis.

In total, there are 11 non-turf pitches (NTPs) in Lancaster District. Of which, two are standalone and located at education sites and the remaining are all located at club sites within the existing square.

Table 3.2: Summary of NTPs in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of NTPs	Position
10	Carnforth Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	1	Square
25	Galgate Recreation Field	Carnforth & Rural	1	Square
30	Heysham Cricket Club	Heysham & Morecambe	1	Square
31	Bay Leadership Academy (formerly Heysham High School)	Heysham & Morecambe	1	Standalone
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	1	Standalone
66	Silverdale Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	1	Square
78	Torrisholme Cricket Club	Lancaster	2	Square
82	Warton Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	1	Square
84	Westgate Cricket Club	Lancaster	1	Square
116	Bare Cricket Club	Lancaster	1	Square

The NTPs at Bay Leadership Academy (formerly Heysham High School) and Lancaster University Sports Centre are not available for community use and are used solely for curriculum and extra curriculum activity.

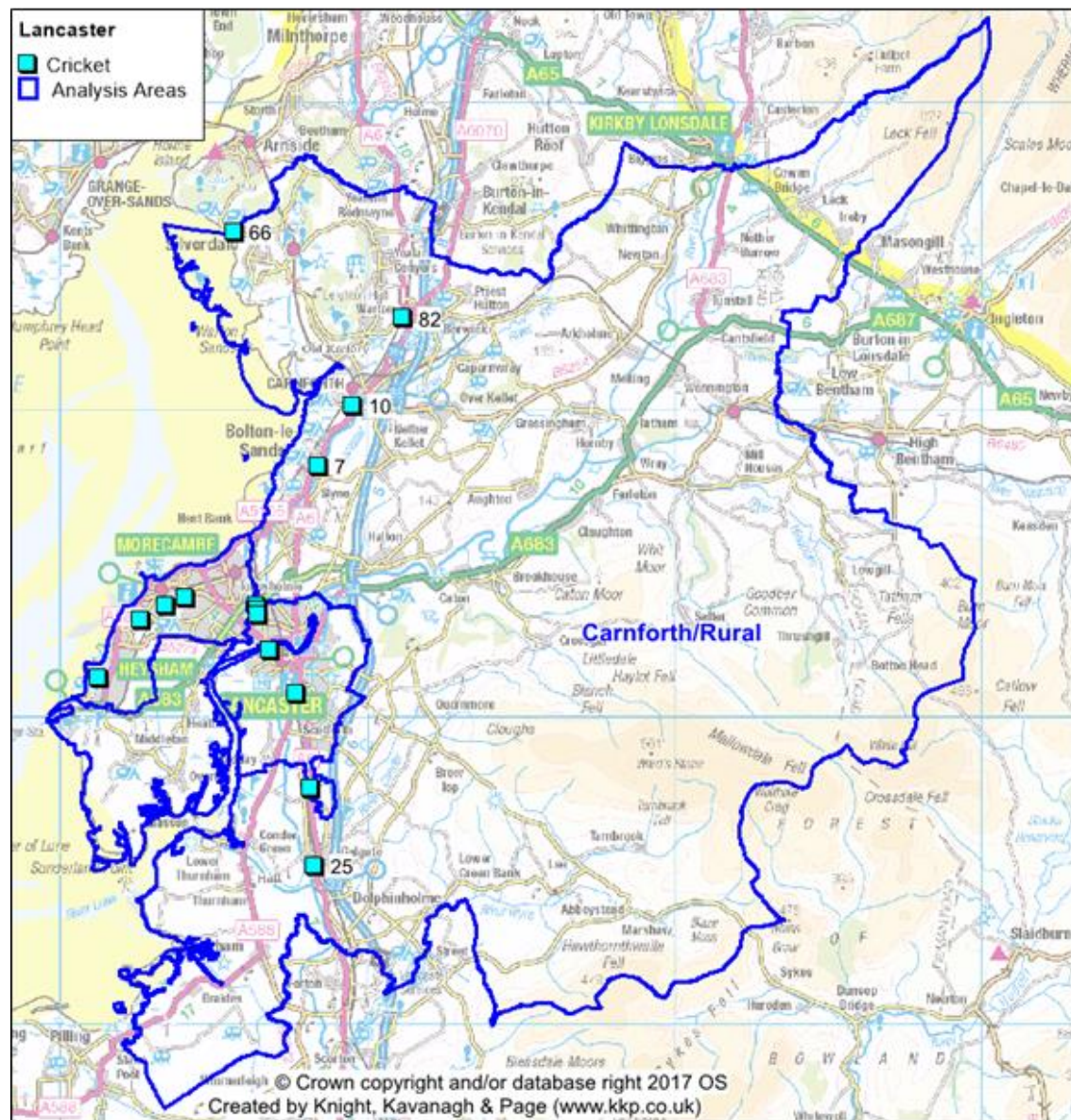
There was previously an NTP at Ryelands Park which now lies unused and in unusable condition. It is not known when it was last used.

LCF reports that no senior leagues servicing Lancaster District presently permit the use of NTPs for match play.

The map overleaf identifies the location of all cricket squares (grass and non-turf) currently servicing Lancaster District.

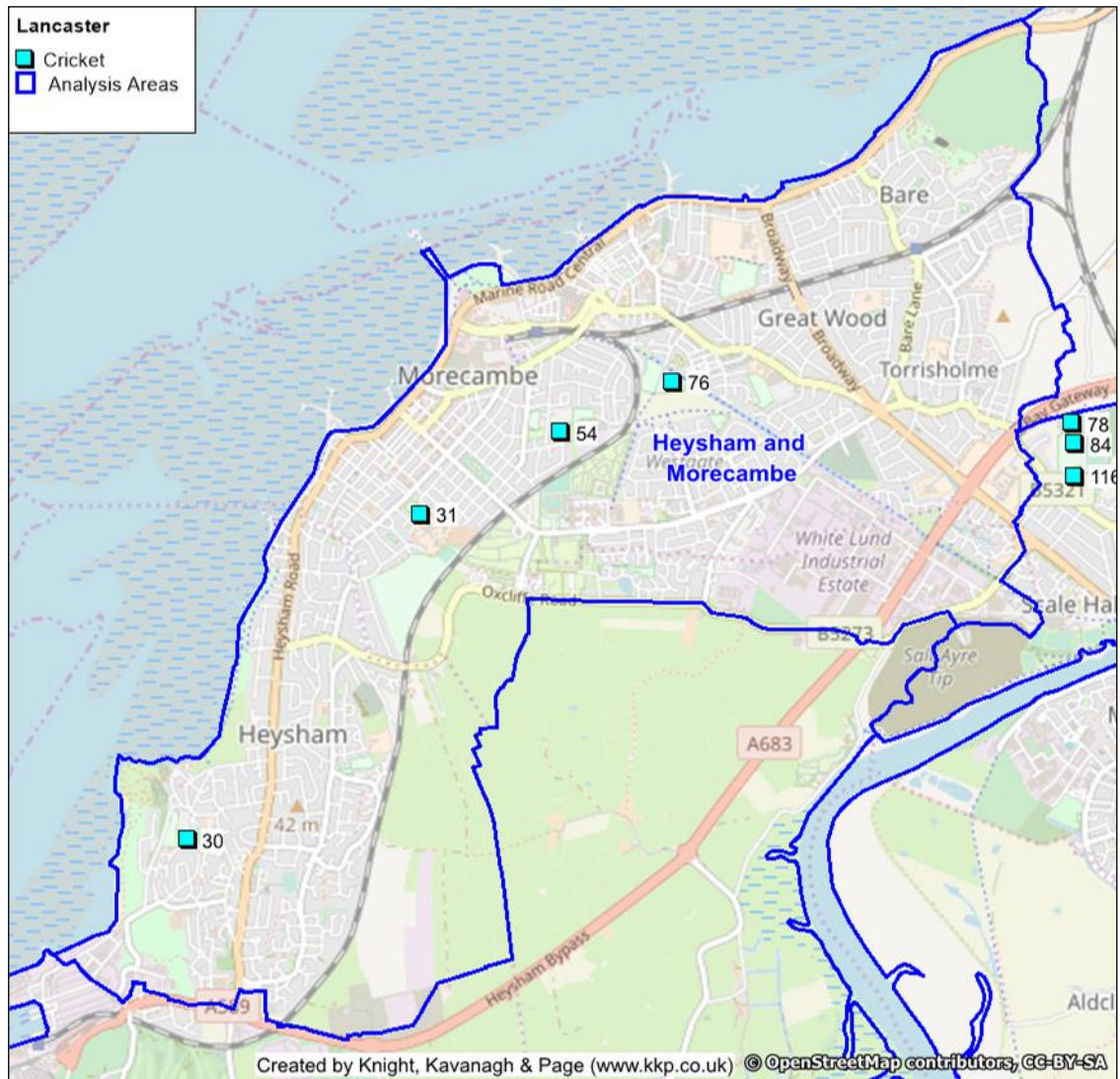
LANCASTER DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY – ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 3.1: Map of cricket pitch provision within the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area



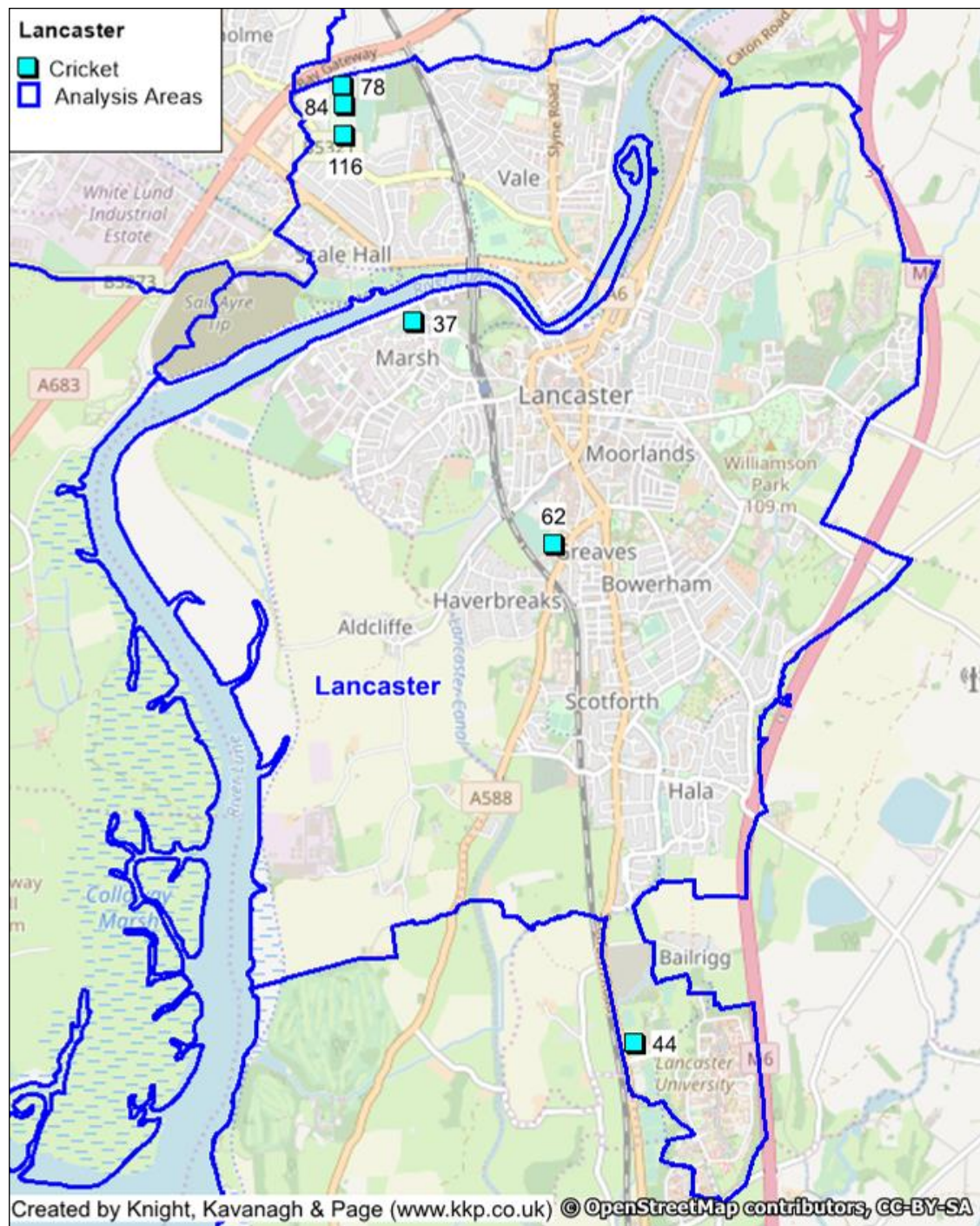
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Figure 3.2: Map of cricket pitch provision within the Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area



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Figure 3.3: Map of cricket pitch provision within the Lancaster Analysis Area



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Table 3.3: Summary of cricket provision in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site	Analysis Area	Number of squares	Community use	Number of wickets	
					Grass	Non-turf
7	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	1	Yes	8	-
10	Carnforth Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	1	Yes	12	1
25	Galgate Recreation Field	Carnforth & Rural	1	Yes	8	1
30	Heysham Cricket Club	Heysham & Morecambe	1	Yes	8	1
31	Bay Leadership Academy (formerly Heysham High School)	Heysham & Morecambe	1	No	-	1
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	1	Yes	12	-
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	1	No	-	1
54	Morecambe Cricket Club	Heysham & Morecambe	1	Yes	15	-
62	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	Lancaster	2	No	12	-
66	Silverdale Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	1	Yes	9	1
76	Trimpell Sports & Social Club	Heysham & Morecambe	1	Yes	12	-
78	Torrisholme Cricket Club	Lancaster	1	Yes	12	2
82	Warton Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	1	Yes	12	1
84	Westgate Cricket Club	Lancaster	1	Yes	11	1
116	Bare Cricket Club	Lancaster	1	Yes	10	1

Surface quality

Pitch quality ratings determined by non-technical quality assessments (carried out by Council officers) and user feedback found three natural turf cricket squares (21%) to be of good quality and 11 (79%) to be of standard quality. There are no poor quality natural turf squares in the District, although the outfield at Bolton-le-Sands CC does suffer from waterlogging which has meant that at the quality of the square has declined in recent seasons.

Six clubs report that the quality of respective home squares has not changed from the previous season, with Carnforth and Morecambe cricket clubs sustaining good quality squares and Bare, Torrisholme, Trimpell and Warton cricket clubs sustaining standard quality squares.

The square at Bolton-le-Sands CC has decreased due to heavy rain of the previous 12 months, meaning that the Club was unable to keep the pitch dry for a prolonged period. Similarly, Heysham CC also reports that the quality of the pitch has decreased due to heavy rainfall, reporting that the drainage of the pitch requires improvement.

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Improved maintenance can aid an increase in pitch quality, with four clubs in Lancaster District acknowledging that respective home squares have increased as a result of improved maintenance. Lancaster CC was the only club to report that its pitch has significantly improved from the 12 months previous; suggesting that this was because of increased expenditure by the Club to improve the overall maintenance regime.

Half of clubs report vandalism to either the pitches or ancillary facilities to have been an issue with a recurring theme being that these sites lack surrounding fencing to inhibit this activity. A number of clubs also report that pitches have been subject to unofficial use, dog fouling and litter which adversely impacts overall site quality.

Maintaining a high quality playing surface 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. 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 Institute of Groundsmanship. 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 in the table below.

Table 3.4: Performance Quality Standard Ratings

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

Lancaster District clubs can contact the LCF to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports varying in costs. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures. A mini written report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures with the verbal report being a spoken version of a mini report.

Junior wickets

Of those natural grass wickets shown in Table 3.3, 17 are junior sized accommodating demand of junior teams only, up to the U15 age group, from which senior wickets can appropriately be utilised. The 17 wickets are distributed across eight sites with a specific breakdown in Table 3.11.

Ancillary facilities

Quality and access to required match day ancillary facilities varies between clubs in Lancaster District. The extent of ancillary facilities required also differs between times of play; for example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas for junior and senior matches played midweek this is often not required and more emphasis is on access to suitable changing facilities.

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Eight of the 12 clubs (67%) in Lancaster District consider the ancillary facilities home venues to be of a good quality, with three (25%) considering ancillary facilities to be of standard or acceptable quality; and one (Lancaster CC) reporting that ancillary facilities on site are of a poor or unacceptable quality. Lancaster CC reports that a lack of fencing, floodlighting and disabled access, coupled with significant vandalism of the site means that the ancillary facilities require significant improvement. As mentioned previously, a number of clubs report vandalism to be an issue; with a lack of surrounding fencing not inhibiting this activity.

Of the 12 clubs based in Lancaster District, ten currently own ancillary facilities attached to their home pitch, whilst Galgate CC rents ancillary facilities from the local parish council it does maintain the building itself; and Lancaster CC has a similar arrangement with the City Council with the ancillary facilities on site included in the Club's long-term lease agreement of the site. It should also be noted that only one of the 12 clubs have more than two team changing rooms (Trimpell CC), with the site being the only one in the District able to separate changing rooms for male/female and senior/junior participation groups.

Silverdale CC highlights a lack of heating in its clubhouse facility and Bolton-le-Sands CC acknowledging that a lack of parking on site is inadequate to meet the Club's demands. Bare CC does currently have onsite carparking, however, it is deemed inadequate during busy periods.

None of Bare, Westgate, Heysham and Bolton-le-Sands cricket clubs have official's changing facilities, meaning that umpires must either arrive on-site changed, get changed in the toilets or share with one of the competing teams.

Ball strike / site development

It should be noted that the ECB states that where there is either new cricket provision being put in place or more commonly development which may prejudice the use of the sporting facility there would be a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such the ECB recommends that the clubs/organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken. Further information can be provided by the ECB.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Westgate CC report that indoor nets at Carnforth High School are accessed throughout the winter months. A number of other clubs reportedly also access Carnforth High School; or similar facilities at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy, Lancaster & Morecambe College and Lancaster Royal Grammar School for winter training.

Seven clubs report a need for improved training facilities, with four of these aspiring to have an NTP installed or resurfaced on site, in addition to roll on practice nets which could be used to accommodate training demand.

Table 3.5 shows each clubs' reported demand for additional training facilities, ranging from no additional demand to additional grass wickets and a bowling machine.

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Table 3.5: Summary of club reported demand for additional training facilities

Club name	Analysis Area	Training need
Bare CC	Lancaster	-
Bolton-le-Sands CC	Carnforth & Rural	An NTP and roll on covers.
Carnforth CC	Carnforth & Rural	-
Galgate CC	Carnforth & Rural	Fixed bay nets, a roll-on cage, an NTP and a bowling machine.
Heysham CC	Heysham & Morecambe	Additional grass wickets on the outfield along with fixed bay nets.
Lancaster CC	Lancaster	Additional grass wickets on the outfield along with a roll-on cage.
Morecambe CC	Heysham & Morecambe	An NTP
Silverdale CC	Carnforth & Rural	An NTP
Torrisholme CC	Lancaster	Additional need acknowledged but not specified.
Trimpell CC	Heysham & Morecambe	-
Warton CC	Carnforth & Rural	-
Westgate CC	Lancaster	-

Security of tenure

The majority of cricket clubs in Lancaster District are considered to have secured use with seven of the 12 community clubs owning sites freehold. All of the remaining five clubs lease respective home venues, with Lancaster (99 years), Silverdale (19 years) and Warton (25 years) cricket clubs considered to have security of tenure due to long-term lease agreements currently in place.

Both Bare CC and Westgate CC lease home grounds from a private land owner on three year rolling agreements. Neither of these clubs is considered to have security of tenure with it reported that the land owner is exploring options of either selling or developing on the sites. The home venue of Torrisholme CC is also on the site; but the proposed development is not considered to affect the Club with the loss of a pitch but there may be an issue with the ball-strike area.

Lancaster University CC does not own its home venue, renting provision from Lancaster CC on an annual basis.

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3.3: Demand

There are 13 clubs playing in Lancaster District, 12 of which, are considered affiliated, community clubs whilst Lancaster University CC is exclusively available to students. In total cricket clubs in Lancaster produce 28 senior and 27 junior cricket teams playing competitive matches, totalling 55 affiliated cricket teams.

Demand at cricket clubs in Lancaster District is good with most clubs (54%) fielding at least two senior and two junior teams. It should be stated that the audit only includes demand recorded from the 13 clubs (including Lancaster University CC) which are affiliated to LCF.

Table 3.6: Summary of affiliated team demand in Lancaster District

Club name	Analysis Area	Number of competitive teams			
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls
Bare CC	Lancaster	2	-	1	-
Bolton-le-Sands CC	Carnforth & Rural	2	-	2	-
Carnforth CC	Carnforth & Rural	3	1	4	-
Galgate CC	Carnforth & Rural	1	-	-	-
Heysham CC	Heysham & Morecambe	2	-	2	-
Lancaster CC	Lancaster	2	-	3	-
Lancaster University CC	Lancaster	2	1	-	-
Morecambe CC	Heysham & Morecambe	3	-	4	-
Silverdale CC	Carnforth & Rural	2	-	1	-
Torrisholme CC	Lancaster	3	-	4	1
Trimpell CC	Heysham & Morecambe	1	-	2	-
Warton CC	Carnforth & Rural	1	-	-	-
Westgate CC	Lancaster	2	-	3	-
Total		26	2	26	1

Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years. 8-10% of the Whole Sport Plan funding is focused around women and girls and talent ID. Currently, Carnforth CC is the only community club with a senior women's teams, whilst Torrisholme CC provides the District's sole junior girls' team. These clubs act as a focus for women's and girls' cricket development in the area and the LCF and other local clubs signpost female players to them.

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Short format cricket

Last man stands (LMS)

Last Man Stands (LMS) is a short format of cricket operated on a franchise basis but affiliated to the ECB, where matches are typically played midweek on NTPs.

There is no LMS league operating within Lancaster District, with nearest league operating in Preston; however, there is a dedicated T20 competition operating which involves some affiliated clubs, the Northern Premier Cricket League. At present only Lancaster CC and Morecambe CC enter teams in to the league's T20 competition.

It is reported that a Last Man Stands competition will be starting in the District from 2019; however, the location and number of participating teams is currently unknown.

Future demand

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Table 3.7: Team generation rates (applied District wide)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team generation rate	Future population within age group (2031) ²³	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (18-55)	36,713	26	1:1412	37,635	26.7	0
Senior Women's (18-55)	36,846	3	1:12282	35,167	2.9	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	9,346	24	1:389	10,478	26.9	2
Junior Girls (7-18)	8,738	1	1:8738	9,804	1.1	0

TGRs, when applied District wide, predict an increase of two junior boys' teams with no other age group predicted to see participation increase sufficient to create whole new teams, though some increases in participation may join existing squads. When TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas only one junior boys' team is predicted to be established in the Lancaster Analysis Area. However, clubs in the District also have aspirations relating to participation numbers.

Eight clubs in the Lancaster District want to increase the number of teams representing respective clubs, with each of these expressing ambitions to increase the number of junior teams. Both Heysham CC and Westgate CC want to establish U16 boys' teams; whilst Silverdale CC and Morecambe CC hope to re-establish U14 and U11 teams that each club previously lost due to low participation numbers; and Bare CC plan to add a junior boys' U13 team.

Galgate, Torrisholme and Trimpell cricket clubs did not specify at what age group new teams are to be established, solely expressing an ambition to increase the number of junior teams.

²³ TGRs are based on population forecasts to 2031 which is in line with Lancaster District's Local Plan timeframe.

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In previous years both Galgate CC and Trimpell CC have seen a decrease in the number of senior men's teams representing each club, with Galgate CC decreasing by one and Trimpell CC from three to one. Both clubs report plans to re-establish one additional senior men's team each.

Torrisholme CC is the only club in Lancaster District to report ambitions to increase female participation, with plans to establish a senior women's team.

Interestingly, Warton CC reports that in 2016 the Club's junior section folded due to a lack of volunteers and participation to fully support the section, whilst in 2017 the senior men's second team folded due to low numbers. Despite both of these, the Club did not report ambitions to increase the number of teams it has.

Senior men's teams in Lancaster District competing at peak time (Saturday) currently play an average of eight home matches each season, so assuming that new teams participate at peak time this increase equates to a requirement for approximately 16 additional adult match sessions per season (one additional match sessions per week District wide each week at peak time) to accommodate new teams.

Senior women's team in Lancaster District competing currently play an average of three home matches each season meaning that an additional three adult match sessions per season to accommodate the new team.

Junior boys' teams play an average of two home matches per season representing a further requirement for approximately 14 junior boys' match sessions per season to accommodate proposed new teams junior cricket takes place midweek and can therefore take place over a number of evenings.

It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools.

Table 3.8: Summary of future demand (TGRs and club aspirations combined)

Age group	Future demand				
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Total
Carnforth & Rural	1	-	1	-	2
Heysham & Morecambe	1	-	3	-	4
Lancaster	-	1	3	-	4
Total	2	1	7	-	10

Table 3.9 shows a summary of quantified club aspirations for future demand; however, clubs in Lancaster District may be more ambitious than this initially suggests with each club having written development plans in place which state they want to attract new players and retain current members, especially regarding junior and female participation.

The subsequent PPS Strategy & Action Plan Report will contain a housing growth scenario which will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from anticipated housing development across the District.

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All Stars Cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, over 130 cricket clubs in Lancashire have registered to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre in 2018. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ✦ Increase cricket activity for 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

In Lancaster District seven clubs operate as All Star centres; Lancaster, Westgate, Torrisholme, Morecambe, Heysham, Bolton-le-Sands and Silverdale cricket clubs.

Chance to Shine Schools Programme

Chance to Shine is a national charity which aims to educate young people and teach them vital life skills through cricket. Since 2005 the Charity's school programme has helped combat the decline of participation in cricket, especially in state schools. In Lancaster District it works in partnership with the LCF and local clubs to engage both girls and boys to play and learn through engagement. This is achieved through but not limited by teacher training, club/school partnership and curricular/extracurricular coaching.

Displaced demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to 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. In the same manner, it also refers to demand imported from other local authorities into the District based on the same reasoning. There is no recorded displaced cricket demand either exported out of or imported into 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 no recorded unmet demand for cricket in Lancaster District.

South Asian Communities

The ECB considers the development of cricket within South Asian communities to be a key focus and identifies five focus cities (London, Birmingham, Leicester, Leeds and Bradford) with a high target demographic for investment to develop participation, interest and ability within these populations.

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Though Lancaster District is not one of the five focus areas or a priority area for South Asian community cricket initiatives, LCF received ECB funding in 2015 towards the delivery of coaching and increasing opportunities for participants of South Asian background. Over recent seasons LCF has run successful Talent Search competitions to identify talented cricketers from South Asian backgrounds. The LCF has engaged with these communities over a number of years now through the creation of the Minority Ethnic Communities Cricket Forum set up in 2002 which focuses on the progression and development of cricket within Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturdays, with 22 senior teams (76%) playing on this day. There is, however, a level of demand for Sunday cricket, with four teams (14%) playing on this day.

For junior cricket, peak time demand is considered to be midweek (72%), although seven teams do play on a Sunday. It should therefore be noted that midweek cricket has the potential to be spread across numerous days Monday to Friday (though some time will be required for square preparation/repair and training) and as a result squares have greater capacity to carry junior demand providing the pitches are not overplayed.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Table 3.9 below considers senior wickets, exploring total available spare capacity over the season, considered against total overplay and future demand identified and quantified through consultation and TGRs.

Match equivalent sessions per season for future demand has been calculated using the average number of matches played per season by the respective team type (eight matches for senior men, three for senior women and two for juniors). As previously mentioned, junior teams generally play midweek across a variety of days; consequently, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future and should be judged on a site by site basis where clubs have particular aspirations to increase the number of junior teams.

For the purposes of analysis it is considered that any future junior teams from aspirations and TGRs will utilise junior wickets with teams up to, and including U14. Therefore, junior teams that Heysham CC & Westgate CC hope to establish at U16 age will utilise senior wickets; and have been factored in below.

Table 3.9: Capacity of natural turf cricket squares (senior wickets)

Analysis Area	Total spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per season)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand (senior)	Total
Carnforth & Rural	62	-	62	8	54
Heysham & Morecambe	27	-	27	10	17
Lancaster	-	8	8	5	13
Total	89	8	81	23	58

Analysis suggests there is sufficient capacity at present to cater for current demand two of the three Analysis Areas, with a shortfall of eight match equivalent session in Lancaster

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Analysis Area. The capacity is sustained in both the Carnforth & Rural and Heysham & Morecambe analysis areas, though decreased, when future demand is considered.

The shortfall in Lancaster Analysis Area is exacerbated by future demand, with the establishment of a senior women's team and an U16 junior boys' team increasing the shortfall to 13 match equivalent sessions per season.

The Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area has the largest amount of capacity at present, with capacity for an additional 62 match equivalent sessions per season. This reduces to 54 match equivalent sessions per season when future demand is considered with the creation of one senior men's team creating an additional eight match equivalent sessions of demand per season.

Supply and demand analysis of natural turf cricket squares in Lancaster District, as whole, at peak times suggests there is capacity available at senior peak time (Saturday), meaning any future demand can be accommodated on both Saturday and Sunday. Midweek demand both current and future can be sufficiently accommodated. However, this should be caveated with the shortfall on senior wickets displayed in the Lancaster Analysis Area.

Table 3.10: Capacity of natural turf cricket squares (junior wickets)

Analysis Area	Total spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per season)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand (junior)	Total
Carnforth & Rural	12	-	12	2	10
Heysham & Morecambe	15	-	15	2	13
Lancaster	19	9	10	4	6
Total	46	9	37	8	29

The analysis above shows that there is currently sufficient capacity in the District to accommodate both current and future demand for junior cricket. All three analysis areas display capacity on junior wickets during the peak period.

The Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area has the most capacity available with 15 match equivalent sessions per season; whilst the Lancaster Analysis Area has the least with ten match equivalent sessions per season.

When future demand is considered capacity is retained, although decreased; and is fairly evenly distributed amongst the analysis areas; with the Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area having 13 match equivalent sessions of capacity; the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area, 10 match equivalent sessions of capacity; and the Lancaster Analysis Area having six match equivalent sessions of capacity.

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3.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, existing supply of outdoor cricket facilities is sufficient to cater for levels of both current and anticipated future demand for weekend and midweek cricket. It is however key that long-term tenure is able to be secured for both Bare CC and Westgate CC and that their respective sites are protected given the reported proposed risk of loss to development. Similarly, the home venue of Torrisholme CC, also located on the site of the aforementioned two clubs, should also be protected, given the potential impact of developing the neighbouring pitches.

Priority should be to continue to drive participation growth, especially through the All Stars Cricket programme and to ensure that facilities are able to sufficiently cater for this junior development activity, especially the quality of ancillary facilities and toilets required to support junior delivery including for females.

The overplay displayed on senior wickets in the Lancaster Analysis Area should be addressed through the addition of a senior wicket or by relocating some demand to available sites in the District. The level of overplay is considered sustainable at present, given that it is minimal, but will become an issue if all future demand is realised; or if the quality of the wickets becomes poor.

3.6: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability (i.e. only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening). Wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current square stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

As a guide, The ECB has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

Adult wickets		Junior wickets	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	5	Good	7
Standard	4	Standard	4
Poor	0	Poor	0

To help calculate square capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality natural turf senior wicket should be able to take five matches per season per natural turf wicket (adults), whilst a good, junior sized natural turf wicket can accommodate seven matches per season per natural turf wicket. This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

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Table 3.11: Natural turf cricket square capacity (sites with recorded community)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Security of tenure	Community use availability	Teams/groups accommodated	Quality rating ²⁴	Number of pitches	Pitch type (senior/junior)	Number of natural turf wickets	Actual play (match equivalent sessions per season)	Capacity (match equivalent sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season) ²⁵
7	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	Secure	Yes	Bolton-le-Sands CC	Standard	1	Senior	7	21	28	7
								Junior	1	2	4	2
10	Carnforth Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	Secure	Yes	Carnforth CC	Good	1	Senior	12	32	60	18
25	Galgate Recreation Field	Carnforth & Rural	Secure	Yes	Galgate CC	Good	1	Senior	8	7	40	33
30	Heysham Cricket Club	Heysham & Morecambe	Secure	Yes	Heysham CC	Standard	1	Senior	6	18	24	6
								Junior	2	2	8	6
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Secure	Yes	Lancaster CC Lancaster University CC	Standard	1	Senior	7	36	28	8
								Junior	5	3	20	17
54	Morecambe Cricket Club	Heysham & Morecambe	Secure	Yes	Morecambe CC Lancaster University CC	Good	1	Senior	15	48	75	27
66	Silverdale Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	Secure	Yes	Silverdale CC	Standard	1	Senior	9	19	36	17
								Junior	1	2	4	2
76	Trimpell Sports & Social Club	Heysham & Morecambe	Secure	Yes	Trimpell CC	Standard	1	Senior	9	9	36	27
								Junior	3	3	12	9
78	Torrisholme Cricket Club	Lancaster	Secure	Yes	Torrisholme CC	Standard	1	Senior	10	32	40	8
								Junior	2	17	8	9
82	Warton Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	Secure	Yes	Warton CC	Standard	1	Senior	10	11	40	29
								Junior	2	-	8	8
84	Westgate Cricket Club	Lancaster	Secure	Yes	Westgate CC Lancaster University CC	Standard	1	Senior	10	26	40	14
								Junior	1	2	4	2
116	Bare Cricket Club	Lancaster	Secure	Yes	Bare CC	Standard	1	Senior	10	19	40	21

²⁴ As derived from the non-technical site assessments and user feedback

²⁵ - sign indicated the amount of capacity available on a square.

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Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual spare capacity' by which it is available at peak time. 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 training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for natural turf squares for senior cricket is Saturday (22 teams), though there is also demand for Sunday (four teams) and midweek cricket (three teams).

Peak time for junior wickets is considered to be midweek; and unless explicitly mentioned it is considered that there is actual spare capacity during this period for additional junior demand. If the capacity of junior wickets is less than two match equivalent sessions this is discounted due to capacity being insufficient to accommodate additional demand.

Those sites which display potential capacity of less than eight matches per season on senior wickets have been excluded from the capacity analysis on the basis that they do not exhibit enough spare capacity to accommodate another senior club team, based on an average of eight home matches per team each season.

Of those sites with existing community use, there are nine sites which show potential spare capacity on senior natural turf squares in Lancaster District (with at least eight match equivalent sessions of capacity), totalling 194 match sessions per season. In addition, seven sites display potential capacity on junior natural turf wickets, totalling 46 match sessions per season.

Table 3.12: Actual square capacity on natural turf cricket squares at peak time

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Pitch type (senior/junior)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Match equivalent sessions available (peak period)	Comment
7	Bolton-Le-Sands Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	Junior	2	1	One MES of actual spare capacity.
25	Galgate Recreation Field	Carnforth & Rural	Senior	33	0.5	0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.
30	Heysham Cricket Club	Heysham & Morecambe	Junior	6	1	One MES of actual spare capacity.
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Junior	17	1	One MES of actual spare capacity.
66	Silverdale Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	Junior	2	1	One MES of actual spare capacity.
76	Trimpell Sports & Social Club	Heysham & Morecambe	Senior	27	0.5	0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Pitch type (senior/junior)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Match equivalent sessions available (peak period)	Comment
76	Trimpell Sports & Social Club	Heysham & Morecambe	Junior	9	1	One MES of actual spare capacity.
82	Warton Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	Senior	29	0.5	0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.
82	Warton Cricket Club	Carnforth & Rural	Junior	8	1	One MES of actual spare capacity.
84	Westgate Cricket Club	Lancaster	Junior	2	1	One MES of actual spare capacity.

In practice, although nine sites display potential spare capacity for senior cricket, only three sites have actual spare capacity at senior peak time (Saturday). Conversely, all nine sites are able to accommodate more competitive senior teams on Sunday.

There is capacity during the peak period on junior wickets (midweek) across all seven sites that displayed potential capacity.

Overplay

The senior square at Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club is considered overplayed by eight match equivalent session per season; and accommodates match demand from both Lancaster CC and Lancaster University CC teams. Similarly, the junior wickets at Torrisholme Cricket Club are also considered overplayed, by nine match equivalent sessions per season.

Both sites with overplay are located within the Lancaster Analysis Area.

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Cricket summary

- ▶ **Present and future demand for cricket can sufficiently be accommodated by existing supply of facilities.**
- ▶ **Supply and demand analysis of natural turf cricket squares in Lancaster District at peak times suggests there is capacity available at senior peak time (Saturday), meaning any future demand can be accommodated on both Saturday and Sunday. Midweek demand both current and future can be sufficiently accommodated.**
- ▶ In total, there are 14 natural turf cricket squares in Lancaster District located across 13 sites, two of which, are not available for community use, both located at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy.
- ▶ The natural turf cricket squares that are available for community use are fairly evenly located throughout the District, with Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area accommodating 42% (five squares) of the supply, Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area and the Lancaster Analysis Area accommodating 25% (three squares) and 33% (four squares) respectively.
- ▶ In total, there are 11 non-turf pitches (NTPs) in Lancaster District. Of which, two are standalone and located at education sites and the remaining are all located at club sites within the existing square.
- ▶ Three natural turf cricket squares (21%) were found to be of good quality and 11 (79%) to be of standard quality. There are no poor quality natural turf squares in the District, although the outfield at Bolton-le-Sands CC does suffer from waterlogging.
- ▶ Eight of the 12 clubs (67%) in Lancaster District consider the ancillary facilities home venues to be of a good quality, with three (25%) considering ancillary facilities to be of standard or acceptable quality; and one (Lancaster CC) reporting that ancillary facilities on site are of a poor or unacceptable quality.
- ▶ Seven clubs report a need for improved training facilities, with four of these aspiring to have an NTP installed or resurfaced on site, in addition to roll on practice nets which could be used to accommodate training demand.
- ▶ The majority of cricket clubs in Lancaster District are considered to have secured use with seven of the 12 community clubs owning sites freehold. However, both Bare CC and Westgate CC lease home grounds from a private land owner on three year rolling agreements and there is some concern with the sites being at risk from development. Any development of these could impact on Torrisholme CC which is based on the same land; owning its home venue.
- ▶ There are 13 clubs, 12 of which are affiliated community clubs playing in Lancaster District. producing 28 senior and 27 junior cricket teams playing competitive matches, totalling 55 affiliated cricket teams.
- ▶ Team generation rates based on future population when applied District wide, predict an increase of two junior boys' teams, however, when applied to individual analysis areas, only one junior boys' team is predicted, in the Lancaster Analysis Area. Eight clubs in the Lancaster District want to increase the number of teams representing respective clubs, with each of these expressing ambitions to increase the number of junior teams.
- ▶ In Lancaster District seven clubs operate as All Star centres; Lancaster, Westgate, Torrisholme, Morecambe, Heysham, Bolton-le-Sands and Silverdale cricket clubs.
- ▶ An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for natural turf squares for senior cricket is Saturday (22 teams), though there is also demand for Sunday (four teams) and midweek cricket (three teams). Peak time for junior natural turf wickets is considered to be midweek.
- ▶ Of those sites with existing community use, there are nine sites which show potential spare capacity on senior natural turf squares in Lancaster District, totalling 194 match sessions per season. However, only three sites have actual spare capacity at senior peak time (Saturday).
- ▶ Eight sites are considered to have actual spare capacity on junior natural turf wickets during peak time (midweek), totalling 46 match equivalent sessions per season.
- ▶ Senior wickets at Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club are considered overplayed by eight match equivalent session; whilst the junior wickets at Torrisholme Cricket Club are also overplayed by nine match equivalent sessions.
- ▶ Analysis suggests there is sufficient capacity at present to cater for current demand in the District; however, there is a shortfall on senior wickets in the Lancaster Analysis Area; which is exacerbated when future demand is considered.

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PART 4: RUGBY LEAGUE

4.1: 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).

All club rugby league in Lancaster District is now played throughout the summer season (from February to October). Senior play takes place in the North West Men's League (NWML) and National Conference League (NCL), whilst all junior and primary level rugby takes place as part of the North West Counties (NWC) junior and youth leagues. However, rugby league is considered as a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training is required throughout the winter months.

Consultation

In addition to consultation with the RFL, feedback from the one community playing in Lancaster District was sought via face to face consultation. Heysham Atoms ARLFC responded to consultation resulting in a 100% response rate being achieved.

4.2: Supply

The audit identifies just one grass rugby league pitch at Trimpell Sports & Social Club (Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area). The pitch is of senior size and available for community use.

Despite there being only one rugby league pitch in Lancaster District, Lancaster University has a rugby league team that utilises a rugby union pitch (at Lancaster University Sports Centre) for both match and training demand.

Table 4.1: Summary of grass rugby league pitches

Analysis Area	No. of available pitches	No. of unavailable pitches
Carnforth & Rural	-	-
Heysham & Morecambe	1	-
Lancaster	-	-
Total	1	-

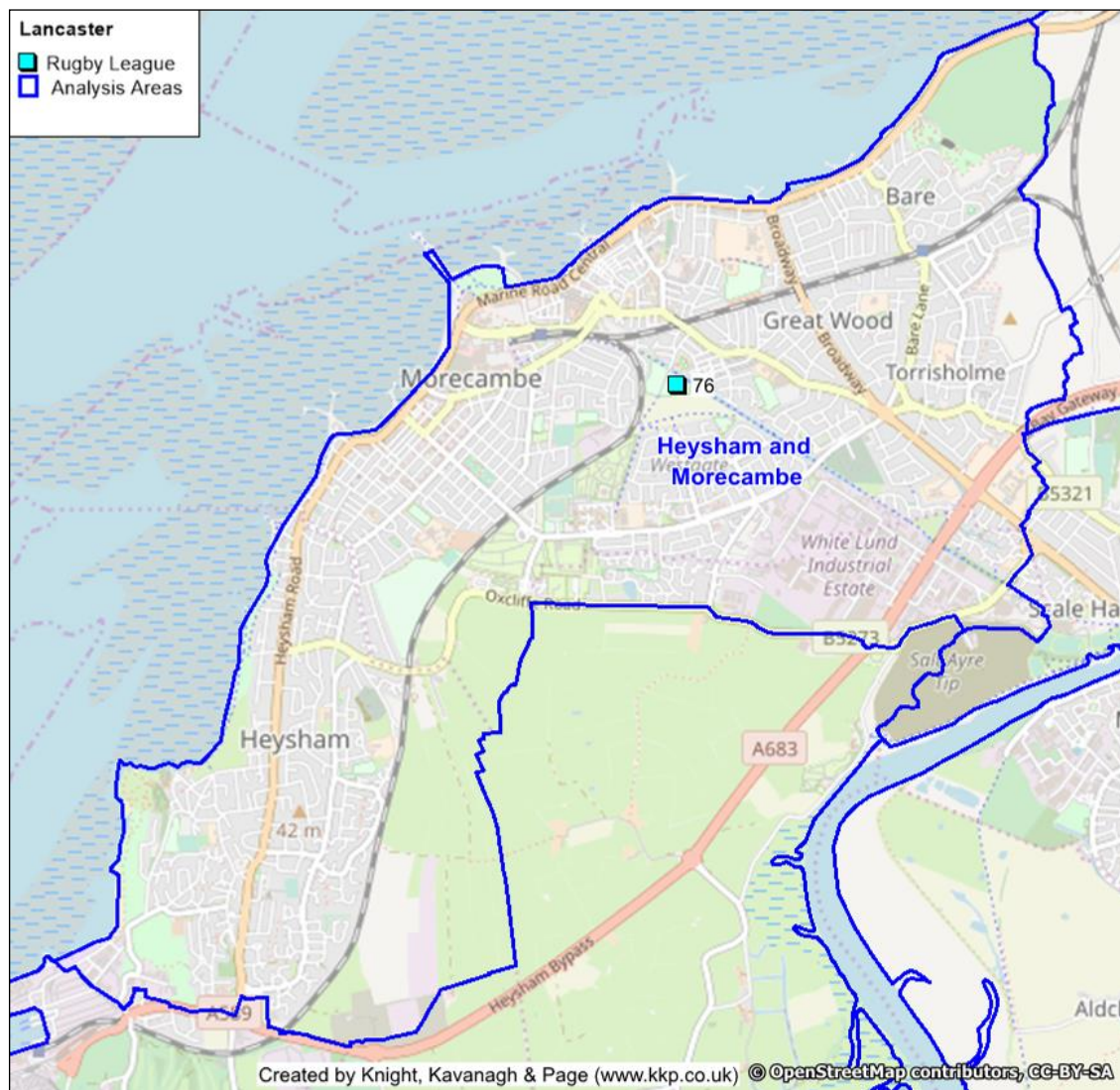
Team definitions

- ◆ Senior teams (19 – 45yrs)
- ◆ Youth and junior teams (12 – 18yrs)
- ◆ Primary teams (7 – 11yrs)

As a guide, all rugby league pitches are classified as being senior sized, with cones used to mark pitches for primary teams. However, there may be instances (particularly on school sites and large club sites) where designated junior or primary pitches are provided.

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Figure 4.1 Map of rugby league pitch provision within Lancaster District



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Ownership/management

The rugby league pitch at Trimpell Sports & Social Club is rented by Heysham Atoms RLFC on an annual basis. The Club is an associated member of the overall sports club, along with football, cricket, and bowls clubs; and as such nominally rents the facility from the overarching sports club each season. As an associated member club, Heysham Atoms RLFC cannot be removed from the site without opting to relocate; therefore, the Club is considered to have security of tenure.

Pitch quality

Non-technical site assessments were carried out for all rugby league pitches in Lancaster District and assessed as one of three categories, 'good', 'standard' or 'poor'. Carrying capacity of a pitch is dependent upon the quality of a pitch which is outlined below:

Category	Capacity
Good	3 matches per week
Standard	2 matches per week
Poor	1 match per week

The table below summarises pitch quality following the non-technical site assessment carried out by the Council.

Table 4.2: Summary of pitch quality

Analysis Area	Quality of pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Carnforth & Rural	-	-	-
Heysham & Morecambe	-	1	-
Lancaster	-	-	-
Total	-	1	-

The one dedicated rugby league pitch in Lancaster District is of standard quality, with Heysham Atoms RLFC highlighting that the pitch has decreased in quality over recent seasons given the high level of use of the pitch by rugby league, American football and football year-round.

The Club also notes that as unofficial use of the site has also adversely affected quality, with camping pegs frequently found on the pitch, along with an increase of gravel.

Overmarking

Overmarking of pitches occurs when multiple sports access sites, with seasonal crossovers. Common occurrences of this are with football pitches being marked on cricket outfields, or at education sites when rugby union pitches are also marked for football part way through the school year.

In Lancaster District, the Lancaster University rugby league team utilises a rugby union pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre, as the pitch is required for both codes.

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The pitch at Trimpell Sports & Social Club is marked with football throughout the winter sports season; and then marked for rugby league during the summer. This means that the site is being utilised year-round with minimal time available for remedial work to take place to improve pitch quality. The pitch is also used by Morecambe Bay Storm American football team during the summer, but no markings for this sport are provided.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facilities at Lancaster University Sports Centre are of a good quality with no issues reported by any University representative team.

However, those at Trimpell Sports & Social Club, accessed by Heysham Atoms RLFC, are considered poor quality, requiring interior refurbishment to improve quality. The Club also highlights demand for an additional number of changing rooms, highlighting that due to the multisport aspect of the site access to the two changing rooms can occasionally be an issue; whilst this is also considered prohibitive to the Club developing a greater number of teams, particularly a women's team, which the Club has received funding to create.

It should be noted that despite an issue with changing facilities on site, the Club does have access to a clubhouse, dugouts, stands, carparking, showers, toilets and a kitchen; with the latter available at an additional cost. Despite the overall site not having a perimeter fence there has not been incidents of vandalism to the site in recent years, but, as mentioned, unofficial use of the site can be an issue.

4.3: Demand

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

Competitive play

There is a total of six competitive rugby league teams playing in Lancaster District provided by one community club (Heysham Atoms RLFC) and an education team (Lancaster University). Of the senior teams, there are two men's teams, one junior boys' team and three primary teams. Girls are able to play primary rugby in mixed teams up to the age of 12, after which they play in specific girls' teams at junior level up to the age of 18. There are no dedicated junior girls' or women's teams in Lancaster District.

Table 4.3: Summary of demand by Analysis Area

Analysis Area	No. of competitive rugby league teams			Total
	Senior	Junior	Primary	
Carnforth & Rural	-	-	-	-
Heysham & Morecambe	1	1	3	5
Lancaster	1	-	-	1
Total	2	1	3	6

With Heysham Atoms RLFC based in the Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area, it is understandable that the majority of the rugby league demand in Lancaster District is located in that Analysis Area. The Club provides one senior men's team; a junior (U16 boys') team and three mixed gender primary teams. The Club reports that although the number of senior teams representing it has remained static, there has been an increase in representation at both junior and primary levels.

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Lancaster University also provides a senior men's team, based at Lancaster University Sports Centre for both match and training demand. In the past three seasons the number of teams representing the University in rugby league has remained the same.

Training

Winter rugby league training is accommodated across AGPs in the District, with Lancaster University training on the 3G pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre; and Heysham Atoms RLFC utilising the 3G pitch at Morecambe Community High School from January to March.

No training takes place on competitive pitches in the winter as pitches are often marked for different sports, as is the case at both Lancaster University Sports Centre (rugby union) and Trimpell Sports & Social Club (football). However, since the transition to summer season community clubs tend to train on match pitches as extended daylight hours allow, eliminating the need for access to floodlighting. Heysham Atoms RLFC trains on the match pitch a total of four match equivalent sessions per week, with the senior men's team contributing half of this use alone.

There are no known RFL Community Standard 3G pitches in Lancaster District, with Heysham Atoms RLFC noting that access to a 3G pitch of such certification would help the Club reduce demand from the match pitch, improving quality; and support it to establish more teams.

The Club also highlights plans to potentially convert some current land on site to a dedicated training area or training pitch which could then also be used by junior or primary teams if the number of current teams increased. It is reported that the Club have accessed local open space for training when the pitch is used by the local American football team.

Masters rugby league

Masters rugby league is a derivative version of the sport aimed at players over the age of 35. It has a social emphasis and focus on providing playing opportunities for older players and as such remains non-competitive with no score kept. Masters rugby league is typically played as part of a festival format, with five central festivals to be held in 2017 across the country as well as various club held invitational events. Heysham Atoms RLFC does not have a masters team.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to 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 due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the League. No clubs report of unmet demand in Lancaster District.

Displaced/exported demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to 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. No clubs in Lancaster District report displaced demand.

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Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. Team generation rates (TGRs) are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Table 4.4: Team generation rates (District wide)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current number of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2031)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (19-45)	26,505	2	13253	27,587	2.1	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	26,104	0	0	24,838	0.0	0
Junior Boys (12-18)	5,460	1	5460	6,341	1.2	0
Junior Girls (12-18)	5,298	0	0	6,167	0.0	0
Primary rugby mixed (7-11)	7,326	3	2442	7,857	3.2	0

Team generation rates based on future population, applied on a District wide basis does not forecast the likely creation of any new rugby league teams, with increases in participation being assimilated into existing playing squads.

Heysham Atoms RLFC intends to increase the number of teams it fields. This is summarised in the table below. Where the Club aspires to create new primary and junior teams, these have been attributed to a senior pitch due to the only dedicated rugby league pitch in the District being this size. When clubs do not presently have access to primary pitch provision it is considered that primary teams will play on senior or junior pitches currently accessed and as such will require only half of a senior/junior pitch, equating to 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.5: Summary of future demand reported by clubs

Club	Future demand	Pitch type	Analysis Area	Match equivalent sessions (MES) per week
Heysham Atoms RLFC	1 x senior men's	Senior	Heysham & Morecambe	0.5
	1 x senior women's	Senior		0.5
	1 x junior boys'	Senior		0.5
	1 x mixed primary	Senior		0.25
Total				1.75

It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools.

The Strategy Report will contain a Housing Growth Scenario that will estimate the additional demand for rugby league arising from housing development.

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4.4: Supply & demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the Analysis Areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.6: Supply/demand balance of senior pitches at senior peak time

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total demand
Carnforth & Rural	-	-	-	-	-
Heysham & Morecambe	-	6.75	6.75	1.75	8.5
Lancaster	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	6.75	6.75	1.75	8.5

The table above shows further expresses the level of overplay expressed at Trimpell Sports & Social Club. This shortfall is exacerbated when future demand is considered increasing to a shortfall of 8.5 MES per week. It should be noted that this future demand does not factor in future training demand which would also increase as the number of teams participating in the District increases.

It is important to note that some of the overplay derives from junior/mini teams playing on a senior pitch. A large proportion of overplay is attributed to training sessions taking place on match pitches. Further to the rugby league use, the pitch is also overmarked with a football pitch and also used in the winter. It is also used by an American football team further adding to the level of overplay expressed above.

Improving pitch quality will increase capacity in the District, but this alone would not be sufficient to eliminate overplay. Access to additional match pitches or an RFL Community Standard 3G pitch for training and match demand would eliminate overplay in the District.

If Heysham Atoms RLFC managed to establish a dedicated training area on site, as planned, then this would also significantly contribute to reducing the current level of overplay in the District.

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4.5: Capacity analysis

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

As a guide, The RFL has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded in Lancaster District:

Pitch quality	Match equivalent sessions (MES) per week
Good	3
Standard	2
Poor	1

Table 4.7 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

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Table 4.7: Rugby league pitch provision and level of current use within Lancaster District

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Security of tenure	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Current play (MES per week)	Site capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Comments
76	Trimpell Sports & Social Club	Heysham & Morecambe	Secure	Yes	Senior	Yes	Standard	1	8.75 ²⁶	2	6.75	<p>The one rugby league pitch in the District accommodates both match and training demand for all Heysham Atoms RLFC teams and as such is overplayed by 6.75 MES per week.</p> <p>Further to the rugby league use, the pitch is overmarked with a football pitch and also used in the winter.</p> <p>The pitch is also used by Morecambe Bay Storm American football team during the summer, but no markings for this sport are provided.</p>

²⁶ Three match equivalent sessions on the pitch a provided by Morecambe Bay Storm American football team, which utilises the pitch for both training and match demand.

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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.

For senior and youth teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away). For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 MES per week for each match played across half of one senior pitch, based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. For senior rugby league matches the peak period is considered to be Saturday afternoon, however, demand for senior rugby league pitches is actually highest on Sunday mornings, due to the larger number of junior (U13-U18) and primary teams playing on senior pitches at this time.

As the one rugby league pitch in Lancaster District is overplayed there is no actual spare capacity available during the peak period for either additional senior, junior or primary demand. The dual use pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre has potential capacity for additional demand but is unavailable for community use and therefore does not have any actual spare capacity available during the peak period.

Overplay

The pitch at Trimpell Sports & Social Club is overplayed by a total of 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week. This is predominantly a result of training and competitive demand taking place on the pitch.

Table 4.8: Overplay summary

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Pitch Type	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
76	Trimpell Sports & Social Club	Heysham & Morecambe	Senior	6.75
Total				-6.75

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Rugby league summary

- ◆ **Current supply of rugby league pitches is not sufficient to cater for the level of demand expressed in Lancaster District at present. This is further exacerbated when considering anticipated future demand.**
- ◆ The audit identifies a total of one grass rugby league pitches in Lancaster District. Located at Trimpell Sports & Social Club (Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area). The pitch is of senior size and available for community use.
- ◆ The rugby league pitch at Trimpell Sports & Social Club is rented by Heysham Atoms RLFC on an annual basis but as it forms part of the wider sports and social club its use is considered secure.
- ◆ Lancaster University also has a rugby league team that utilises a rugby union pitch (at Lancaster University Sports Centre) for both match and training demand.
- ◆ The one dedicated rugby league pitch in Lancaster District is of standard quality, with Heysham Atoms RLFC highlighting that the pitch has decreased in quality over recent seasons given the high level of use of the pitch by rugby league, American football and football year-round.
- ◆ Ancillary facilities at Trimpell Sports & Social Club are considered poor quality, requiring interior refurbishment to improve quality. The Club also highlights demand for an additional number of changing rooms.
- ◆ There is a total of six competitive rugby league teams playing in Lancaster District provided by one community club (Heysham Atoms RLFC) and an education team (Lancaster University). Of the community teams, there are two men's teams, one junior boys' team and three primary teams.
- ◆ Heysham Atoms RLFC trains on its match pitch a total of four match equivalent sessions per week, with the senior men's team contributing half of this use alone.
- ◆ Team generation rates based on future population does not forecast the likely creation of any new rugby league teams, however, Heysham Atoms RLFC intends to increase the number of teams it fields which if successful would total 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week worth of usage.
- ◆ The pitch at Trimpell Sports & Social Club is overplayed by a total of 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week. This is predominantly a result of training and competitive demand taking place on the pitch. Further to the rugby league use, the pitch is also overmarked with a football pitch and also used in the winter. It is also used by an American football team further adding to the level of overplay expressed above.
- ◆ The shortfall is exacerbated when future demand is considered increasing to a shortfall of 8.5 MES per week.
- ◆ Improving pitch quality will increase capacity in the District, but this alone would not be sufficient to eliminate overplay. Access to additional match pitches or an RFL Community Standard 3G pitch for training and match demand would eliminate overplay in the District.

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into six areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. Lancaster falls within Area Five, with a Rugby Development Officer (RDO) and a team of Community Rugby Coaches (CRC) that deliver core programmes in schools and clubs.

Its variety of programmes, include 15 aside, 10 aside, 7 aside, Tag and the O2 Touch programme, all aim to increase and retain participation within the game. In order to sustain and increase participation in the game facilities need to be appropriate, affordable and accessible.

The Lancashire Rugby Football Union (RFU) administers rugby union in Lancaster. A full-time development officer is responsible for the region and works closely with all the clubs. This work involves developing club structures, including working towards Clubmark and the development of school-club structures.

Club consultation

Two community clubs were offered the opportunity to be consulted via a face to face consultation, as part of the data collection process carried out by Council officers. All clubs responded, equating to a club response rate of 100%. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

Both universities (Lancaster University and University of Cumbria) were also consulted with.

5.2: Supply

In total, there are 19 rugby union pitches in Lancaster located across seven sites, all of which are senior sized.

All pitches, apart from the three senior rugby union pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre, are available to community clubs in some capacity. The pitches at Carnforth, Heysham and Morecombe Community high schools are marked for football for part of the academic year to meet curricular demands. One of the pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre is dual use with rugby league.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to Table 5.1 below.

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Table 5.1: Summary of RFU recommended pitch sizes by age group

Age	Pitch type	Maximum Pitch Dimensions (Metres)
U7	Mini	20x12
U8	Mini	45x22
U9	Mini	60x30
U10	Mini	60x35
U11	Mini	60x43
U12	Mini	60x43
U13	Junior	90x60 (Girls 60x43)
U14-U18	Senior	100x70 Recommended run off area 5m.
Senior	Senior	Minimum in-goal length 6m.

Table 5.2: Supply of rugby union pitches in Lancaster

Analysis Area	Availability			Total
	Yes	Yes - unused	No	
Carnforth & Rural	2	-	-	2
Heysham and Morecambe	-	3	-	3
Lancaster	4	7	3	14
Total	6	10	3	19

The majority (74%) of natural turf rugby union provision is located in the Lancaster Analysis Area where there are 13 pitches, ten of which, are available for community use. The remaining provision is divided between the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area (10%) and the Heysham and Morecambe Analysis Area (16%), with pitches in the latter area available for community use but unused.

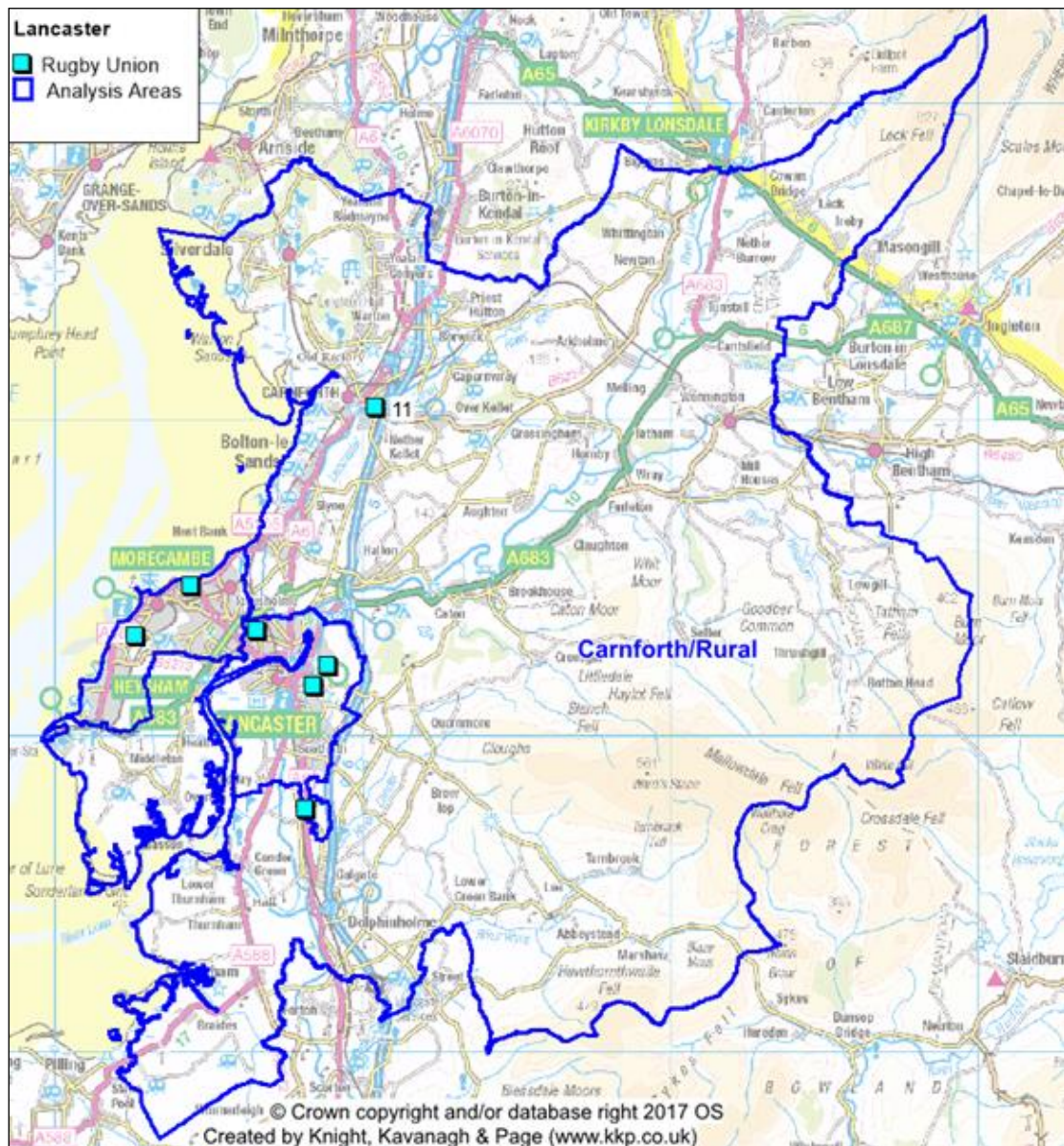
At present, there is one World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitch in Lancaster District, located at Lancaster University Sports Centre. There had been a second World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch at LMC Sport and Fitness, however, the certification period expired in February 2018 and a retest to renew certification is required²⁷.

All 3G pitches are covered in greater detail in Part 7: Third Generation Artificial Pitches, as well as later in this section.

²⁷<http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

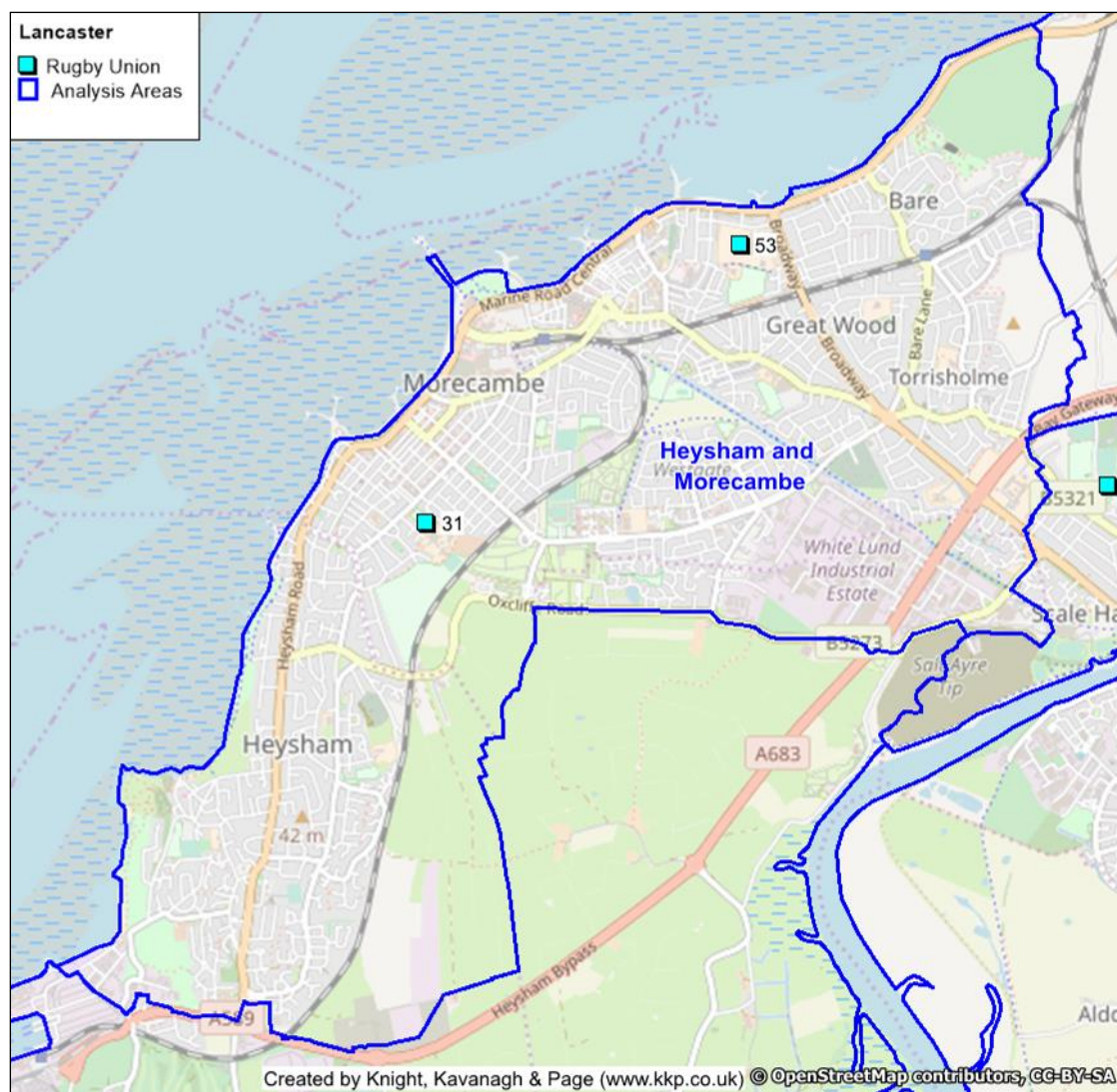
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Figure 5.1: Map of rugby union pitch provision within the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area



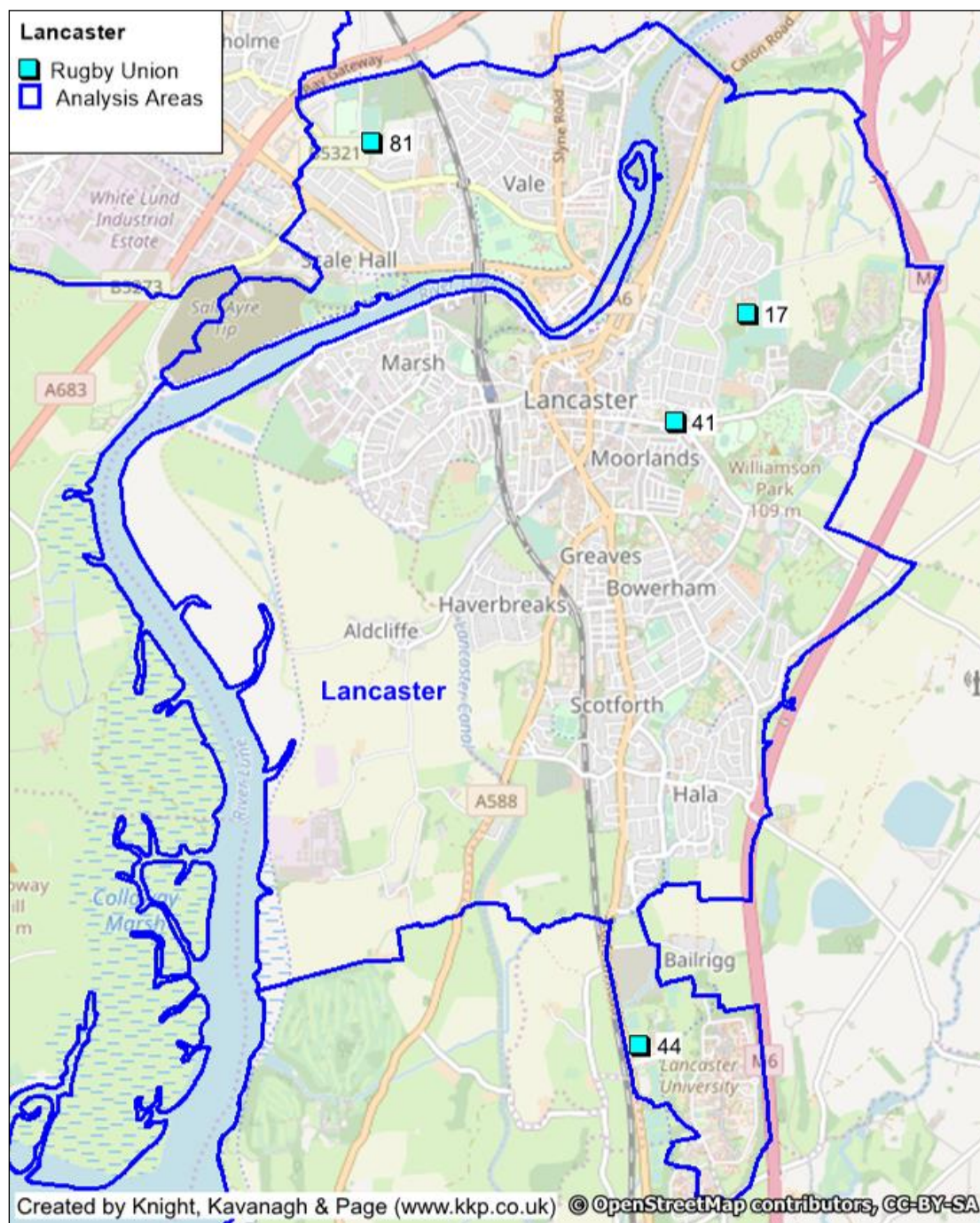
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Figure 5.2: Map of rugby union pitches within the Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area



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Figure 5.3: Map of rugby union pitches within the Lancaster Analysis Area



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Future supply

Vale of Lune RUFC report ambitions to establish a WR compliant 3G pitch on site, funds for which will come from a club member who owns adjoining land to the site. Should that land be sold for housing, it is reported that funds will be made available to the Club to build a 3G pitch onsite without a requirement for additional third-party funding. However, initial plans show that this should impact on other facilities (cricket) within the area.

Ownership/management

Security of tenure in Lancaster District is contrasting on a club by club basis. Vale of Lune RUFC is considered secure at its own site, owning its home venue freehold. Carnforth RFC, however, does not have security of tenure; being based at Carnforth High School, the Club rents pitches on a match-by-match basis.

Lancaster University RUFC is considered to have security of tenure at Lancaster University Sports Centre, with the University owning the site freehold. University of Cumbria RUFC is based at Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club, renting the facility on an annual basis. The short term of this agreement means that the Club is not considered to have secure tenure.

Table 5.3: Summary of security of tenure

Club name	Site ID	Site name	Nature of tenure	Type of security
Carnforth RFC	11	Carnforth High School	Rented	Unsecure
Lancaster University RUFC	44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Freehold	Secure
University of Cumbria RUFC	81	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Rented	Unsecure
Vale of Lune RFC	81	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Freehold	Secure

Pitch quality

The criteria for assessing rugby 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 5.4: 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 5.5: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch

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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 5.6: 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 majority of pitches are rated as standard quality (13 pitches or 68%). All of the remaining six pitches are of poor quality, with no good quality pitches in Lancaster District.

Table 5.7: Summary of rugby union pitch quality in Lancaster District

Analysis Area	Pitch quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Carnforth & Rural	-	-	2
Heysham and Morecombe	-	-	3
Lancaster	-	13	1
Total	-	13	6

The table overleaf shows quality ratings for each of the sites in the District based on non-technical site assessment scores and club feedback.

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Table 5.8: Rugby union pitch quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Ownership/ management	Community use	Pitch type	Non-technical assessment rating	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Comments
11	Carnforth High School	Carnforth & Rural	School	Yes	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	2	Two poor quality senior pitches which are available for community use and are rented by Carnforth RFC on a match by match basis. The pitches are subject to the School's curricular demand.
17	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	School	Yes-unused	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	1	A poor quality senior pitch which is available for community use but is currently unused. The pitches are subject to the School's curricular demand.
31	Bay Leadership Academy (formerly Heysham High School)	Heysham & Morecambe	School	Yes-unused	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	2	Two poor quality senior pitches which are available for community use but are currently unused. The pitches are subject to the School's curricular demand.
41	Lancaster Royal Grammar School	Lancaster	School	Yes-unused	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	6	Six, standard quality, senior pitches which are all available for community use but are currently unused. The pitches are subject to the School's extensive rugby programme.
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	University	No	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	3	Three, standard quality, senior pitches which are not available for community use, meaning that they are solely subject to demand from University teams.
53	Morecambe Community High School	Heysham & Morecambe	School	Yes-unused	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	1	A poor quality senior pitch which is available for community use but is currently unused. The pitches are subject to the School's curricular demand.
81	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Lancaster	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	4	Four senior pitches, all considered standard quality. One of the senior pitches is floodlit and accommodates all the Club's midweek training demand. This pitch is also slightly smaller than the other three senior pitches but meets minimum dimensions required to be considered a senior pitch.

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Ancillary facilities

Rugby union in Lancaster is largely club driven at club owned or managed sites, all of which, have access to changing facilities. Ancillary facilities at Vale of Lune RUFC are considered good quality, with the Club reporting no issues regarding changing or club rooms. Despite the overall good quality of facilities there has been issues with vandalism of the site with seats in the Club's one stand having been burnt.

Carnforth RUFC access changing facilities at Carnforth High School when it has fixtures, with the changing facilities considered to be standard quality.

Ancillary facilities accessed by Lancaster University at Lancaster University Sports Centre are of good quality, with sufficient facilities available to serve all pitches on site. The facilities accommodate all sport demand and are particularly busy on Wednesday afternoons during BUCS fixtures.

5.3: Demand

Competitive play

There are two community rugby union clubs based in Lancaster District, providing a total of 21 teams. There are seven senior teams, of which, there is a single women's team representing Vale of Lune RUFC. There is one colts boys' team, four junior boys' teams and six mixed sex mini squads which typically field several small sided teams playing a number of matches depending on availability and numbers on match days. All mini and junior teams represent Vale of Lune RUFC. There are three junior girls' teams, an U13s, U15s and U18s fielded by Vale of Lune RUFC. Remaining female participation is generally playing within mixed teams at mini age groups.

Carnforth RFC currently has one senior men's team only. At the start of the 2017/18 season the Club withdrew from the league structure as it was unable to raise a sufficient number of players to fulfil fixtures. Throughout the season the Club has played occasional friendlies with a view to entering the merit league system from next season.

Lancaster University also has four senior teams, one of which, is a women's team. These teams are exclusively for students studying at Lancaster University and therefore are not considered community teams. All four representative teams compete in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) leagues, with fixtures taking place on Wednesday afternoons.

University of Cumbria's senior men's team is based at Vale of Lune RUFC for home fixtures. The team competes in the BUCS leagues, playing matches on Wednesday afternoons.

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Table 5.9: Summary of club demand

Club	Analysis Area	No. of rugby union teams			
		Senior (19+)	Colts (18-19)	Junior (13-17)	Mini (6-12)
Carnforth RFC	Carnforth & Rural	1	-	-	-
Vale of Lune RUFC	Lancaster	6	1	7	6
Lancaster University	Lancaster	4	-	-	-
University of Cumbria	Lancaster	1	-	-	-
Total		12	1	7	6

Table 5.10: Summary of overall demand

Team play	No. of rugby union teams		
	Senior	Junior	Mini
Club leagues	5	1	-
Club friendlies/infrequent	2	7	6
University leagues	5	-	-
Total	12	8	6

Training

Of the four clubs in Lancaster District, two train on match pitches with remaining club using a 3G pitch, as seen in the table below. Carnforth RFC does not have any training demand, with the Club only playing occasional friendlies.

Table 5.11: Summary of club training provision (floodlit)²⁸

Club	Site ID	Site name	Floodlit training provision	Hours (MES)
Carnforth RFC	-	-	-	-
Vale of Lune RUFC	81	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Floodlit senior pitch	15 (10)
Lancaster University	44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Floodlit WR compliant 3G pitch.	7 (5)
University of Cumbria	81	Vale of Lune Rugby Union Football Club	Floodlit senior pitch	1 (1)

Vale of Lune RUFC reports that although it accommodates the majority of training demand on its one floodlit pitch, some of its teams choose to access 3G provision offsite in winter. As the occurrence of this is infrequent and ad-hoc it is assumed that all teams will train on the grass match pitch.

²⁸ Shows only midweek demand for floodlit training provision. Some mini and junior training takes place on Sunday mornings when there is no fixture and there isn't a requirement for floodlighting.

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Use of artificial pitches

Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost. Further detail on use of 3G pitches can be found in Part 7: Third Generation Artificial Pitches.

In December 2015, the RFU announced plans to increase the supply of available World Rugby (WR) certified pitches across the country as part of its Investment Strategy. This is to be made up of 60 pitches on rugby club sites, with a further 40 pitches on other community based sites with usage agreements securing capacity for use by local rugby clubs and groups. The RFU believes increased investment into 3G pitches will allow it to sustain and grow participation in the game given increasing pressure on grass pitches, changing player expectations, competition from other sports investing in artificial pitches and changing weather conditions.

There is currently one WR compliant 3G pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre which is available for community use but inaccessible due to a lack of capacity. The 3G pitch at LMC Sport and Fitness was previously WR compliant but the certification for the pitch expired in February 2018 meaning that the pitch requires retesting and recertification before any contact rugby activity can take place. This pitch is available for community use.

Future demand

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 up to 2031.

Table 5.12: Team generation rates (District wide)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2031)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (19-45)	26,505	10	2651	27,587	10.4	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	26,104	2	13052	24,838	1.9	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	4,756	5	951	5,473	5.8	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	4,615	3	1538	5,339	3.5	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	8,713	6	1452	9,553	6.6	0

When TGR's are applied by Analysis Area the forecasted growth in demand is not considered sufficient to create whole new teams at any age group, in any of the three Analysis Areas.

It is important to note that TGRs are based exclusively on population figures and do not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as coaching activity within schools linking to local clubs or NGB aims as part of the Whole Sport Plan.

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The RFU is focused on exploring opportunities to assist with the transition between late junior years and senior rugby. This area has a strategic focus from the RFU and is being facilitated by encouraging casual play and midweek senior matches. The RFU recognises the traditional reduction in participation numbers at this time and it is hoped that by addressing the decrease and offering alternative match times then clubs may be able to retain a larger number of players.

This is not the sole focus of the RFU, which is actively developing junior participation within Lancaster, based on a model of coaching sessions delivered in schools and local communities. Intentions are to form junior teams from these training groups which are linked to local schools and will use pitches at school sites, in some cases also linking to existing clubs to provide a performance pathway.

Participation increases

Future demand reported by clubs does not equate to the formation of new teams. For example, Vale of Lune RUFC report aspirations to increase participation numbers without necessarily creating additional teams; with any new members assimilated within existing playing squads.

As detailed earlier, Carnforth RFC withdrew from the league structure at the start of the 17/18 season due to a lack of players. The Club has remained active playing a few friendlies throughout the season but it is not felt that the number of teams representing the Club will increase.

The Strategy Report will contain a Housing Growth Scenario that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing development.

Unmet, latent and displaced 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. Neither club in Lancaster District reported any 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. Neither Vale of Lune RUFC nor Carnforth RFC report any latent demand.

Displaced demand refers to existing demand which is imported in or exported outside of the study area to or from neighbouring districts 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 identified imported or exported demand in Lancaster District.

Education

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools; however, the RFU is also active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012 which aims to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union. These schools link to a local team of RFU rugby development officers (RDOs) which deliver coaching sessions and support schools to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme.

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Three secondary schools in Lancaster, namely Carnforth, Heysham and Central Lancaster high schools, are three years in to the All Schools programme and have significantly increased rugby participation within each educational institution. This has resulted in a noticeable increase of junior membership at Vale of Lune RUFC, with the Club acting as a destination for the school activity.

Lancaster Royal Grammar School also has an established rugby programme, with the sport considered part of its core sports offering.

Links between Lancaster University and Vale of Lune RUFC are well established, with the former strengthening the playing stocks of the former throughout the season, whilst also offering students increased opportunities to play and train throughout the season.

In all instances where support for mini, junior and colts' rugby union teams has been identified, the RFU and the respective clubs are exploring options to provide sessions and fixtures within local schools and community organisations to further aid development

Infrequent play

The RFU has plans to encourage participants which have previously played rugby union to re-engage through participation as part of a more casual sporting offer. The league will provide opportunities for teams and players which are unable to play weekly or frequently for various reasons and will operate on an occasional basis. The league will also act as an entry point for newly created clubs and provide competitive opportunities.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the Analysis Areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week. Future demand is based on both team generation rates (TGRs) which are driven by population increases, as well as reported club development plans.

Table 5.13: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches

Analysis Area	Actual spare capacity ²⁹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Carnforth & Rural	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Heysham & Morecombe	-	-	-	-	-
Lancaster	-	10	10	-	10
Total	-	10	10	-	10.5

Overall there is a requirement for ten additional match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand. This shortfall is exacerbated when future demand is considered as Carnforth RUFC participating in a league structure will create consistent demand at Carnforth High School (Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area), resulting in overplay in this analysis area. TGR's do not predict the creation of additional teams, therefore no further future demand should be considered.

²⁹ In match equivalent sessions per week

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5.5: 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 affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times. To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.

All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided). From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch. Where mini pitches are not provided, mini (U7-12) teams play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch.

For senior and youth teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away). For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played across half of one senior pitch, based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.

All male adult club league rugby takes place on a Saturday afternoon. U13-18 rugby generally takes place on a Sunday morning. Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of team equivalents. Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and the club survey as follows:

Table 5.14: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

This guide should only be used as a very general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

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 completed in the last five years.

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The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for senior rugby union matches is Saturday afternoons and is considered such within the subsequent analysis, although junior and mini teams play on senior pitches on Sunday mornings.

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Table 5.15: Rugby union provision and level of current use within Lancaster District

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Floodlit	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
11	Carnforth High School	Carnforth & Rural	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	M0 / D1	2	No	3	3	-	The poor quality senior pitches accommodate curricular and extra-curricular demand resulting in the site being at capacity.
17	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	M0 / D1	1	No	1.5	1.5	-	The poor quality senior pitch accommodates curricular and extra-curricular demand resulting in the site being at capacity.
31	Bay Leadership Academy (formerly Heysham High School)	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	M0 / D1	2	No	3	3	-	The poor quality senior pitches accommodate curricular and extra-curricular demand resulting in the site being at capacity.
41	Lancaster Royal Grammar School	Lancaster	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	M1 / D1	6	No	12	12	-	The poor quality senior pitch accommodates curricular and extra-curricular demand resulting in the site being at capacity.
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	No	Unsecure	Senior	M1 / D1	3	No	4 ³⁰	6	2	The three senior rugby union pitches accommodate match demand from all of Lancaster University's four rugby union teams (three men's and one women's), along with the one rugby league team representing the University. All teams compete in the BUCS Leagues. Training demand from all squads takes place on the WR compliant 3G pitch on site and means that two MES of potential capacity exists per week.
53	Morecambe Community High School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	M0 / D1	1	No	1.5	1.5	-	The poor quality senior pitch accommodates curricular and extra-curricular demand resulting in the site being at capacity.
81	Vale of Lune RUFC	Lancaster	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D1	1	Yes	12	2	10	As the only floodlit pitch on site the pitch accommodates all midweek training demand and is therefore overplayed by ten MES per week.
							3	No	6	6	-	Accommodating only match demand from Vale of Lune RUFC and the University of Cumbria, the three pitches are at currently at capacity.

Mini and junior play takes place on adult pitches and this has been added where applicable to calculate the actual play on sites. Match equivalent sessions per week for training sessions taking place on match pitches have also been added.

³⁰ Match equivalent sessions taking place on the rugby union pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre includes those by the University rugby union, rugby league, American football and ultimate frisbee teams.

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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 one site which displays potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play totalling two match equivalent sessions. However, in practice there is no spare capacity on senior pitches at peak time for senior play.

Table 5.16: Summary of actual spare capacity on senior pitches (Saturday PM)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Potential capacity	Actual spare capacity	Comments
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	2	-	No actual spare capacity at peak time due to the site being unavailable for community use and unsecure.
				-	Total

The programming of mini/junior rugby matches can be unclear with regards to ascertaining spare capacity, especially at peak time as it varies from week to week. Mini/junior rugby sections do not play regular matches as part of a league format, rather clubs organise for a number of their mini age groups to play those from another club at once either at home or away. Teams will generally hold training sessions instead on the weeks that mini / junior sections do not have a fixture event arranged. This means that mini/junior sections require use of all home pitches each week; which can cause issues, with Vale of Lune RUFC having insufficient capacity at its home venue to accommodate all mini and junior teams simultaneously.

Overplay

There is one senior pitch at Vale of Lune RUFC which is overplayed totalling ten match equivalent sessions all at Vale of Lune RUFC. The pitch is subject to all of the Club's training demand, along with some match play. The University OF Cumbria rugby team also utilises the pitch for training demand.

Table 5.17: Overplay summary

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
81	Vale of Lune RUFC	Lancaster	10
Total			10

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Rugby union summary

- ▶ **Current supply is not sufficient to cater for the level of demand expressed in Lancaster District at present, totalling a need for a further ten match equivalent sessions on senior pitches.**
- ▶ In total, there are 19 rugby union pitches in Lancaster District across seven sites, all of which are senior sized. All pitches, apart from those at Lancaster University Sports Centre, are available for community use in some capacity. It should be noted that one of the rugby union pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre is dually used for rugby league.
- ▶ At present, there is one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Lancaster District, located at Lancaster University Sports Centre. There is a second WR compliant pitch at LMC Sport and Fitness, however the certification expired in February 2018 and a retest to renew certification is required. Until this takes place any full contact activity on this pitch would not be covered by insurance and therefore should be avoided.
- ▶ Most (74%) natural turf rugby union provision is located in the Lancaster Analysis Area where there are 14 pitches, 11 of which are available for community use. The remaining provision is divided between the Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area (10%) and the Heysham and Morecombe Analysis Area (16%), with pitches in the latter area available for community use but unused.
- ▶ The majority of pitches are rated as standard quality (13 pitches or 68%). All of the remaining six pitches are of poor quality, with no good quality pitches in Lancaster District.
- ▶ Vale of Lune RUFC and Lancaster University both have secure tenure of respective home grounds, owning land freehold; whilst Carnforth RFC rents a pitch at Carnforth High School and University of Cumbria rent Vale of Lune RUFC, both on a match by match basis and therefore not considered secure tenure.
- ▶ Of the four clubs in Lancaster District, three train on match pitches with the remaining club, Lancaster University, use a WR compliant 3G pitch.
- ▶ Ancillary facilities across Lancaster District vary in quality with those at Vale of Lune RUFC considered good quality despite recent vandalism damaging seats in the Club's stand. This being said, floodlighting in Lancaster District is considered insufficient to support training demand for both Vale of Lune RUFC and Carnforth RFC.
- ▶ There are two community rugby union clubs playing in Lancaster District, providing a total of 21 teams. There are seven senior teams, of which, there are is a single women's team representing Vale of Lune RUFC; one colts boys' team, four junior boys' teams and six mini squads. There are also three junior girls' team, an U13s, U15s and U18s fielded by Vale of Lune RUFC. Remaining female participation is generally playing within mixed teams at mini age groups.
- ▶ In addition, the two universities, Lancaster University and University of Cumbria, supply a combined 5 senior teams, all competing in the BUCS leagues on Wednesday afternoons.
- ▶ TGRs do not forecast any future demand, when applied on an Analysis Area basis.
- ▶ There are four senior pitches, all at Vale of Lune RUFC, which are overplayed totalling ten match equivalent sessions.
- ▶ Vale of Lune RUFC does have ambitions to establish a WR compliant 3G pitch on site, funded via the sale of some land, without the requirement for additional third-party funding.
- ▶ Carnforth RFC withdrew from the league structure at the start of the 2017/18 season and now plays occasional friendlies throughout the season. The Club plans to enter the merit league for the 2018/19 season which will provide the Club with consistent competitive fixtures.
- ▶ Rugby in local secondary schools is growing, with three schools (Bay Leadership Academy, Carnforth High School and Central Lancaster High School) all in the third year of the All Schools programme. Demand in the schools has grown and adds to the strong presence of the sport currently in place at Lancaster Royal Grammar School.

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PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

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

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable 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.

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 England
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	Desirable All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey 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.

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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.

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

Club consultation

There are five hockey clubs based or playing within Lancaster District. Consultation was completed via survey sent out by the Council with four of these giving a response rate of 80%, with only Lancaster & Morecambe HC not responding to consultation. Two of the five hockey clubs in Lancaster District are university based clubs, from Lancaster University and the University of Cumbria; these clubs are solely available to each university's student population.

The three community clubs based in Lancaster District are:

- ◆ Lancaster HC
- ◆ Lancaster & Morecambe HC
- ◆ Lancaster Nomads HC

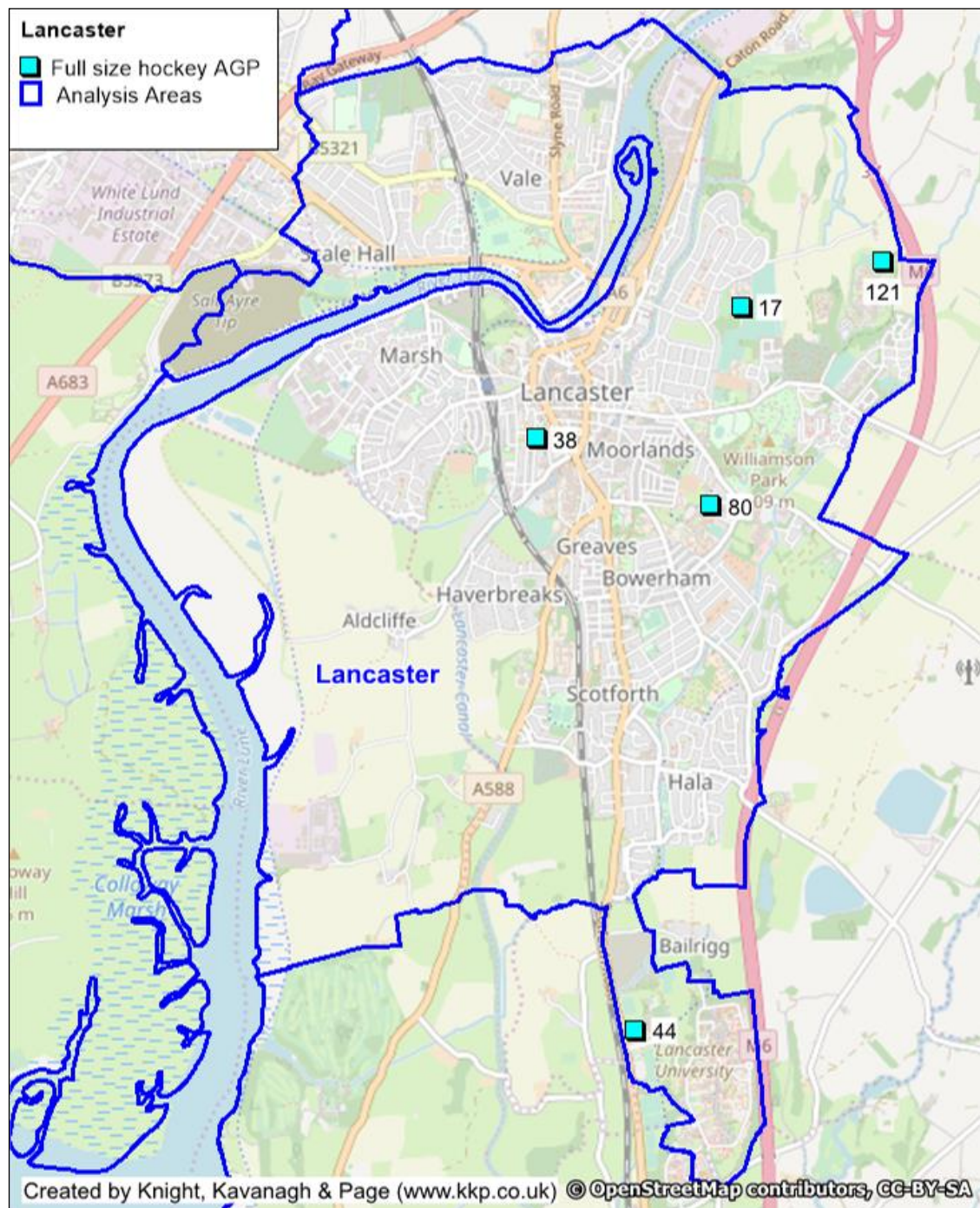
6.2: Supply

There are currently six full sized hockey suitable AGPs in Lancaster District, four of which, are available for community use. The pitches at Lancaster Girls Grammar School and HMP Lancaster Farms are the only pitches which are neither floodlit nor available for community use. All six full sized hockey suitable AGPs are located in the Lancaster Analysis Area.

Additionally, there are two smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs; a sand filled pitch located at Carnforth High School (Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area) and a sand dressed pitch at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy (Lancaster); both are floodlit and available for community use. Though too small to host competitive matches and senior training, smaller sized AGPs may be able to accommodate some junior or school training or curriculum use.

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Figure 6.1: Map of hockey suitable AGPs within Lancaster District



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Table 6.2: Full sized hockey suitable AGPs (including community hockey users)

Site ID	Site	Analysis Area	Number of AGPs	Floodlighting	Surface	Availability for community use	Home site for
17	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	1	Yes	Sand filled	Yes	No current community hockey use due to quality issues
38	Lancaster Girls Grammar School	Lancaster	1	No	Sand dressed	No	Not accessible
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	2	Yes	Sand dressed	Yes	Lancaster University HC Lancaster HC Lancaster Nomads HC
80	University of Cumbria Sports Centre	Lancaster	1	Yes	Sand dressed	Yes	University of Cumbria HC Lancaster & Morecambe HC
121	HMP Lancaster Farms	Lancaster	1	No	Sand dressed	No	Not accessible

Table 6.3: Small sized hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis Area	Number of AGPs	Availability for community use	Floodlighting	Surface	Dimensions (metres)
11	Carnforth High School	Carnforth & Rural	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	62 x32
62	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	Lancaster	1	Yes	Yes	Sand dressed	70x37

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Quality

Half of the full sized hockey suitable AGPs are rated as good quality (three pitches – 50%). Two are rated as poor and one is rated as standard quality.

The AGP at Central Lancaster High School is reported to be particularly poor quality. The surface is now very slippery and offers little grip underfoot and is no longer being marketed for external community use as a result.

Table 6.4: Summary of full sized hockey AGP quality in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site	Number of AGPs	Surface	Quality	Year built (refurbished)
17	Central Lancaster High School	1	Sand filled	Poor	2006
38	Lancaster Girls Grammar School	1	Sand dressed	Standard	1998 (2010)
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	2	Sand dressed	Good	2005 1992 (2009)
80	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	1	Sand dressed	Good	2000 (2012)
121	HMP Lancaster Farms	1	Sand dressed	Poor	2000

It is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately 10 years (depending on levels of use), though its lifespan can be prolonged in some cases where maintenance is of particularly high quality and rigor.

The AGPs located at Central Lancaster High School, Lancaster University Sports Centre and HMP Lancaster Farms are all beyond recommended lifespans and are therefore recommended for resurfacing in the near future. It is likely that these surfaces will deteriorate to a point where they become unusable, which would require the user clubs to find alternative provision.

Although the pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre is beyond its recommended lifespan the consistent, high level of maintenance has resulted in the pitch retaining a good quality; therefore it is considered that this pitch will not require resurfacing in the near future, but quality should be monitored to ensure that there is not a sudden decline in quality.

It should also be noted that all other full-size hockey suitable AGPs will also exceed the recommended lifespan within the next five years and may also require resurfacing to continue being usable for competitive hockey.

The two small sized AGPs in the District are both located at school sites namely Carnforth High School and Ripley St Thomas CE Academy; with both also exceeding the recommended lifespans, having been installed in 2007 and 2003 respectively. The pitch at Carnforth High School is 11 years old and is considered poor quality. It is not used for community club hockey and in practice serves as a key facility for football, used significantly by all Carnforth Rangers FC (ten teams), Millhead FC (two teams), Warton Warriors FC (two teams), as well as the Sportsreach five a side football league which has ten teams using the pitch on Wednesday

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evenings. This considered, the surface may be better suited to replacement with a 3G surface given the level of football use, dependent on requirements for School use.

Ripley St Thomas CE Academy is used by Lancaster & Morecambe HC for junior training on a Tuesday evening with the surface 15 years old and of standard quality.

Table 6.5: Summary of smaller sized hockey AGP quality in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site	Number of AGPs	Surface	Quality	Year built (refurbished)
11	Carnforth High School	1	Sand filled	Poor	2007
62	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	1	Sand dressed	Standard	2003

Ownership/management

Of the six full sized hockey suitable AGPs, one (HMP Lancaster Farms) is owned by Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service and is managed internally by the prison itself.

The five other full sized hockey suitable AGPs are owned by education sites, with lettings for all managed by the individual sites. This means that only the university based clubs (two from Lancaster University and one from University of Cumbria) are considered to have security of tenure at home venues, with the three community clubs renting pitches from the universities on an annual basis.

Ancillary provision

Access to ancillary facilities at school sites can often be restricted for security reasons where changing rooms are located in the main school building or where there is a lack of staffing to open and manage access. This does not affect clubs in the District as all are based at University sites at which access to changing and toilet facilities are available

None of the hockey clubs in the District report any issues regarding access to or quality of changing facilities for either match or training demand.

6.3: Demand

There are 33 hockey teams, provided across three community clubs and two student-only university clubs using three AGPs in Lancaster District. Membership across the District totals 471 members, with 177 of those being juniors.

Lancaster & Morecambe HC has the largest number of total members; with more than half (62%) being juniors. The Club provides 67% of the District's junior membership, although all three community clubs do have some junior members.

Lancaster Nomads HC is the smallest hockey club in the District with 40 members, producing three senior women's teams on a regular basis.

Lancaster HC reports that the Club has seen a decrease in the number of members across both the senior and junior sections, which has resulted in the fifth senior team needing to be

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withdrawn out of its league, now playing infrequent friendly matches; and the first team suffering from consecutive relegations. The Club feels that a lack of coaches and volunteers adversely impacted participation in the District, along with some schools in the area no longer offering hockey as a core sport in physical education classes. This has latterly had an impact on the number of junior members within the Club. With the reduction in membership the Club does not have any plans to increase its membership; and subsequently the number of teams representing the Club.

As expected, neither university club has any junior members, but both do have sufficient men's and women's membership to support at least one team of each gender to regularly compete. Lancaster University HC teams all compete in the British University and College Sports (BUCS) leagues on Wednesday afternoons, with both the men's and women's first teams also competing in EH regional leagues on Saturdays, namely the North West Hockey League Division 2 (men's) and the Lancashire Central Premier Division (women's).

University of Cumbria HC teams only compete in the BUCS leagues with producing just one senior men's and women's teams each.

Table 6.6: Summary of club membership in Lancaster District

Name of club	Number of members			
	Men's	Women's	Juniors	Total
Lancaster & Morecambe HC	43	31	119	193
Lancaster HC	-	60	48	108
Lancaster Nomads HC	-	31	9	40
Lancaster University HC	49	49	-	98
University of Cumbria HC	14	17	-	31
Totals	106	188	177	471

Table 6.7: Summary of hockey teams competing in Lancaster District

Name of club	Men's	Women's	Juniors
Lancaster & Morecambe HC	3	3	1
Lancaster HC	-	5	10
Lancaster Nomads HC	-	3	-
Lancaster University HC	3	3	-
University of Cumbria HC	1	1	-
Totals	7	15	11

Six of the Club's junior teams participate in local tournaments and therefore do not access the pitches at Lancaster University Sports Centre for match demand.

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EH Player Pathway

The Player Pathway (PP) is the junior talent development pathway. It encompasses the whole of the hockey landscape which includes club and school activity as well as the PP Development Centres (DCs). The purpose of the PP is to provide development opportunities for young people, which is fair, equitable and consistent. It is to ensure that a suitable level of coaching and competition is offered for people at the appropriate stage of their development and to maximise the chance they have of fulfilling their potential whether that potential is as a club or International player, coach or official. The PP can be accessed by playing at school, a local club or attending one of the local centres. There is one entry point into the PP centres which is at DC level. The first time a player accesses the player pathway they must enter at DC level.

Development Centres (DCs) and Academy Centres (ACs)

DCs and ACs are local training centres for the U13 to U17 age groups. DCs are open to any hockey player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach, with ACs open to any player who has been nominated by a DC coach. After attending a DC, an AC is the next step on the player pathway. Included in the DCs/ACs are Goalkeeper (GK) Academies, which provide specific coaching sessions for goalkeepers. The nearest to Lancaster District is the Lancashire North DC, AC and GK Academy will be based at various venues in Lancashire including Stoneyhurst College (Ribble Valley) and AKS (Fylde).

Performance Centre (PC)

A PC is a training centre for the U15 and U17 age groups. The PC is one of only 14 in England. There is now a PC based at Mill Farm Sports Village (Fylde).

Displaced demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Lancaster District registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met. This is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. In the same manner, imported demand refers to that displaced from other local authorities into Lancaster District based on the same reasoning. There is currently no displaced demand seeking facilities either inside or outside of Lancaster District.

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. No clubs explicitly identified any latent demand in the Lancaster District.

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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 aside 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.

EH's aim over the next ten years is to double participation nationally. EH applies a growth rate to current affiliated membership numbers to determine anticipated increases in future demand. The predicted growth rate for Lancaster District is 5.5% and the table below shows anticipated future growth at each club. This does not include informal or recreation hockey growth.

Table 6.8: Predicted future club based membership growth (2016/17 affiliation data)

Club	Current adult membership	Future adult members	Current junior membership	Future junior members	Total current membership	Total future membership
Lancaster & Morecambe HC	74	78	119	125	193	203
Lancaster HC	60	63	48	50	108	113
Lancaster Nomads HC	31	32	9	9	40	41
Lancaster University HC	98	103	-	-	98	103
University of Cumbria HC	31	32	-	-	31	32
Total	294	308	177	185	471	493

Across the five clubs competing in Lancaster District, there are a total of 294 adults playing hockey. With the anticipated growth rate applied, there is a likely increase of 14 adults in the future. Further to this, there are a total of 177 juniors playing hockey which when the growth rate is applied will likely increase by eight juniors. The predicted growth for Lancaster District amounts to a total 22 new members District wide.

Nationally, since 2012, hockey has seen a 65% increase in juniors taking up the sport within the club environment. This increase is expected to continue across all age groups in the future, especially given the success of Great Britain's women's team in the 2016 Rio Olympics and the anticipated legacy impact.

Further to this, England Hockey hosted the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup in July 2018 and it is hoped that the event will have a similar effect to Rio, creating a springboard for the game across all age groups, but especially amongst young females.

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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 such 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 AGPs 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 AGPs across the District. This should be considered when assessing demand for AGPs 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.

The Strategy Report will contain a Housing Growth Scenario that will estimate the additional demand for hockey arising from housing development.

6.4: Capacity analysis

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Central Lancaster High School was previously available for community use however is not presently allowing external use of the AGP because of poor quality and potential safety issues.

Table 6.9: Usage of hockey suitable AGPs (available for community use)

Site ID	Site	Number of AGPs	Floodlit	Analysis Area	Community use hours available in the peak period (per AGP)	Clubs/groups using the pitch (teams)	Midweek/training capacity	Match capacity	Comments
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	2	Yes	Lancaster	Midweek: 36 hours Weekend: 32 hours Total: 68 hours	Lancaster University HC (6) Lancaster HC (5) Lancaster Nomads HC (3)	Both pitches are available for a full 18 hours during the midweek peak period. Lancaster University HC teams use the pitch for both training and matches midweek, training on Mondays with BUCS fixtures on Wednesday afternoons. Lancaster HC accesses the pitch for four hours on a Tuesday, when all squads train. Lancaster Nomads HC trains on Wednesday evenings, with all playing squads training simultaneously for two hours.	Both pitches are accessed by Lancaster University HC, Lancaster Nomads HC and Lancaster HC on Saturdays, with eight teams using the site for fixtures at this time. Both Lancaster HC and Lancaster Nomads HC, also access the pitches on Sundays for the Ladies' development teams, competing in the Cumbria Hockey League; and the former also has four junior girls' teams which play regular fixtures as part of formal league structures, at this time.	A total of 17 individual teams access the pitches for both matches and training demand. Whilst one pitch has exceeded its recommended lifespan, the other is one year away from also meeting this timeframe. Given the number of teams utilising both pitches each should be protected for future hockey use via resurfacing as hockey suitable surfaces. There is some spare capacity for additional demand on Saturdays (eight teams) and on Sundays, however, both men's and women's leagues only allow games to commence from midday onwards at weekends, reducing the capacity available to be able to accommodate six additional teams. There is also some capacity midweek to accommodate additional training demand.

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Site ID	Site	Number of AGPs	Floodlit	Analysis Area	Community use hours available in the peak period (per AGP)	Clubs/groups using the pitch (teams)	Midweek/training capacity	Match capacity	Comments
80	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	1	Yes	Lancaster	Midweek: 18 hours Weekend: 16 hours Total: 34 hours	University of Cumbria HC (2) Lancaster & Morecambe HC (6)	<p>The pitch is available for a full 18 hours during the midweek peak period.</p> <p>University of Cumbria HC utilises the pitch for training on a Monday evening and a Wednesday afternoon for BUCS fixtures. Training on Mondays varies between two and three hours.</p> <p>Lancaster & Morecambe HC accesses the pitch on Thursday evenings for training, hiring the pitch from 19:30 to 22:00, an hour of which falls outside of SE FPM peak time.</p> <p>The University reports that there is no capacity midweek to accommodate additional bookings midweek.</p>	<p>Six teams from Lancaster & Morecambe HC access the pitch for home fixtures on a Saturday (three men's and three women's).</p> <p>The Club's junior team does not play fixtures and is a dedicated junior training squad.</p> <p>University of Cumbria HC teams play midweek; and therefore do not require pitch access at the weekends.</p>	<p>Eight teams access the site for both match and training demand.</p> <p>The University reports that there is no capacity to relocate Lancaster & Morecambe HC's junior training demand, which currently trains on Tuesday nights on the small sized AGP at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy.</p> <p>The pitch should be protected for continued hockey use. There is capacity for two additional teams to utilise the venue for home matches during the peak period (Saturday); however, both men's and women's leagues only allow games to commence from midday onwards at weekends, which means that there is no capacity on the pitch to accommodate additional teams during the peak period for senior play.</p>

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Peak time demand

Most men's and women's hockey teams currently play matches on a Saturday therefore this is considered to be the peak time for use of AGPs for competitive play. The only teams that do not play at peak time are junior teams, senior teams competing in the Cumbria Hockey League and the eight university teams which take part in the British University and College Sports (BUCS) leagues on Wednesday afternoons.

Peak training time is considered midweek, with all squads taking part in at least one session per week.

6.5: Supply and demand analysis

As per the PPS guidance, a floodlit AGP with full and unrestricted availability in the Sport England peak period on Saturdays (peak time for hockey in Lancaster) is considered able to provide four match equivalent sessions throughout the day. This is equivalent to accommodating eight teams playing on a home and away fixture basis.

However, given restrictions on start times by the local league structures that senior teams play in, in 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.

Table 6.10 evidences that, given league restrictions regarding start times, only Lancaster University Sports Centre has capacity to accommodate additional hockey demand at senior peak time. The hockey suitable AGP at University of Cumbria Sport Centre is at capacity during this period.

It also shows that, given league restrictions, that current demand for hockey requires access to three fully available AGPs to be sufficiently accommodate match demand, which is currently being met.

There is also a requirement for at least three full sized hockey suitable AGPs, all of which should be fully available, to sufficiently accommodate all training demand from teams in the District; as evidenced by Lancaster & Morecambe HC's junior team currently utilising the small sized pitch at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy; due to a lack of available capacity at the University of Cumbria.

Table 6.10: Peak time capacity analysis of hockey AGPs in Lancaster District (with league restrictions)

Site ID	Site	Match equivalent sessions (Saturday)		
		Capacity available	Usage	Capacity balance
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	6	4	2
80	University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus)	3	3	-
Total		9	7	2

University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster Campus) is at capacity, with six teams currently using the site as a home venue at this time. There is also one team using the pitch for matches on Sundays, meaning that there is capacity for additional demand at this

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time, which is traditionally when junior teams compete, as well as midweek for university hockey.

Lancaster University Sports Centre can accommodate six match equivalent sessions on a Saturday, due to being a double pitch site. Currently there are eight teams using the venue for home matches at this time, meaning there is capacity to potentially accommodate equivalent of an additional four teams on Saturdays. Unlike the University of Cumbria site, Lancaster University Sports Centre has significant use on Sundays by both senior and junior teams, meaning that capacity at this time is minimal.

Central Lancaster High School is currently unavailable for community use due to quality issues but the site previously offered external community use and if resurfaced as a hockey suitable surface and brought back into operation, it would be able to deliver additional capacity for community hockey.

6.6: Conclusions

The current supply of community available, hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of match demand at peak time. Training demand is adequately being met due to utilisation of the small sized hockey suitable pitch at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy, however, the Lancaster & Morecambe HC would prefer this demand to be relocated to a full size hockey suitable AGP if possible.

Priority issue for hockey is the number of pitches that are beyond or nearing the recommended ten-year lifespan and therefore will require resurfacing either imminently or in the coming few years. This is a particular issue at both university sites (Lancaster University Sports Centre and University of Cumbria Sports Centre) as pitches on these sites accommodate all of the District's hockey match demand despite being beyond recommended lifespan.

It is also key that the AGP at Central Lancaster High School, where the pitch is in an unusable condition, that the pitch is resurfaced to improve quality; encouraging use by both School use and external community hire.

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Hockey summary

- ◀ **Current supply of community available, hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate current and future levels of match demand.**
- ◀ **There is a requirement for at least three hockey suitable AGPs with full floodlighting and availability in the peak periods. There are presently three available in the District, potentially four should Central Lancaster High School be resurfaced.**
- ◀ **However, key sites for community hockey have met or exceeded the recommended surface lifespan. Resurfacing of these AGPs to be able to continue to provide a high quality experience is the greatest priority for hockey in the area.**
- ◀ There are currently six full sized hockey suitable AGPs in Lancaster District, three of which are available for community use. The pitches at Lancaster Girls Grammar School and HMP Lancaster Farms are neither floodlit nor available for community use, whilst Central Lancaster High School is of such poor quality that external community use has been ceased until improved.
- ◀ All six full sized hockey suitable AGPs are located in the Lancaster Analysis Area.
- ◀ Additionally, there are two smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs; a sand filled pitch located at Carnforth High School (Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area) and a sand dressed pitch at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy (Lancaster); both are floodlit and available for community use.
- ◀ The majority of full sized AGPs (three – 50%) are rated as good quality. Two are rated as poor quality and one as standard quality.
- ◀ The AGPs located at Central Lancaster High School, Lancaster University Sports Centre and HMP Lancaster Farms are all beyond recommended lifespans. It should also be noted that all other full-size hockey suitable AGPs will also exceed the recommended lifespan within the next five years.
- ◀ Consideration should be given to the refurbishment of Lancaster University Sports Centre and University of Cumbria Sports Centre which accommodate all hockey demand in the District and deteriorating quality affect continued usage for hockey.
- ◀ There are 33 hockey teams, provided across three community clubs and two student-only university clubs using three AGPs in Lancaster District. There are a total of 471 hockey participants in the District, 177 of which are juniors.
- ◀ When the EH Growth Rate is applied to current membership numbers there is a predicted increase of 22 members forecast; eight of which will be adults.
- ◀ Two of the three available, hockey suitable AGPs in Lancaster District are considered to have capacity for additional use at weekends; the pitch at University of Cumbria Sports Centre being at capacity. Resurfacing of the Central Lancaster High School pitch would create further available capacity for community hockey.

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PART 7: THIRD GENERATION ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (3G PITCHES)

7.1: Introduction

There are several surface types that fall into the category of artificial grass pitch (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (also known as third generation turf or 3G), sand based (filled or dressed) and water based.

Table 7.1: AGP type and sport suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football.
Sand	Sand Filled	Competitive hockey and football training.
Sand	Sand Dressed	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training.
Water	Water based	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated.

England Hockey'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) when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FA or FIFA certified and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play at mini soccer and youth level. The recommended FA dimensions for a full sized 3G pitch are 100x64 metres with additional run off areas of three metres required on each side. Minimum playing area dimensions to meet performance standard criteria for competitive football are 90x45 metres (or 100x64 metres for FIFA sanctioned international matches), with additional run off areas of three metres required on each side. FIFA 3G pitch certification is required to host competitive adult match play at Step 3 and below, whilst for teams playing at Steps 1 or 2 pitches are required to have FIFA Pro standard certification, further information on which is included later in the section. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for Artificial Grass Pitches for Rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place. All full sized World Rugby compliant 3G pitches feature on the RFU register, including expiry dates of certification³¹. Upon registration, World Rugby compliancy is valid for two years before renewal and retesting is required.

³¹<http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

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Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the RFL to meet its Performance Standard for Synthetic Turf Pitches. 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, consequently World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements and are deemed suitable for rugby league use subject to passing an additional exclusive 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.

7.2: Supply

For the purposes of this PPOSS, full sized 3G pitches are defined as those which meet FA minimum dimension criteria for adult football (90x45 metres). It should be noted that within other external documentation the FA typically refers to 3G pitches as 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs).

There are six full sized 3G pitches in Lancaster District, all of which have floodlighting. Five are available for community use. The pitch which is unavailable for community use is at Globe Arena and is disused at present as detailed later in the section.

There are no small sized 3G pitches accessible for use although one exists at the Globe Arena and is detailed later in the section.

The spread of full sized 3G pitch provision is not evenly distributed across the District. Of the five operational pitches, four are located in the Heysham & Morecambe Area (80%) whilst just one is located elsewhere (20% of supply), in the Lancaster Analysis Area at Lancaster University Sports Centre. The latter is also subject to significant student sport use as its primary function, meaning that whilst it is available for community use, it contributes little capacity for community use, explored later in this section, meaning all of the broadly access facilities lie within the Heysham & Morecambe Area.

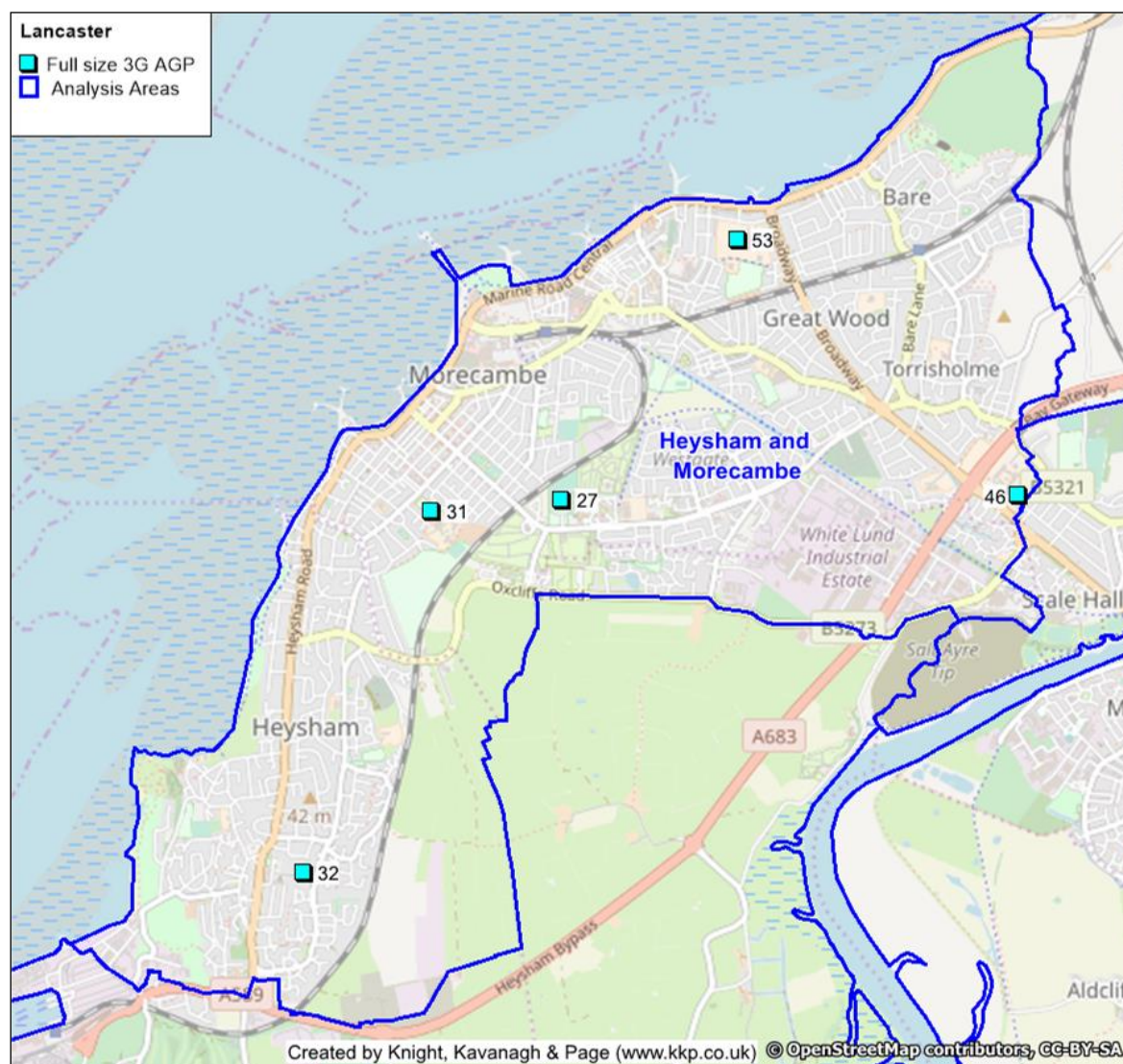
Three of the five available full sized pitches are presently certified for competitive use and listed on the FA 3G Football Turf Pitch Register, representing 60% of full sized 3G pitch supply. Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre was previously registered however was not retested for certification and thus is no longer registered to accommodate competitive play.

The 3G pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre presently features on the RFU register³² of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. The pitch is due for renewal of certification in October this year (2018). The 3G pitch at LMC Sports & Fitness was also previously RFU registered however does not presently feature after the pitch was due for retesting and certification renewal in February 2018.

³²<http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

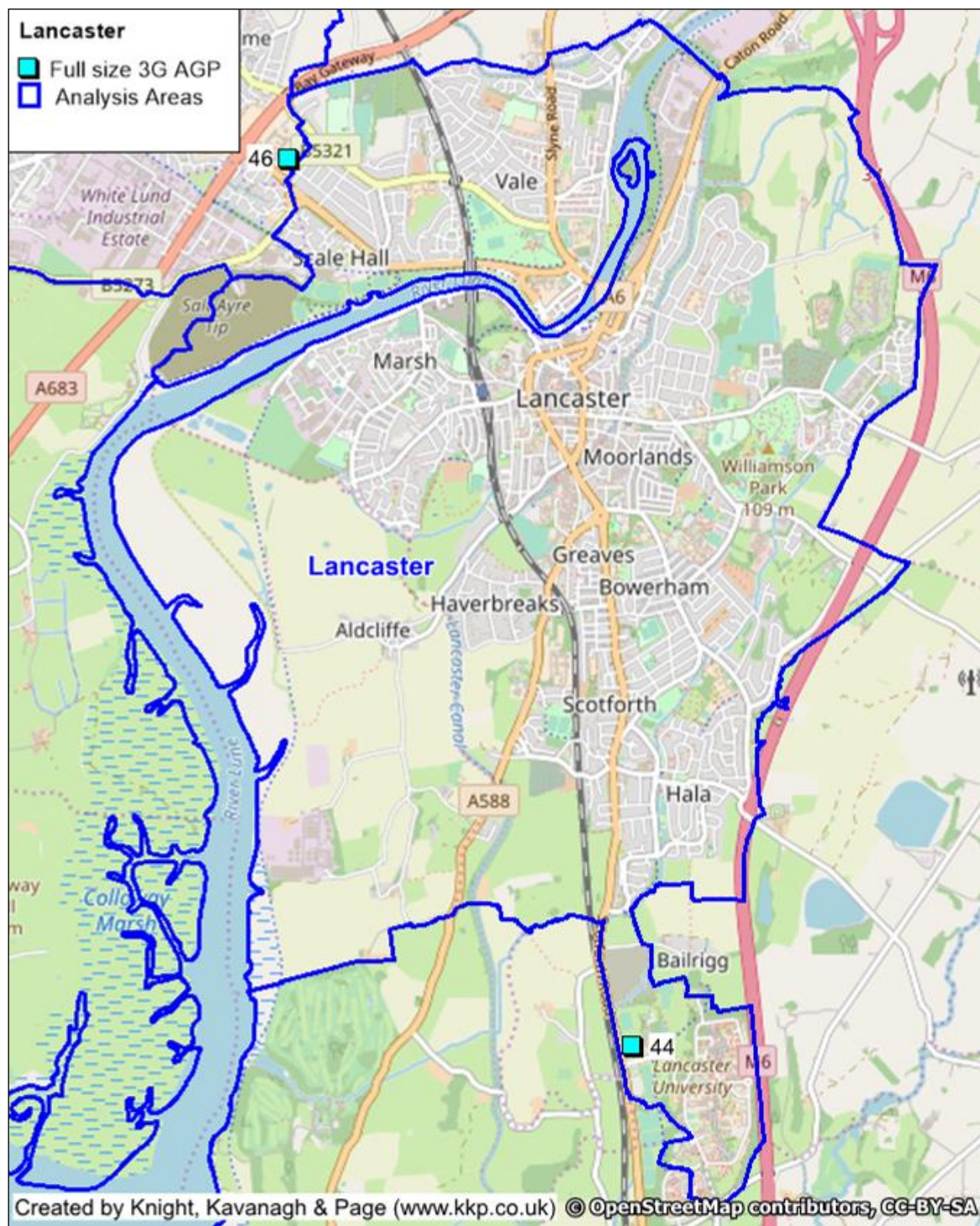
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Figure 7.1: Map of 3G pitches within the Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area



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Figure 7.2: Map of 3G pitches within the Lancaster Analysis Area



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Table 7.2: Full sized 3G pitches in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site name	Ownership/management	Analysis area	Availability for community use	Floodlighting	Surface type	Dimensions ³³ (metres)	Certification	Renewal date (where known)
31	Bay Leadership Academy (former Heysham High School)	Academy	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Yes	Medium Pile 3G	95x55	FA	September 2020
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	University	Lancaster	Yes ³⁴	Yes	Long Pile 3G	108x66	World Rugby	4/10/18
46	LMC Sport and Fitness	College	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Yes	Medium Pile 3G	100x65	FA	8/9/2018
53	Morecambe Community High School	School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Yes	Medium Pile 3G	90x60	FA	17/10/2019
27	Globe Arena	Private	Heysham & Morecambe	No - disused	Yes	Medium Pile 3G	95x65	-	-
32	Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre	Community	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	Yes	Medium Pile 3G	100x65	FA expired	August 2017

³³ Excluding run off areas. FA/FIFA Performance Standard Testing Criteria requires 3m run off areas in each direction. Some pitches of or close to minimum dimensions though compliant may not be considered to be of sufficient size to accommodate adult football matches.

³⁴ Available for external use and used by some community teams for training, however offers relatively little capacity for external use at peak times due to in-house student sport programming

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Disused pitches

There are presently two 3G pitches which lie disused at the Globe Arena, one of which is full sized and one small sized (50x30m). Having experienced financial issues, the company which previously managed the 3G pitch was dissolved and the land was taken by the bank in lieu of the remaining debt. Consequently, the 3G pitches have not been accessible or let for use, whilst maintenance also ceased. However, Morecambe FC continue to use the main stadium adjacent. As well as being available to external community groups, the 3G pitches were previously used by Morecambe FC youth, development and women's teams which consequently displaced demand to LMC Sport & Fitness.

Morecambe FC Community Sports (the charitable trust linked to Morecambe FC), the Premier League and the Football League Trust are in the process of negotiating potential purchase of the land from the bank to bring the 3G pitches and hard courts behind them back into operation. The Trust is currently negotiating a price of purchase supported by the Premier League. Whilst the 3G pitches are rated as standard quality within this audit, LFA reports that some level of repair works will be required to bring the surfaces back to suitable quality for regular use.

Future plans for provision

Though full sized 3G pitches are considered those which meet FA minimum pitch dimensions, it is recommended that any new 3G pitches built in future should meet FA recommended pitch dimensions so to ensure suitability for all formats of football and maximise opportunities for use.

Table 7.3: FA recommended 3G pitch sizes

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

Central Lancaster High School recently approached Lancashire FA regarding the potential to resurface the existing sand based AGP to a 3G surface. The surface is slippery and offers little grip and as a result is not in use. However, given the School is active in hockey and it is considered that resurfacing as a hockey suitable surface with the development of a new 3G pitch elsewhere onsite is a more suitable proposal. The School has identified a piece of land towards the South of the site which it shares with Lancaster Royal Grammar School, buffering the High School Playing Field with Memorial Playing Field used by the Grammar School. The High School is presently in discussions with the Grammar School regarding a potential full sized 3G pitch here.

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Lancaster Boys & Girls Club has developed a proposal for the creation of a new small sized 3G pitch with floodlighting, on playing field which presently accommodates a poor quality mini soccer pitch to the rear of the building. The Club already has changing rooms and toilets to support this, though some improvements to provision may be required to support any new pitch. The Club operates as a charitable organisation and secured funding support for the early stages of site feasibility which has been completed, though it states it intends to seek further external grant funding to deliver the proposed scheme. Rationale for the proposal is based on there being no other 3G pitches for team training in the central Lancaster area other than those at universities, a better quality recreational football facility for existing club and youth activities including diversional and intervention groups, as well serving as a daytime sports provision for the neighbouring 240 pupil Dallas Road Primary School which has only a tarmac playground for outdoor activity. The Club reports that Lancaster Girls Grammar School has also discussed the potential for daytime use.

Conversion to 3G surfaces

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way to replace a worn sand or water based carpet and generate increased revenue from hiring out a 3G pitch to football and rugby clubs and commercial football providers. This has often come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams consequently displaced from their preferred local authority.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface may require planning permission and the applicants will need to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and EH should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if the surface type is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place. Conversion to a 3G surface will likely require a size increase; along with floodlighting improvements, the addition of a shock pad, fencing and noise attenuation.

A 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

Future demand

Population increases anticipated within the District are expected to generate additional demand for sports facilities, particularly 3G pitches which are used by a number of different sports for both matches and training. The PPS findings should be used to guide the development of any new sporting provision which may include the creation of additional pitches, new ancillary facilities or new sites to best accommodate both the newly generated demand and current requirements. Increases in population as a result of proposed housing growth and the subsequent equivalent demand generated for playing pitch provision are explored through scenario testing in the Stage D Strategy & Action Plan document.

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The subsequent increased population will create a need for further infrastructure developments including identified requirement for a new secondary school in the South of the City and potentially extended school provision, also including new primary schools. It is key to note that the capacity a new 3G pitch creates is not considered double that of a grass pitch in land use terms. This is the case for sports provision set out in BB103 Guidelines for Mainstream Schools which exclusively applies to school sites and refers to the number of pupils a 3G can accommodate and is a separate issue to the land use issue which looks at the physical area of a pitch not its capacity.

Future strategic planning should consider key areas in which 3G pitches can best meet demand for a number of sports where possible and appropriate and should in turn consider the optimal surface type for any potential new development in conjunction with NGBs as part of a joined-up approach.

7.3: Quality

Of the five operational full sized 3G pitches, two are rated as good quality, two as standard and one as poor. Furthermore, the Globe Arena pitch lies disused and whilst quality is not known due to lack of access, it is likely the pitch (and small sized pitch alongside) will be subject to quality issues and will require improvement works since it has received no regular maintenance over the past year.

The pitch at Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre is reported by Lancashire FA (LFA) to be of significantly poor quality. The pitch was previously FA registered, however, certification expired in August 2017 and has not been retested, though it is unlikely to pass retesting in its current condition. Resident user club Morecambe Hawk JFC previously approached LFA for small grants funding towards new goalposts as the existing posts are poor, however, the Football Foundation is unable to fund goalposts for 3G pitches unless they presently feature on the FA register to be able to be used for competitive match play.

The pitch at Bay Leadership Academy (formerly Heysham High School) was poor quality but has now improved to good following full resurfacing in late 2017. A new maintenance regime with a specialist subcontractor has now been put in place and the pitch has been renewed and retained on the FA register.

Table 7.4: Summary of quality (available for community use)

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Surface type	Year built (refurbished)	Quality
31	Bay Leadership Academy (former Heysham High School)	1	Medium Pile 3G	2005 (2017)	Good
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	1	Long Pile 3G	2014	Good
46	LMC Sport and Fitness	1	Medium Pile 3G	2011	Standard
53	Morecambe Community High School	1	Medium Pile 3G	2014	Standard
32	Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre	1	Medium Pile 3G	2013	Poor

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Surface lifespan

The carpet of a 3G pitch is considered to have a surface life of approximately 10 years with assumed maintenance of the required standard, though its lifespan can be prolonged in some cases where maintenance is of particularly high quality and rigor.

None of the pitches in Lancaster District currently exceed the recommended lifespan for 3G surfaces, however, both the Globe Arena and LMC Sports & Fitness exceed their lifespan within the next three years and should be considered for resurfacing subject to rate of deterioration and quality for use.

Performance standard testing for football

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FA or FIFA tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/?countyfa=Lancashire>.

Pitches can also undergo FIFA 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 performance criteria.

The changes from FIFA One Star to FIFA Quality will have minimal impact on the current hours of use guidelines, which suggest 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.

Clubs playing in the football pyramid on 3G pitches meeting FIFA One Star or Two Star guidelines will still be required to certify their pitches annually, however, if any pitch replacement takes place the Club will need to meet the new FIFA performance criteria of FIFA Quality or Quality Pro. To stay on the FA register, pitches below the national league pyramid require FA testing every three years.

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Management

All of the five operational full sized 3G pitches are located at education sites and managed by either a university, college, academy (in-house or chain provider) or secondary school.

Only the Globe Arena pitch is not and is situated at a professional football club stadium site beside the Globe Arena stadium pitch, home to Morecambe FC, however, this pitch is not presently accessible.

Pricing

LFA reports concern regarding the pricing structure and operating models of some 3G pitches in the Heysham & Morecambe Area. It reports that upon consultation with both Bay Leadership Academy and Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre identifies pitch hire pricing was much lower than what would be expected of a sustainable operating model able to generate a sufficient sinking fund paid into regularly over the ten year lifespan for eventual replacement. Comparatively, the pitch at Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre is less than half of the hourly price at both Lancaster University Sports Centre and LMC Sport & Fitness.

Table 7.5: Summary of 3G pitch hire prices³⁵

Site ID	Site name	Whole pitch per hour	Other rates available
31	Bay Leadership Academy (former Heysham High School)	£57 (adult)	£37.20 (junior)
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	£71 (adult)	£51 (junior) Half pitch £41 (adult) Half pitch £34 (junior)
46	LMC Sport and Fitness	£70 (adult)	£50 (junior) £60 (match rate) Third and two third hires available
53	Morecambe Community High School	<i>Not known</i>	<i>Not known</i>
32	Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre	£33 (adult)	£50 (match rate including changing rooms)

³⁵ Not accounting for any VAT savings which may be available to block bookings

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Availability and usage

The following table summarises the availability of full sized AGPs for community use in Lancaster District. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 7.6: Summary of 3G availability and usage

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Floodlit	Quality ³⁶	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period
31	Bay Leadership Academy (former Heysham High School)	Medium pile 3G	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 13 hours Total: 31 hours
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Long pile 3G	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours
46	LMC Sport and Fitness	Medium pile 3G	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 34 hours
53	Morecambe Community High School	Medium pile 3G	Yes	Standard	Weekdays: 15.5 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 31.5 hours
32	Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre	Medium pile 3G	Yes	Poor	Weekdays: 16 hours Weekends: 13 hours Total: 29 hours

Whilst Lancaster University Sports Centre is available for external community use and advertised for hire, there is reportedly little capacity for use by local clubs and groups due to the extensive student sport programme the University operates for both the Athletics Union and participation sessions. The pitch is used for student college sports league matches each week, however, is not presently FA registered to accommodate match play.

Availability within the peak period is generally good, with any reduced hours due to sites becoming available for external use at 5.30pm rather than 5pm (Morecambe Community High School, Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre), or closing at 8.30pm rather than 9pm (Heysham Community & Sports Centre). Heysham Community & Sports Centre is only open from noon on Saturdays though whilst this reduces peak period hours available, it does not impact on affiliated football match play which takes place on Sunday mornings.

³⁶ Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by the Council but also take account of user views and opinions.

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Local demand

Football

There are 34 community club or education teams (19% of community club or education teams) and 34 intra-mural league student teams recorded as consistently playing matches on 3G pitches during 2017/18 season. Morecambe Hawk JFC (11 teams – Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre) and Trimpell & Bare Rangers FC (7 teams – LMC Sport & Fitness) are notable key regular users of 3G pitches for match play, particularly for mini soccer.

All FA registered pitches are used for community club match play in some capacity with the exception of Morecambe Community High School. Furthermore, the pitch at Heysham Mossgate Community & Sport Centre accommodates considerable match play by Morecambe Hawk JFC despite no longer featuring on the FA register to safely accommodate match play. The pitch was previously registered; however, certification has since expired and LFA indicates that remedial works would be required for the pitch to be able to pass performance standard testing again.

Access to affordable floodlit training facilities is a key issue for most clubs in the District, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. Access to affordable 3G provision is also a priority for the FA as many multi team junior clubs have various teams training across various venues. Some pitches also operate commercial small sided football leagues which limit availability for club training.

Professional football

Morecambe FC youth and development teams previously used the full sized 3G pitch at the Globe Arena for regular training and matches, however, these teams are displaced to the 3G pitch at LMC Sport & Fitness, with the Club partnering with the College to take up the majority of capacity. Due to the substantial level of demand from Morecambe FC teams, LFA reports that there is little capacity for other external community use. Should access be secured to move back to the Globe Arena, it is likely that the LMC Sport & Fitness pitch will be able to provide far more capacity for community use than at present.

Rugby union

Present use of 3G pitches for rugby union mainly extends to training. Lancaster University teams train regularly on the RFU certified pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre midweek with ad hoc matches played on 3G if and when renders grass pitches unusable.

Vale of Lune RUFC seeks access to 3G provision for training in winter when required to protect pitch quality and have in the past used LMC Sport & Fitness and Heysham Mossgate Community & Sports Centre, despite neither being RFU registered for World Rugby compliancy at present. University of Cumbria reports that the Club had requested use of the AGP for training due to a lack of capacity at the aforementioned sites, but that it too has no capacity available for additional use.

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Rugby league

Rugby league in Lancaster is mainly played on grass pitches, with no recorded use of 3G pitches other than by Lancaster University teams to accommodate training demand. Rugby league clubs are likely to seek use of 3G pitches particularly throughout the winter pre-season period and into the early stages of the season through February, March and April until daylight hours mean a lesser need for requirement to floodlit provision.

There are no RFL Community Standard registered 3G pitches in Lancaster District. The pitch presently supporting training demand at Lancaster University Sports Centre is equipped with a shock pad and is World Rugby certified to a similar specification required to support contact activity, however formal RFL certification should be sought nonetheless.

Like rugby union teams, rugby league teams at Lancaster University use the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch for regular training. Heysham Atoms RLFC uses the 3G pitch at Morecambe Community High School from January to March, however, this pitch is not known to be equipped with the required shock pad or certification to be able to safely be used for contact activity.

Other sports

Lancaster University offers a wide range of sporting opportunities and the 3G pitch onsite at Lancaster University Sports Centre is widely used for team training as a result. The 3G pitch is used for team training by lacrosse and Ultimate Frisbee teams once per week, as well as for one (sometimes two) training session by university American football team the Lancaster Bombers.

Though all of these sports can be played on 3G pitches, whilst all but the latter can also be played on AGPs, use of 3G extends to training with matches played on grass or AGP surfaces.

Imported/exported demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Lancaster District registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met. This is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. In the same manner, imported demand refers to that displaced from other local authorities into Lancaster District based on the same reasoning.

Only Lancaster City FC first team is recorded as exported demand outside of the District to access 3G provision at Myerscough College (Wyre). No teams are recorded as imported demand.

Key trends and changes in demand for pitches

Football

Demand from football for 3G pitches has increased in recent years due to demand from clubs for training but also due to a growing acceptance by local leagues of use for competitive matches, where play on 3G pitches is now included within the FA Standard Code of Rule. This considered, the general condition of local authority pitches and increasingly limited budget for regular and adequate maintenance may lead more teams to consider AGPs as a possible alternative should it be financially viable.

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A number of leagues around the country now use 3G pitches as central venues where all play takes place. Mini soccer leagues especially are increasingly adopting this approach either for whole seasons or a number of months throughout the winter because they can continually offer a high quality playing experience, in many cases beyond that of grass pitches which are generally of comparatively poorer quality. It also allows leagues to continue to run throughout the winter, largely unaffected by poor weather which has disrupted the football season over recent years, causing it to run into summer and clash more often with summer sports. This trend is likely to increase in the future and more mini soccer, flexi and vets' leagues could be played exclusively on 3G pitches.

Rugby union

Given the inclement weather often experienced throughout the winter months of the rugby union season, more clubs are becoming increasingly receptive towards training on artificial pitches. Clubs traditionally train on match pitches where floodlights are in place or one pitch designated for all training in particular, unless there is a separate floodlight grass training area. It often results in deterioration in pitch quality coupled with decreasing maintenance budgets.

The recent RFU strategy on investment in 3G pitches both at club and community based sites is indicative of the growing acceptance of 3G pitches amongst clubs nationally. Nationally clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

Rugby league

Since rugby league switched from the winter to summer season in March 2012, the majority of teams have moved towards playing in summer. The improved weather and longer daylight hours throughout the summer mean that clubs tend to train on grass pitches or areas in order to reduce additional costs of hiring facilities because they require less access to floodlighting. This often leads to overuse of match pitches by clubs which consistently train on them, especially those which have several teams and train twice a week.

Use of 3G pitches for rugby league typically extends to pre-season or early season training when weather is often still poor and floodlights are required. It is likely that nationally demand for 3G pitches for training will increase in future but that teams will continue to prefer grass training provision during most months of the season when weather is forgiving. Rugby league is still played throughout the winter in schools, colleges and universities where 3G pitches are used often for both training and matches where certified.

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7.4: Supply and demand analysis

FA training scenario

The FA considers high quality third generation artificial grass pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The FA can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training, however, are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly supports.

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGPs State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch at peak times. It is estimated that one full sized AGP can service 38 teams.

The table below considers the number of full sized 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the Analysis Area in which they play. The 3G requirement is rounded down to the nearest whole number.

Note that the 3G pitch at Lancaster University Sports Centre has been excluded from the analysis in Table 7.7 on the basis that whilst external community use is permitted and available, the pitch contributes little capacity for external use amongst in-house student sport use and as such cannot be considered to broadly contribute a sufficient number of hours in the peak period to service a reasonable proportion of demand.

The model assumes that all pitches are fully available for club use at peak time when in practice a number of pitches operate commercial small sided leagues which reduce capacity available. It also projects all football teams as training on full sized 3G pitches when in practice a proportion of football training demand should be retained on sand based AGPs in order to maintain financial and commercial sustainability of these pitches.

Analysis findings

It is considered that there are 165³⁷ teams which require access to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface. When applied on an Analysis Area level, this equates to the need for three full sized 3G pitches to service this level of training demand. At present, there are four broadly available full sized 3G pitches across the District, potentially increasing to five should the pitch at Globe Arena become accessible again.

There are no small sized 3G pitches presently accessible to support in accommodating team training, particularly for mini soccer age groups. The small sized pitch at the Globe Arena may be able to provide this function if brought back into use.

³⁷ Lancaster University student colleges league teams (34) have been excluded as these teams are considered not to require training facilities and many do not train

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Whilst the broad District wide view suggests that this requirement can be catered for by existing supply, analysis by Area highlights the significant skew in spatial distribution, with all four broadly available full sized 3G pitches in the Heysham & Morecambe Area, as is the dormant Globe Arena pitch. Analysis by area evidences sufficient demand in both the Carnforth & Rural and Lancaster Areas to require an additional 3G pitch in each both now at in the future, therefore when analysed at Area level there is a shortfall of two full sized pitches.

Table 7.7: Current demand for 3G pitches in Lancaster District for affiliated football team training (38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement ³⁸	Current number of available 3G pitches	Current shortfall	Future number of teams ³⁹	Future requirement
Carnforth & Rural	52	1.37 - 1	0	1	55	1.45 - 1
Heysham & Morecambe	58	1.53 - 1	4	-	62	1.63 - 1
Lancaster	55	1.45 - 1	0 ⁴⁰	1	58	1.53 - 1
Total	165	4	4	-	175	4

The Carnforth & Rural Area exhibits sufficient demand to require an additional full sized 3G pitch, however, the wide-ranging catchment of this analysis area brings challenges with regards to planning and catchment. This demand figure is made up of teams aggregated within the analysis area, however, this includes the likes of both Carnforth Rangers (18 teams) on the northern boundary with South Lakeland, as far as to the likes of Halton (Halton JFC – seven teams) and Galgate (Lancaster City Youth – four teams, Galgate FC – three teams) in the far south where the District boundary with Wyre is.

As such, it is not possible for all teams within this catchment to realistically access a 3G pitch delivered within the analysis area. Further work is required to understand the optimal location for an additional 3G pitch within the Carnforth & Rural Area and it may be that existing or possible new pitches in either of the other two Analysis Areas may be more accessible to teams in some rural parts of the District than sites in other parts of the Carnforth & Rural Area.

The Lancaster Area, however, is a more densely populated including the more densely populated Lancaster City itself and is generally more accessible to clubs within the analysis area. Of the two key centres in the District (Lancaster City and Morecambe), Lancaster City is significantly underserved by full sized 3G provision in relation to Morecambe, with just one 3G pitch offering limited external use at Lancaster University Sports Centre compared to four (potentially five) operational 3G pitches in the Heysham & Morecambe Area.

³⁸ It should be noted figures have been rounded down where there is existing small sized 3G pitches or full sized sand based pitches which can accommodate football training.

³⁹ Based on increased demand forecasted from team generation rates and club aspirational demand, both re-applied to the Area where the club is based for training purposes

⁴⁰ Lancaster University Sports Centre offers some limited capacity for community use but is not able to provide sufficient capacity for external use significant enough to impact on demand

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7.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is insufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand based on the FA training model for football. When calculated by analysis area, there is a present and future shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting; one each in the Carnforth & Rural and Lancaster areas.

However, the quality and sustainability of existing pitches also represents a key issue. There is a key need to improve quality and FA register the pitch at Heysham Moss gate Community & Sports Centre to improve quality and safely continue to accommodate match play. This site included, there is also an identified need to review pricing structure with providers across the District and establish sinking funds for future repair and resurfacing. Whilst comparably low pricing encourages opportunity, it has been identified by LFA as unsustainable with regards to facility maintenance and future operating model.

3G pitches summary

- ◀ **There is insufficient supply of full sized 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand based on the FA training model for football.**
- ◀ **When calculated by Analysis Area, there is a present and future shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting; one each in the Carnforth & Rural and Lancaster Areas.**
- ◀ **Pricing structure at some sites has been identified as comparatively low and a review of 3G pitch pricing is required to ensure pitches remain sustainable.**
- ◀ There are six full sized 3G pitches in Lancaster District, all of which have floodlighting. Five are available for community use in some capacity, whilst the pitch at Globe Arena now lies disused.
- ◀ Lancaster university Sports Centre is available for community hire however is considered to offer limited capacity for external use due to significant in-house student sport programmes and team requirements.
- ◀ There is just one small sized 3G pitch able to support demand located at the Globe Arena, but like the full sized 3G pitch onsite this also now lies disused.
- ◀ There are three full sized FA registered 3G pitches suitable for competitive football play. Heysham Moss gate Community & Sports Centre is used for competitive matches weekly despite not being FA registered as safe for competitive play.
- ◀ There is just one World Complaint and RFU registered 3G pitch sanctioned to accommodate contact rugby union activity, located at Lancaster University Sports Centre. The pitch at LMC Sport & Fitness was previously registered but is no longer.
- ◀ Of the five operational pitches, three are rated as good quality, one as standard and one at Heysham Moss gate Community & Sports Centre rated as poor.
- ◀ None of the pitches currently exceed the recommended lifespan, however both the Globe Arena and LMC Sports & Fitness will meet this lifespan within the next three years and should be considered for resurfacing subject to rate of deterioration and quality for use.
- ◀ There are several parties seeking to acquire the land on which the disused Globe Arena 3G pitches and hard court area are located, with varying proposals for loss to development or retention and bringing back into sporting to use. Should the pitches be retained and brought back into use, technical assessment is required to determine extent of repair and remedial works required to do so.
- ◀ Use of 3G pitches extends beyond football and rugby union, including American football, lacrosse and Ultimate Frisbee at Lancaster University Sports Centre.
- ◀ The FA training model estimates that there is a need for three full sized 3G pitches to service football training needs in the District. However, when considered at Analysis Area level there is a requirement in the Carnforth & Rural and Lancaster Areas for one additional full sized 3G pitch with floodlighting.
- ◀ Spatial distribution of full sized 3G pitches is disproportionate, with four of the five operational pitches located in the Heysham & Morecambe Area.

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PART 8: BOWLING GREENS

8.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in Lancaster District is played on crown greens. British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport.

Consultation

There are 26 clubs identified as using bowling greens in Lancaster District. Of these, 19 replied to an online survey resulting in a response rate of 73%. The following clubs did not provide a response:

- ✦ Morecambe Bay Mixed BC
- ✦ Cockerham BC
- ✦ Lune Road BC
- ✦ Palatine BC
- ✦ Trimpell BC
- ✦ University BC
- ✦ Silverdale BC

8.2: Supply

There are 30 crown green bowling greens in Lancaster District provided across 27 sites, of which, three sites (Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields, Bare Village Club and Highfield Recreation Ground) provide two bowling greens each.

Table 8.1: Summary of the number of greens by Analysis Area

Analysis area	Number of greens
Carnforth & Rural	15
Heysham & Morecambe	6
Lancaster	9
Total	30

Most provision is located in Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area with 15 bowling greens provided which is half of the total supply.

Disused provision

Two bowling greens at Douglas Park were removed due to requiring too much expenditure to bring up to playable standard due to grass born disease and ongoing anti-social behaviour issues

Regent Park previously contained three bowling greens but this has now been reduced to one, fenced, competition green which continues to be used by Morecambe Bay Mixed BC.

Similarly, Palatine Recreation Ground contained three bowling greens but this has now been reduced to one green. This green was brought up to a playable standard for the 2018 season for the use of a new recreational team. They hope to enter a competitive team in the local league for the 2019 season.

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Bowerham Hotel is not used currently. A team that previously used the site is now displaced to Highfield. A planning application has recently been submitted to build on the site (Planning application 18/00729/ful - Land adjacent Bowerham Hotel, Lancaster).

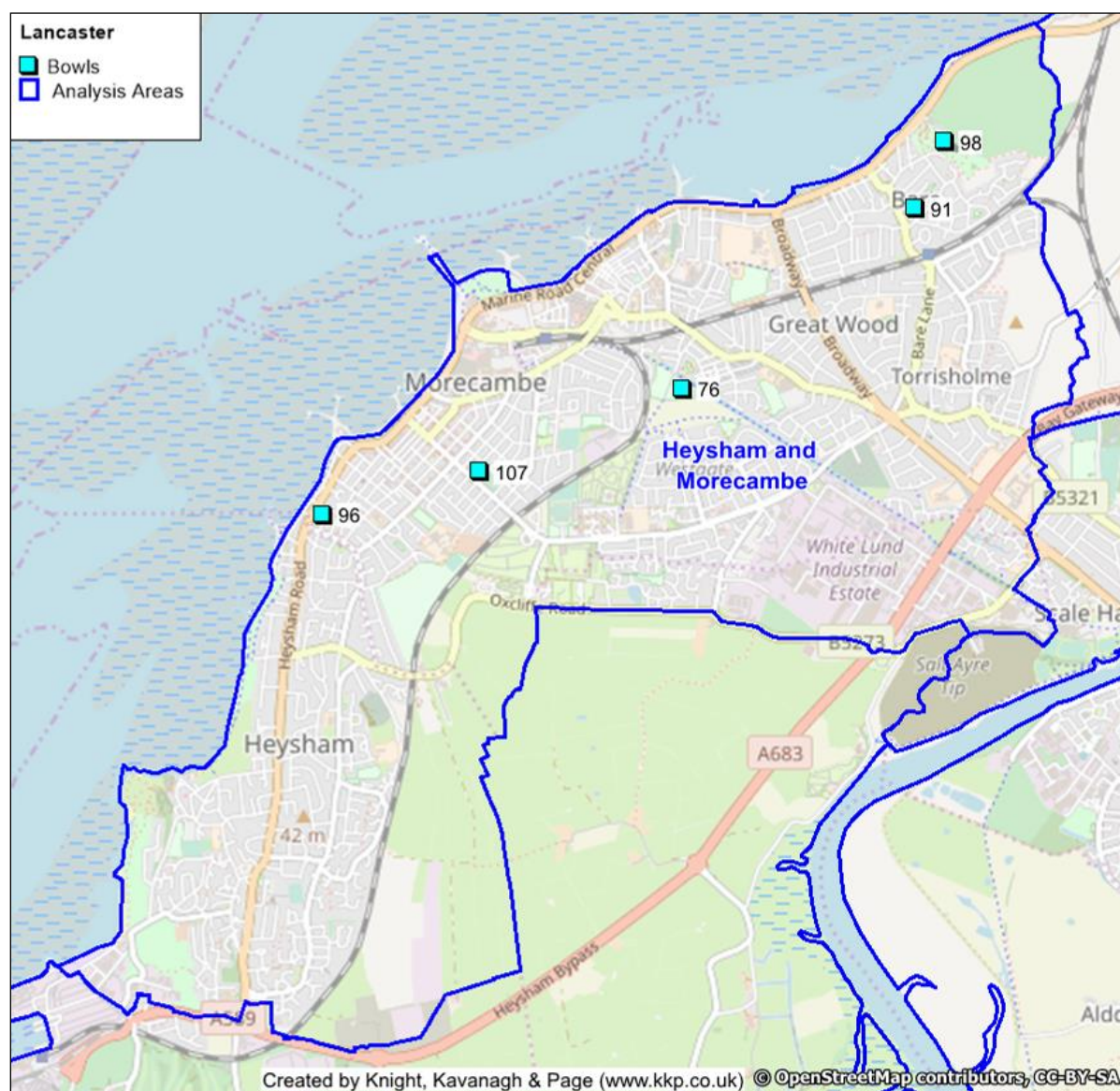
Lansil Sports & Social Club contains two bowling greens; however, one green is unfit for purpose and as such it is now not in use. Further to this, the Club reports plans to relocate the green by the golf course as part of a housing development. However, timescales are unknown.

There was formerly a green at Lancaster Moor Hospital Cricket Club. The site has now been built on as part of a new housing development. The mitigation funds will pay for drainage works for one adult football pitch at Far Moor, which will then become three junior pitches.

A green at Victoria Hotel, Glasson Dock, is now disused.

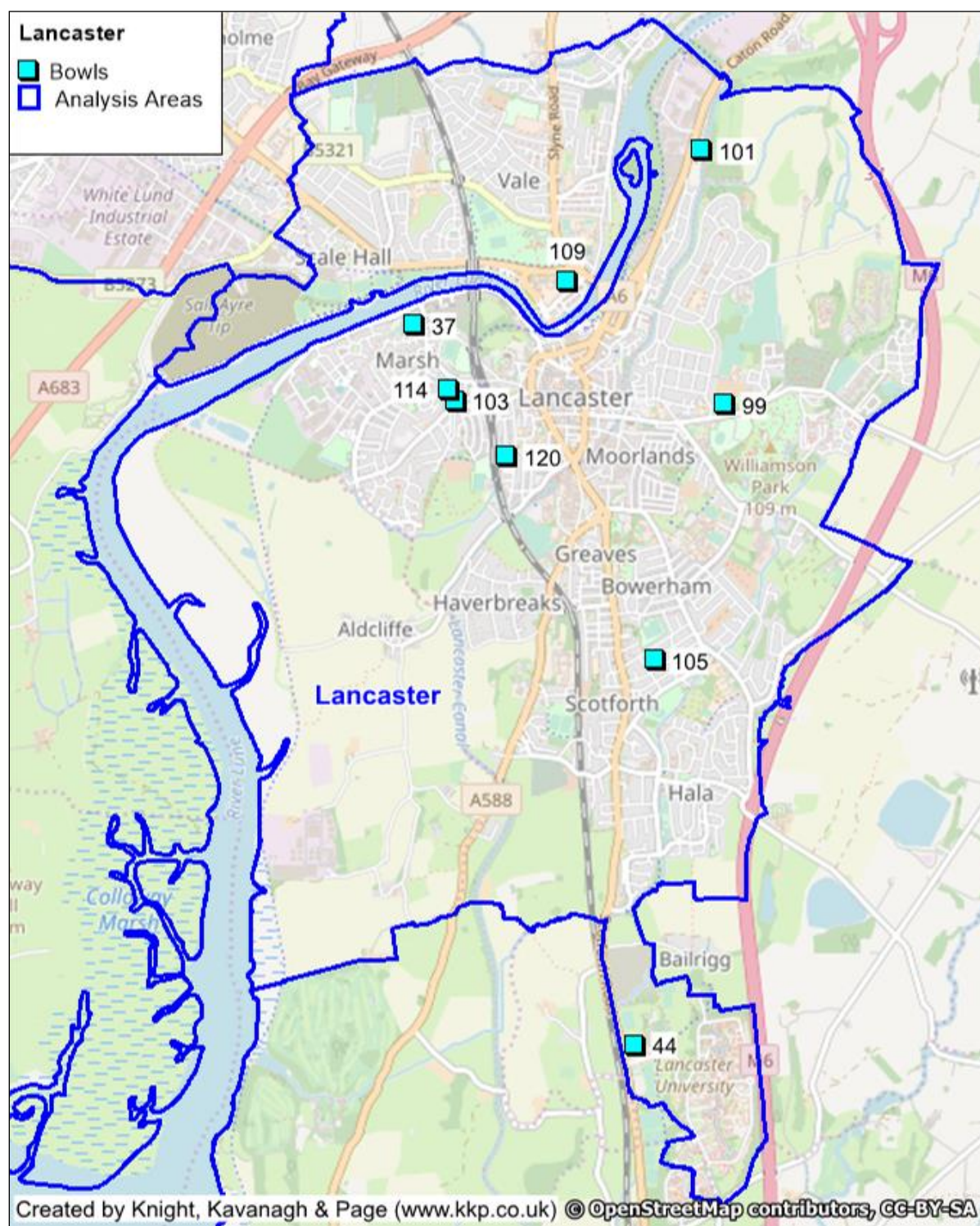
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Figure 8.2: Map of bowling green provision within the Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area



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Figure 8.3: Map of bowling green provision within the Lancaster Analysis Area



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Management

The table below identifies the management of bowling greens in Lancaster. The majority of greens are managed by sports clubs (19 greens or 63%).

Table 8.2: Bowling greens by management

Parish council	City Council	Sports club	Other
4	4	19	3

Of greens managed by sports clubs, seven are privately owned and either leased or rented by a bowling club. For example, Cumberland View Hotel is rented by Cumberland BC from owners Thwaites Brewery and Station Hotel is owned by the Hotel and rented by Station BC. Both greens are managed by clubs but there are no formal agreements in place. Similarly, Hornby BC's lease for use of the green owned by the Hornby Club is due to expire in October 2018. Although these are all considered to be unsecure usage, in contrast, Carnforth & District BC has recently secured a long-term lease of the Cross Keys Hotel bowling green from Provencal Inns on a 99 year term.

Other greens managed by sports clubs (12 greens) are either owned by the sports club itself, for example, Warton & District Bowling Club or are owned by the City Council or a parish/town council but managed by a club. This is the case at Highfield Recreation Ground which is leased from LCC by Bowling Green BC on a 30 year term, for example. Similarly, Overton BC lease its green from the parish council until 2022.

The remaining greens are either managed by LCC, the parish/town council or another organisation. For example, Bolton Le Sands BC use the two bowling greens at Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields which is owned and maintained by the parish council with no formal agreement in place. The Club is keen to secure this use and therefore take more control over its management.

Of particular note is the green owned by Lancaster University located at the Sports Centre and rented to clubs as well as university use. Further to this, the green at Westfield Memorial Village is owned and managed by a charitable community organisation and is use as a recreational facility rather than for use by a specific club.

Quality

As seen in the table overleaf, the majority of bowling greens in Lancaster District (27) are assessed as good quality with two greens assessed as standard quality and one as poor quality. It should be noted that the poor quality green (Westfield Memorial Village) is assessed as such as it is not serviced by any ancillary facilities, the green itself scores as good quality.

Bowling greens located at Palatine Recreation Ground and Galgate Recreation Field both score standard quality. This is due to scoring as adequate for the condition of ditches/boardings and/or the surface of surrounding hard areas.

Table 8.3: Quality of bowling greens in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Total number of greens	Number of greens		
				Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Total number of greens	Number of greens		
				Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
5	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	Carnforth & Rural	2	2		
25	Galgate Recreation Field	Carnforth & Rural	1		1	
29	Hest Bank Recreation Ground	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	1	1		
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	1	1		
50	Millhead Recreation Ground	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		
76	The Trimpell Club	Heysham & Morecambe	1	1		
91	Bare Village Club	Heysham & Morecambe	2	2		
92	Bay Horse Hotel	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		
95	Cross Keys Hotel	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		
96	Cumberland View Hotel	Heysham & Morecambe	1	1		
97	Dolphinholme Village Hall	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		
98	Happy Mount Park	Heysham & Morecambe	1	1		
99	Highfield Recreation Ground	Lancaster	2	2		
100	Hornby Club	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		
101	Lansil Sports & Social Club	Lancaster	1	1		
103	Luneside & Rosebank Bowling & Recreation Club	Lancaster	1	1		
105	Palatine Recreation Ground	Lancaster	1		1	
106	Quernmore Recreation	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		
107	Regent Park	Heysham & Morecambe	1	1		
108	Ship Hotel	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		
109	Skerton Liberal Club	Lancaster	1	1		
111	Station Hotel	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		
113	Warton & District Bowling Club	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		
114	Westfield Memorial Village	Lancaster	1			1
115	Silverdale Bowling Club	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		
120	Cockerham Bowling	Carnforth & Rural	1	1		

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Total number of greens	Number of greens		
				Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
	Club					

Although most clubs concur that green quality is standard or good, the most significant issues reported by clubs relate to maintenance both in terms of cost or having a lack of control over maintenance carried out. For example, Lansil BC report inadequate maintenance of its green has impacted on the quality.

Bolton-Le-Sands BC report only adequate green quality as a result of maintenance regimes applied by the parish council which are felt to be carried out too soon before the new season. Similarly, Station Hotel BC also report their green as being adequate quality, however, does report an improvement and is hoping this will further improve due to some recent funding.

Ancillary provision

All clubs that responded to consultation access ancillary provision at their home green and generally report that facilities are of an adequate standard. However, Cumberland View Hotel report its pavilion is poor quality although it has no plans to improve them due to a lack of funds.

The green at Westfield Memorial Village is not serviced by any ancillary facilities, however, it is not used by a specific club and is provided as a recreational green for community use.

The table below highlights aspirational ancillary improvements reported by clubs.

Table 8.4: Summary bowling clubs aspirational ancillary improvements

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Plans
99	Highfield Recreation Ground	Bowling Green BC	Improve facilities as currently poor and second floor development.
95	Cross Keys Hotel	Carnforth and District BC	To replace the pavilion once planning permission has been secured.

Lancaster City Council is currently working with Torrisholme Jubilee Bowling Club, which plays at Happy Mount Park, to improve facilities including the installation of a cabin style clubhouse.

In addition to above, car parking at Luneside & Rosebank Bowling & Recreation Club is reported to be a major problem at peak times.

BCGBA grants

Provided a club is subscribed to the BCGBA it can apply for a grant a range of ancillary issues, providing it has not already received one in the previous five years. Grants available to clubs include the following:

- ◀ New bowling green
- ◀ New floodlights
- ◀ New Pavilion/toilets
- ◀ Irrigation for the bowling green
- ◀ New Shelter
- ◀ Fencing and paths
- ◀ Extending a bowling green
- ◀ Legal fees to fight a green closure

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8.3: Demand

Current demand

There are 26 clubs using bowling greens in Lancaster District. Where known, membership at the clubs has been noted in the table below.

Table 8.5: Summary of club membership

Club name	Members			Total members	Comments
	Men	Women	Juniors		
Bare BC	55	26	0	81	Decrease
(Morecambe) Bay Mixed BC	Unknown			-	-
Bolton-Le-Sands BC	49	23	0	72	Increase due to a small local club folding
Bowling Green BC and Parkside BC	70	18	0	88	Increased due to merging
Burrowbeck BC	15	0	0	15	Decrease
Carnforth and District BC	35	25	0	60	Slight increase
Cockerham BC	Unknown			-	-
Cumberland View Hotel BC	25	20	0	45	Decrease
Dolphinholme BC	35	25	0	60	No change
Galgate BC	28	32	0	60	Decrease
Hornby BC	Unknown				-
Lansil BC	30	10	2	42	Decrease
Lune Road BC				-	-
Luneside & Rosebank BC	Unknown			-	-
Overton BC	28	16	0	44	No change
Palatine BC	Unknown			-	-
Quernmore BC	40	5	0	45	No change
Skerton BC	Unknown			-	-
Slyne with Hest BC	29	25	0	54	Decrease lost two teams
Station BC	41	12	1	54	Decrease - ageing members
Torrisholme Jubilee BC	9	8	-	17	Increase
Trimpell BC	Unknown			-	-
University BC	Unknown			-	-
Warton & District BC	40	15	0	55	Decrease
Silverdale BC	Unknown			-	-
Lancaster District				775	-

Participation across Lancaster District is generally good, however, none of the responding clubs have over 100 members. The largest clubs are Bowling Green and Parkside with 88 members and Bare BC with 81 members. Where known, eight clubs have seen a decrease in membership in recent years.

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Further to this, consideration should also be given to the sustainability of greens which operate with a playing membership of less than 20. Although Burrowbeck BC only has 15 members it does share a green with Quernmore BC which has 45 members.

Usage

Although most greens have recorded club use on them, three sites have no formal club use recorded, Westfield Memorial Village, Millhead Recreation Ground, Bay Horse Hotel. However, it is thought that all have good levels of informal play and play available.

Highfield Recreation Ground and Quernmore Recreation bowling greens both accommodate two clubs each, all the others have one club per green.

Table 7.6: Usage of bowling greens in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site	Club users
5	Bolton-Le-Sands Playing Field	Bolton-Le-Sands BC
25	Galgate Recreation Field	Galgate BC
29	Hest Bank Recreation Ground	Slyne with Hest BC
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lune Road BC
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	University BC
50	Millhead Recreation Ground	Recreational use only
76	The Trimpell Club	Trimpell BC
91	Bare Village Club	Bare BC
92	Bay Horse Hotel	Recreational use only
95	Cross Keys Hotel	Carnforth and District BC
96	Cumberland View Hotel	Cumberland View Hotel BC
97	Dolphinholme Village Hall	Dolphinholme BC
98	Happy Mount Park	Torrisholme Jubilee BC
99	Highfield Recreation Ground	Bowling Green BC and Parkside BC
100	Hornby Club	Hornby BC
101	Lansil Sports & Social Club	Lansil BC
103	Luneside & Rosebank Bowling & Recreation Club	Luneside & Rosebank BC
105	Palatine Recreation Ground	Palatine BC
106	Quernmore Recreation	Burrowbeck BC and Quernmore BC
107	Regent Park	(Morecambe) Bay Mixed BC
108	Ship Hotel	Overton BC
109	Skerton Liberal Club	Skerton BC
111	Station Hotel	Station BC
113	Warton & District Bowling Club	Warton BC
114	Westfield Memorial Village	Recreational use only
115	Silverdale Bowling Club	Silverdale BC
120	Cockerham Bowling Club	Cockerham BC

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Future demand

Across Lancaster District five clubs report aspirations to grow membership as follows:

- ◀ Bare BC
- ◀ Bowling Green BC
- ◀ Carnforth and District BC
- ◀ Overton BC
- ◀ Slyne with Hest BC

Only Bowling Green BC is able to quantify the level of demand it anticipates in the form of one junior team and one vets teams.

Latent demand

None of the responding clubs in Lancaster District suggest that an additional bowling green at their home ground or in the area would lead to an increase in club membership. Further to this, no clubs currently have a waiting list and the majority would be able to accommodate new members.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool 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 who would like to participate in the sport within Lancaster District. The most dominant segment is 'Frank' – Twilight Year Gents' (23.9%).

7.4: Supply & demand analysis

Where full membership is known, there are no identified sites that are overplayed in Lancaster District. Where sites have the highest membership, for example, Highfield Recreation Ground and Bare Village Club (88 and 81 respectively), these sites have two bowling greens and therefore have a recommended site capacity of 120 members.

Four sites are currently being played to their recommended capacity and are likely to be unable to sustain many more members:

- ◀ Galgate Recreation Field
- ◀ Cross Keys Hotel
- ◀ Dolphinhall Village Hall
- ◀ Quernmore Recreation

Further to the above, three sites have minimal spare capacity, Hest Bank Recreation Ground (six members spare capacity), Station Hotel (six members spare capacity) and Warton & District Bowling Club (five members spare capacity).

All remaining sites have enough spare capacity to accommodate more play. It is also worthy of note that some of the greens will also accommodate pay and play which is not factored into the capacity figures.

If expressed club future demand is realised at Highfield Recreation Ground (Bowling Green BC) for two more teams, this should be able to be accommodated based on current spare capacity (32 members).

In summary the overall picture in Lancaster District is that there is sufficient supply of bowling greens to cater for current and future demand.

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7.5: Capacity analysis

Capacity is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon/evening when a popular league is operating but may be empty for the rest of the week.

Crown Green Bowls Association indicates that approximately 60 members are needed to sustain one green. Using this as a guide the table overleaf looks at the capacity of bowling greens in Lancaster District based upon club membership. A green with 60 members is considered to be at capacity.⁴¹ Consideration should also be given to the sustainability of greens which operate with a playing membership of less than 20.

Under capacity	Membership is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Membership matches the level the site can sustain
Over capacity	Membership exceeds the level the site can sustain

⁴¹ It should be noted that some greens may be at capacity with fewer than 60 members but also that some greens will be able to sustain more than 60 members.

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Table 7.7: Bowling green capacity

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Quality	Total members	Number of greens	Recommended site capacity (members)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional members
5	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	Carnforth & Rural	Good	72	2	160	48
25	Galgate Recreation Field	Carnforth & Rural	Standard	60	1	60	-
29	Hest Bank Recreation Ground	Carnforth & Rural	Good	54	1	60	6
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Good	-	1	60	Unknown
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	Good	-	1	60	Unknown
50	Millhead Recreation Ground	Carnforth & Rural	Good	-	1	60	Unknown
76	The Trimpell Club	Heysham & Morecambe	Good	-	1	60	Unknown
91	Bare Village Club	Heysham & Morecambe	Good	81	2	120	39
92	Bay Horse Hotel	Carnforth & Rural	Good	-	1	60	Unknown
95	Cross Keys Hotel	Carnforth & Rural	Good	60	1	60	-
96	Cumberland View Hotel	Heysham & Morecambe	Good	45	1	60	15
97	Dolphinholme Village Hall	Carnforth & Rural	Good	60	1	60	-
98	Happy Mount Park	Heysham & Morecambe	Good	-	1	60	Unknown
99	Highfield Recreation Ground	Lancaster	Good	88	2	120	32
100	Hornby Club	Carnforth & Rural	Good	-	1	60	Unknown
101	Lansil Sports & Social Club	Lancaster	Good	42	1	60	18
103	Luneside & Rosebank Bowling & Recreation Club	Lancaster	Good	-	1	60	Unknown
105	Palatine Recreation Ground	Lancaster	Standard	-	1	60	Unknown
106	Quernmore Recreation	Carnforth & Rural	Good	60	1	60	-

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Quality	Total members	Number of greens	Recommended site capacity (members)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional members
107	Regent Park	Heysham & Morecambe	Good	-	1	60	Unknown
108	Ship Hotel	Carnforth & Rural	Good	44	1	60	16
109	Skerton Liberal Club	Lancaster	Good	-	1	60	Unknown
111	Station Hotel	Carnforth & Rural	Good	54	1	60	6
113	Warton & District Bowling Club	Carnforth & Rural	Good	55	1	60	5
114	Westfield Memorial Village	Lancaster	Poor	-	1	60	Unknown
115	Silverdale Bowling Club	Carnforth & Rural	Good	-	1	60	Unknown
120	Cockerham Bowling Club	Carnforth & Rural	Good	-	1	60	Unknown

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Bowls summary

- ◀ **In summary the overall picture in Lancaster District is that there is sufficient supply of bowling greens to cater for current and future demand.**
- ◀ There are 30 crown green bowling greens in Lancaster District provided across 27 sites, of which, three sites (Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields, Bare Village Club and Highfield Recreation Ground) provide two bowling greens each.
- ◀ Most provision is located in Carnforth & Rural Analysis Area with 15 bowling greens provided which is half of the total supply.
- ◀ Eight bowling greens have lost over the last few years due to either closed sites or where sites with multiple greens have been reduce to just one green.
- ◀ The majority of existing greens in Lancaster District are managed by sports clubs (19 greens or 63%). The remaining greens are either managed by LCC, the parish/town council or another organisation.
- ◀ The majority of bowling greens in Lancaster District (27) are assessed as good quality with two greens assessed as standard quality and one as poor quality. It should be noted that the poor-quality green (Westfield Memorial Village) is assessed as such as it is not serviced by any ancillary facilities, the green itself scores as good quality.
- ◀ Although most clubs concur that green quality is standard or good, the most significant issues reported by clubs relate to maintenance both in terms of cost or having a lack of control over maintenance carried out.
- ◀ Clubs generally report that ancillary facilities are of an adequate standard. However, pavilions at Cumberland View Hotel, Highfield Recreation Ground and Cross Keys Hotel are identified as poor, with the latter two having plans to make improvements.
- ◀ Car parking at Luneside & Rosebank Bowling & Recreation Club is reported to be a major problem at peak times.
- ◀ There are 26 clubs using bowling greens in Lancaster District and participation is generally good, however, none of the responding clubs have over 100 members. The largest clubs are Bowling Green and Parkside with 88 members and Bare BC with 81 members.
- ◀ Although most greens have recorded club use on them, three sites have no formal club use recorded, Westfield Memorial Village, Millhead Recreation Ground, Bay Horse Hotel. However, it is thought that all have good levels of informal pay and play available.
- ◀ Across Lancaster District five clubs report aspirations to grow membership although only Bowling Green BC is able to quantify this.
- ◀ Where full membership is known, there are no identified sites that are overplayed in Lancaster District. However, four sites are currently being played to their recommended capacity and are likely to be unable to sustain many more members. Further to this, three sites have minimal spare capacity.

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PART 9: TENNIS COURTS

8.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally in Lancaster.

Consultation

There are six tennis clubs based in Lancaster, of which, five completed an online survey resulting in an 83% response rate as follows:

- ♦ Bolton Le Sands TC - responded
- ♦ Bowerham Lawn TC - responded
- ♦ Highfield TC - responded
- ♦ Lancaster TC (Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club) - responded
- ♦ Lunesdale Lawn TC
- ♦ Slyne-With-Hest TC - responded

8.2: Supply

Quantity

There is a total of 80 tennis courts identified in Lancaster located across 21 sites including sports clubs, parks and schools. Of these, 36 (45%) are categorised as being available for community use across 11 sites.

Table 8.1: Summary of the number of courts by Analysis Area

Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use
Carnforth & Rural	11	7
Heysham & Morecambe	1	15
Lancaster	24	22
Total	36	44

The least amount of provision is located in Heysham & Morecambe (16 courts) and only one court is available for community use, at Happy Mount Park. Further to this, there are also no tennis clubs playing in the Area, which is likely to be a result of a lack of accessible courts. Courts in the area with no community use are all located at education sites.

One of the courts, available for community use, in the Lancaster Analysis Area is a mini court; unsuitable for senior demand.

The table overleaf provides a full breakdown on a site by site basis.

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Table 8.2: Tennis courts in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality ⁴²
5	Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields	Carnforth & Rural	Parish	Yes	2	No	Tarmac	Standard
117	Bowerham Tennis Club	Lancaster	Club	Yes	4	Yes	Tarmac	Standard
11	Carnforth High School	Carnforth & Rural	School	No	5 tennis/netball	No	Tarmac	Poor
17	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	School	No	2 tennis/netball	No	Polymeric	Standard
97	Dolphinholme Village Hall	Carnforth & Rural	Parish	Yes	1	No	Tarmac	Poor
98	Happy Mount Park	Heysham & Morecambe	Council	Yes	1	Yes	Tarmac	Standard
29	Hest Bank Recreation Ground (Slyne with Hest)	Carnforth & Rural	Parish	Yes	2	Yes	Tarmac	Good
31	Bay Leadership Academy (formerly Heysham High School)	Heysham & Morecambe	School	No	6 tennis/netball	No	Tarmac	Standard
99	Highfield (The Gregson Community Association)	Lancaster	Charity	Yes	2	No	Astro	Good
37	Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club	Lancaster	Club	Yes	3 + 1 mini tennis	Yes	Astro	Good
38	Lancaster Girls Grammar School	Lancaster	School	No	12	Yes	Astro	Good
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	University	Yes	8 + 4 tennis/netball	No	Tarmac	Good
46	LMC Sport and Fitness	Heysham & Morecambe	College	No	4 tennis/netball	Yes	Tarmac	Good
118	Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club	Carnforth & Rural	Club	Yes	5	No x3 Yes x2	Grass x3 Astro x2	Standard
53	Morecambe Community High School	Heysham & Morecambe	School	No	5	Yes	Tarmac	Standard
58	Our Lady's Catholic College	Lancaster	School	No	3	No	Tarmac	Standard
105	Palatine MUGA	Lancaster	Council	Yes	2	No	Tarmac	Poor
119	Pine Resort Hotel	Carnforth & Rural	Private	No	1	No	Tarmac	Good

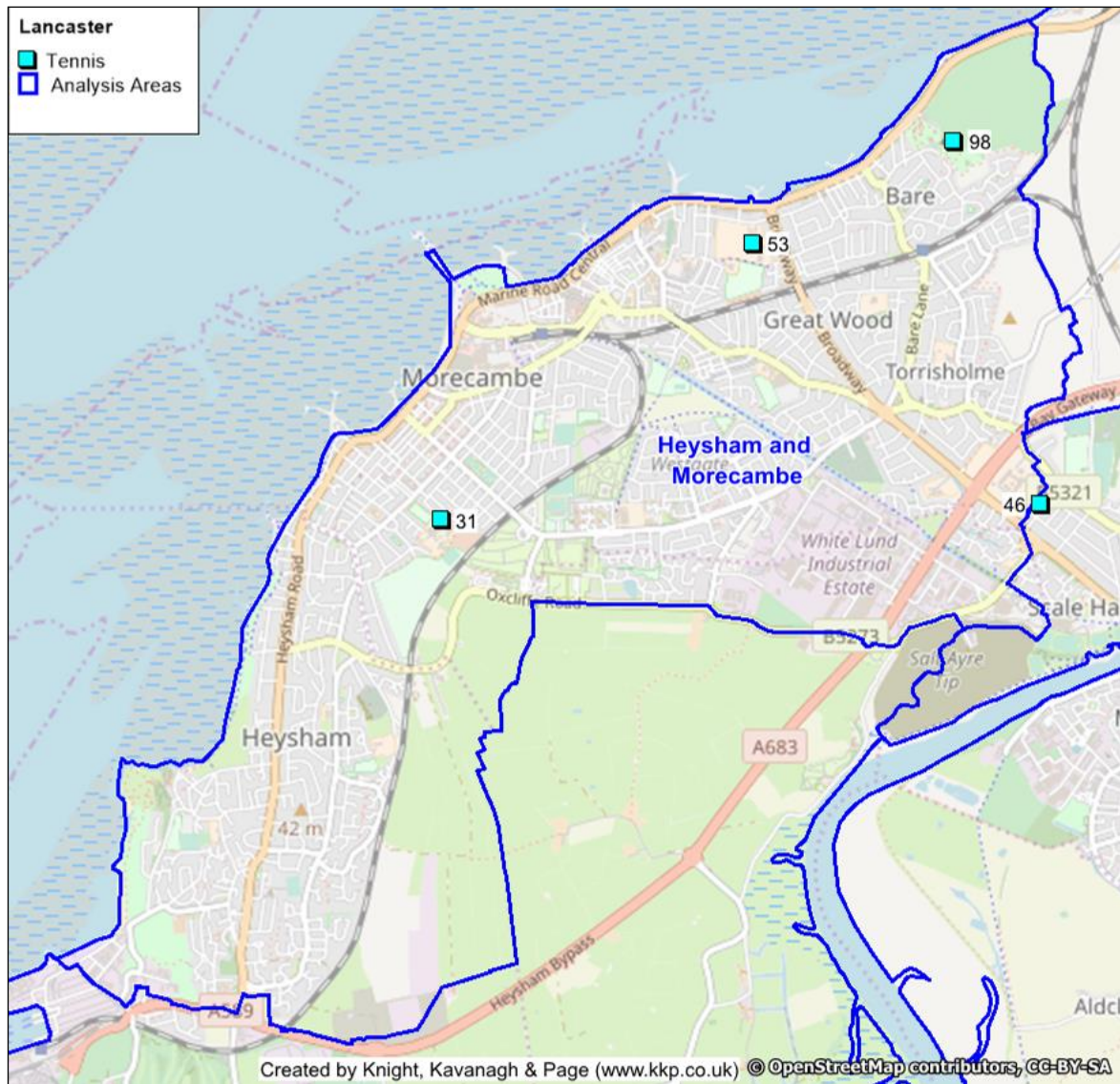
⁴² Assessed using a non-technical site assessment pro-forma and also takes account of user comments.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality ⁴²
106	Quernmore Recreation	Carnforth & Rural	Parish	Yes	1	Yes	Tarmac	Poor
62	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	Lancaster	School	No	5 tennis/netball	Yes	Astro	Good
89	Yealand Church of England Primary School	Carnforth & Rural	School	No	1	No	Tarmac	Standard

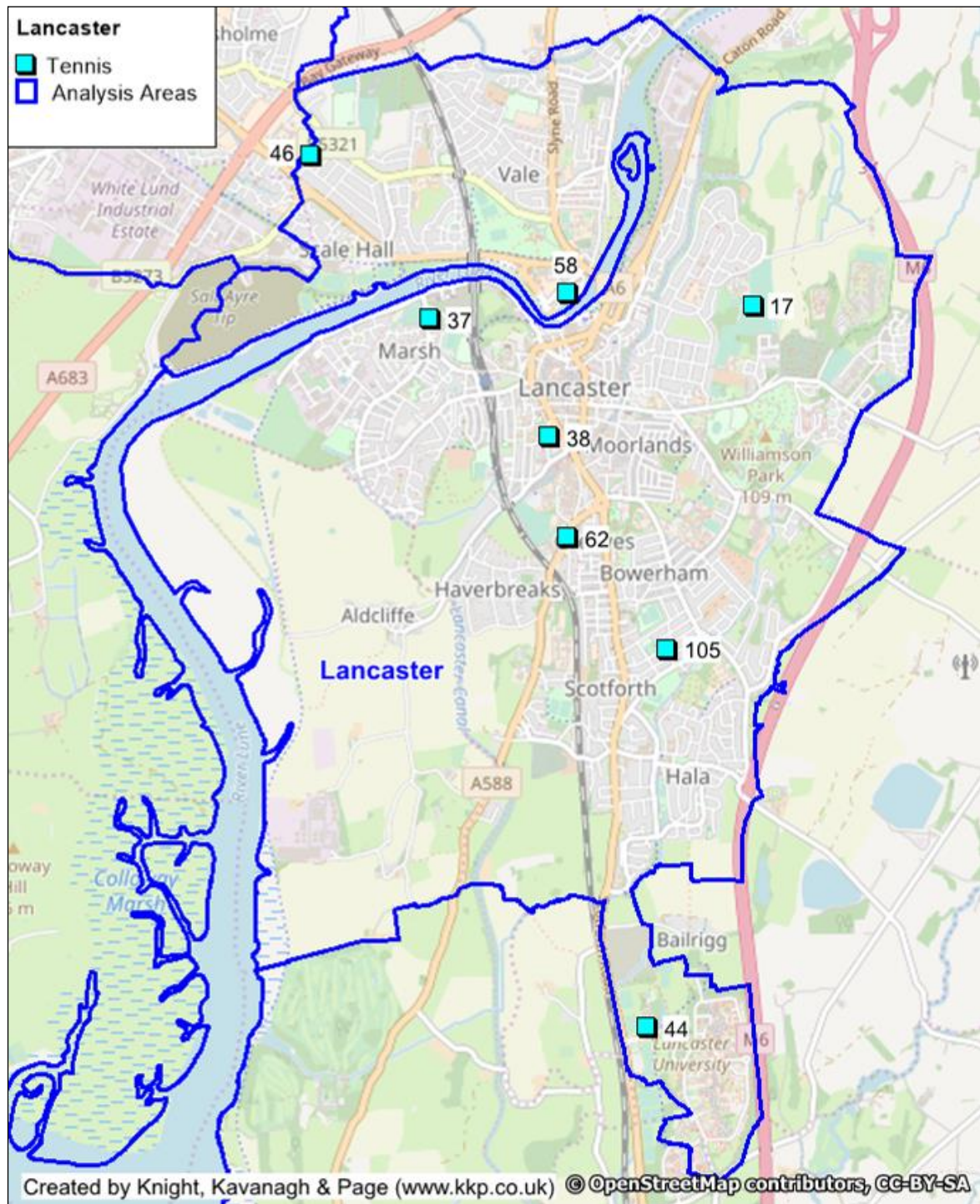
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Figure 9.2: Map of outdoor tennis court provision within the Heysham & Morecambe Analysis Area



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Figure 9.3: Map of outdoor tennis court provision within the Lancaster Analysis Area



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Disused and lapsed sites

There are a further three tennis courts located at the former Skerton Community High School (Lancaster Area). The land is owned by the County Council which made the decision in 2014 to close the School which accommodated 140 pupils. The site has now been closed to access for four years and whilst presently disused, is approached 'lapsed' status. County Council plans for future use of the site are not presently known.

There are also two tennis courts at the University of Cumbria Sports Centre (Lancaster campus), that are disused due to their proximity to residential properties and restrictions placed on usage due to this.

Management

The table below highlights the management of community available courts. The majority of courts are owned/managed by clubs (36%).

Of education courts, only 12 courts are available to hire for community use which are all located at Lancaster University Sports Centre. Although students and staff are given priority, they can be booked by the community.

There are also 13 courts which are owned/managed by clubs. All of these courts have been classified as community available. Although you generally have to be a club member to join, most also offer pay and play opportunities.

Table 8.3: Courts available for community use by management

Club courts	Parish courts	Council courts	Education courts	Other
13	6	3	12	2

Floodlighting

Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and is identified by the LTA as being particularly key for club development. There are 40 floodlit courts in Lancaster, as found at the following sites:

- ◆ Bowerham Tennis Club
- ◆ Happy Mount Park
- ◆ Hest Bank Recreation Ground
- ◆ Lancaster Cricket & Sports Club
- ◆ Lancaster Girls Grammar School
- ◆ LMC Sport and Fitness
- ◆ Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club (two of five courts)
- ◆ Morecambe Community High School
- ◆ Quernmore Recreation
- ◆ Ripley St Thomas CE Academy

From clubs which responded to the survey, Highfield TC reports that its two courts would benefit from floodlighting in order that they could be better utilised in the winter months.

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Court type

The majority of community available courts in Lancaster have a macadam surface (27 courts or 73%). The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. The LTA reports that this should cost £1,200 a year per macadam court (which includes on-going maintenance costs). Of the remaining community available courts, seven have artificial surfaces and three are grass courts. The grass courts are located at Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club where it also has two artificial surface courts.

Quality

Following non-technical assessments, carried out by LCC staff, all courts were assessed for quality aspects and defined on a rating of good, standard or poor. Of provision that is available for community use, 20 (56%) are assessed as good quality, 12 (33%) are assessed as standard quality and four courts (11%) are assessed as poor quality.

Table 8.4: Quality of community available courts by Analysis Area

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Carnforth & Rural	2	7	2
Heysham & Morecambe	-	1	-
Lancaster	18	4	2
Total	20	12	4

The courts assessed as poor quality are located at the following sites:

- ◆ Dolphinhall Village Hall
- ◆ Palatine MUGA
- ◆ Quernmore Recreation

Further to the above, Bolton Le Sands TC report that its macadam courts are poor quality with lots of loose gravel and some holes in the surface. It reports that a local primary school would like to use the courts if they were a safer surface.

Although Bowerham TC rates its macadam courts as overall standard quality, it does also report that the surface is breaking up with lots of loose gravel. It is for this reason that the Club is looking at funding options to refurbish the courts.

Of those courts scoring good quality, Hest Bank Recreation Ground (Slyne with Hest TC) scored particularly well.

Lancaster Tennis Club courts are assessed as good quality with the Club agreeing with this scoring. However, it does also report that the one acrylic mini court (built in 2015 when the other courts were refurbished), has serious weed problems and is poor quality. The company that built the court has since gone into administration and the Club is struggling to get assistance to resurface it.

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Ancillary provision

Most responding tennis clubs (three) report that the quality of their ancillary facilities is poor (Highfield, Slyne with Hest and Lancaster). The remaining two responding clubs (Bowerham and Bolton Le Sands) both report standard quality ancillary facilities.

Lancaster TC suggests that improved changing facilities would be of benefit to the Club but would not lead to setting up more teams. However, on the reverse Slyne with Hest TC suggest that better quality ancillary facilities would lead to having more teams.

8.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There are six tennis clubs in Lancaster District. Of those that responded to the survey, they collectively consist of 533 members, as seen broken down further in the table below.

Table 8.5: Summary of club membership

Name of club	Number of members		Number of teams			
	Seniors	Juniors	Men's	Ladies	Juniors	Mixed
Bolton Le Sands TC	73	2	1	1		2
Bowerham Lawn TC	67	36	3	2	1	2
Highfield TC	126	-	2	-	-	-
Lancaster TC	95	44	3	1	5	3
Lunesdale Lawn TC	Unknown		Unknown			
Slyne-with-Hest TC	90		3	1	3	4

Lancaster TC is the largest club as it services 139 members, but closely followed by Highfield TC which has 126 members and Bowerham Lawn TC which has 123. Lancaster TC and Bowerham Lawn TC both also have good junior membership levels. Further to this, Bowerham Lawn TC suggests it is looking to apply for funding to attract more young adult members.

All responding clubs state that membership has either remained static or increased over the last three years.

Slyne-with-Hest TC reports that with 90 members there is demand for a third court at its site. Further to this, it also believes that covering the courts, allowing for winter use would increase the capacity of the courts to help meet current and future demand. The Club is currently exploring opportunities for funding.

Informal tennis

It is considered that all courts in Lancaster District that are not accessed by clubs have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not recorded due to the open access nature of some sites. The majority of current use is assumed to take place throughout the summer months following events such as Wimbledon.

The LTA has recently set up an initiative to change the way in which people access council courts. Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of

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a fob system following payment of a small yearly fee. Not only does this deter unofficial use of courts but it also allows official use to be tracked, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed. Nevertheless, some investment may be required to bring courts up to standard before the initiative can be rolled out.

Free of pay-and-play opportunities are located at the following site:

- ◀ Bolton Le Sands Playing Fields
- ◀ Dolphinhall Village Hall
- ◀ Happy Mount Park
- ◀ Palatine MUGA
- ◀ Quernmore Recreation

Future demand

All responding clubs report that they are continuing to try to attract new members. For example, Bowerham TC is looking to obtain funding to attract more young adult members, albeit this isn't quantified. It is also reported by clubs that proposals for a new Lancashire League for men or women playing on Sunday afternoons may create more teams in the future.

The only club that is able to quantify future demand is Slyne with Hest TC which report it plans to create one senior and three junior teams.

Latent demand

Of the clubs that responded to consultation, two express current demand to increase their membership. If more hours were available in the future Slyne with Hest TC reports it would create one additional men's team and two junior teams. In addition, Lancaster TC suggests that more availability may lead to creation of an additional senior team.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 2,732 people who would like to participate in the sport within Lancaster. The most dominant segment is 'Leanne – Supportive Singles' (10.5%).

Displaced demand

Displaced demand refers to existing demand which is imported in or exported outside of the study area to or from neighbouring districts 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 identified imported demand in Lancaster District; however, it is reported that some demand from the Silverdale area is displaced out of the District to Arnside Tennis Club (South Lakeland)

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8.4: Supply & demand analysis

In summary there are sufficient club courts in Lancaster to accommodate current and future levels of demand. This being said some clubs do still express aspirations for new provision or floodlighting/cover courts and therefore further feasibility work is required to fully establish demand. Further to this, one club site is operating over the recommended LTA capacity.

Highfield TC is operating over the recommended LTA capacity (by 46 members); however, it is deemed sustainable if the two courts are able to be floodlit and the good quality sustained.

Further to this, Bolton Le Sands TC and Lunesdale Lawn TC are likely to be being played to capacity when accounting for any casual/recreation play. This is a particular issue at Bolton Le Sands TC where the quality of the courts is deemed by the Club to be poor and the two courts are not floodlit.

As previously mentioned, Slyne-with-Hest TC reports that it has demand for a third court at its site. According to the LTA recommended site capacity, with two floodlit courts the site should have capacity for 120 members (currently has 90 members). However, further feasibility should be carried out to fully determine full usage of the site and likely future demand.

8.5: Capacity Analysis

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. As grass courts are only available for 12 weeks of the year they are not included in the capacity analysis below.

Table 8.6: Summary of supply and demand

Name of club	Total club members	LTA recommended site capacity (members)	Capacity rating
Bolton Le Sands TC	75	80	5
Bowerham Lawn TC	103	240	137
Highfield TC	126	80	46
Lancaster TC	139	180	41
Lunesdale Lawn TC	97*	120	23
Slyne-With-Hest TC	90	120	30

*As this club did not respond to consultation requests membership numbers are unknown and therefore an average of clubs in Lancaster is used.

Using these figures, all club sites have spare capacity for further play with the exception of Highfield TC which is being played beyond the recommended LTA capacity. It is also likely that those sites showing minimal spare capacity, such as at Bolton Le Sands TC and Lunesdale Lawn TC are actually being played to capacity when accounting for any casual/recreation play.

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Tennis summary

- ▶ **In summary there are sufficient club courts in Lancaster District to accommodate current and future levels of demand. This being said some clubs do still express aspirations for new provision or floodlighting/cover courts and therefore further feasibility work is required to fully establish demand. Further to this, one club site is operating over the recommended LTA capacity.**
- ▶ There is a total of 80 tennis courts identified in Lancaster District located across 21 sites including sports clubs, parks and schools. Of these, 36 (45%) are categorised as being available for community use across 11 sites.
- ▶ The least amount of provision is located in Heysham & Morecambe. Further to this, there are also no tennis clubs playing in the Area, which is likely to be a result of a lack of accessible courts.
- ▶ The majority of courts are owned/managed by clubs (36%). Of education courts, only 12 courts are available to hire for community use which are all located at Lancaster University Sports Centre.
- ▶ There are 40 floodlit courts in Lancaster District. However, some club sites are not floodlit and the sites may benefit from this being considered i.e. Highfield TC and
- ▶ Of provision that is available for community use, 20 (56%) are assessed as good quality, 12 (33%) are assessed as standard quality and four courts (11%) are assessed as poor quality.
- ▶ Bolton Le Sands TC report that its macadam courts are poor quality and Bowerham Lawn TC is looking at funding options to refurbish its courts.
- ▶ Most responding tennis clubs (three) report that the quality of their ancillary facilities is poor (Highfield, Slyne with Hest and Lancaster). The remaining two responding clubs (Bowerham and Bolton Le Sands) both report standard quality ancillary facilities.
- ▶ There are six tennis clubs in Lancaster. Of those that responded to the survey (five), they collectively consist of 533 members.
- ▶ Lancaster TC is the largest club as it services 139 members, but closely followed by Highfield TC which has 126 members and Bowerham Lawn TC which has 123. Lancaster TC and Bowerham Lawn TC both also have good junior membership levels.
- ▶ All responding clubs state that membership has either remained static or increased over the last three years.
- ▶ The only club that is able to quantify future demand is Slyne with Hest TC which report it plans to create one senior and three junior teams. If more hours were available in the future Slyne with Hest TC also reports it would create one additional men's team and two junior teams. In addition, Lancaster TC suggests that more availability may lead to creation of an additional senior team.
- ▶ Highfield TC is operating over the recommended LTA capacity (by 46 members); however, it is deemed sustainable if the two courts are able to be floodlit and the good quality sustained.
- ▶ Bolton Le Sands TC and Lunesdale Lawn TC are likely to be being played to capacity when accounting for any casual/recreation play. This is a particular issue at Bolton Le Sands TC where the quality of the courts is deemed by the Club to be poor and the two courts are not floodlit.

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PART 10: ATHLETICS FACILITIES

10.1: Introduction

Athletics is administered across the United Kingdom by UK Athletics (UKA), including responsibility for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of the sport, anti-doping protocol, health and safety, facilities and welfare, training and coach education and permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is currently governed through England Athletics (EA) and many of the functions EA delivers to support clubs locally is through the Club Support Manager (CSM) network. The role of the CSM is to work strategically as part of a local team to provide high-quality support and guidance to a number of affiliated clubs and groups in the area. This work is to support clubs in building long-term sustainable structures and high-quality environments for current and new members and the wider local community.

There are 11 CSMs, each responsible for a large geographical area that contains around 150 clubs. The CSM for Lancaster District covers the regions of Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside and West Yorkshire.

Consultation

Lancaster & Morecambe Athletics Club and Lancaster University Athletics Club are the only track and field athletics clubs in the City with a regular requirement for access to built track provision. Lancaster City Council met with community club and also the regional EA officer for consultation in October 2017, the findings from which helped to inform this section of the report.

10.2: Supply

There is currently just one athletics track in Lancaster City at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre.

The track is the home venue of Lancaster & Morecambe AC and is a fully floodlit eight-lane, County Standard 400m track. As well as track disciplines, the site also caters for all field events including throwing events and jumping events, with a throwing cage, a dedicated shot putt area, a dedicated high jump and pole vault area and sand pits for long jump and triple jump. There is also a cycle track which runs around the perimeter of the site.

The track does not hold full UKA certification (able to host competition at all permit levels in all events) but holds part UKA certification (able to host competition at all permit levels but with some event exceptions). These exceptions are due to non-compliance for pole vault, long jump, triple jump, shot put and hammer throw.

Quality

Track

The Salt Ayre Leisure Centre track is rated as standard quality. It was initially developed in 1993 and was since resurfaced circa 2012/13. Although visually the track has consistent, visible lane markings, there are some issues with supporting equipment. Whilst it has full floodlight, one station has fallen down and requires reinstatement to return lux levels across the track to previous full coverage. The track is fenced from unauthorised access, although aluminium lane barriers are missing. The track is maintained by the City Council through the onsite leisure centre operation.

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Field event facilities

Field event facilities are of poor quality and are the main reason why the track has achieved part UKA certification rather than full certification, due to non-compliance in the aforementioned field events.

Lancaster & Morecambe AC reports that the equipment supplied by Salt Ayre Leisure centre is poor quality and close to unfit for use. Instead the Club has self-funded several pieces of additional equipment itself, such as a new high jump bed. It reports that the javelin area is poor and requires re-marking. Due to the location of the javelin and discus areas they cannot be used for adult competitions at the same time for safety reasons. There is a second javelin area which is adequate but cannot be used at the same time as the hammer cage and throwing area, again due to safety issues.

The Club reports the following issues with field event facilities:

- ✦ Hammer cage - nets remain up all the time and therefore show signs of wear with lots of moss, an inner section missing and weeds in sockets making it unusable.
- ✦ Pole vault area - reportedly missing uprights, permanent pieces which without means the track cannot host pole value events, whilst the surface is poor quality.
- ✦ Long jump facility – lack of covers allows sand to blow from the pit across the site and the run up surface is viewed as poor with the take-off board not flush to the pit. EA reports a need for covers to prevent sand blow and exposure to rain which can in turn cause freezing and slipperiness of the surface.
- ✦ Shotput area – reportedly very poor, lots of weeds, unusable, can see the tarmac coming through the surface. EA reports as grassed over and required updating.
- ✦ Spectators areas – no specific areas, spectators generally stand behind poles, several of which are missing.

Ancillary provision

Lancaster & Morecambe AC has a clubhouse in the South Eastern corner of the site beside the track. EA reports that the building is in good condition, with two changing rooms each with two toilets and a clubroom with social space and kitchen facilities. The Club makes the building available for hire by external groups for the likes of functions as a means of revenue generation. Car parking provision is located to the front of the main leisure centre site, whilst the Club has a number of trackside containers to store equipment, although several pieces of old equipment are reportedly left at the side of the track.

Ownership/management

The track itself is owned by the City Council and managed via the onsite leisure centre which is also responsible for its maintenance. The Club 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.

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10.3: Demand

Lancaster & Morecambe AC is the only community track and field athletics club based in the District. In addition, there is also Lancaster Runners which is primarily a road running club as well as numerous events held such as Parkrun.

There are however a number of other groups both based in Lancaster and imported from other local authorities which use the track at various times.

Track and field

Lancaster & Morecambe Athletics Club

The Club is the main community club based in the District. It provides for several disciplines, including track and field, road running, cross country and fell running.

Training takes place twice weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6.30pm. Juniors often start on the athletic track at 6.45pm whilst the seniors will undertake a warm up often of up to miles to begin. There are usually at least three senior groups of different ability levels to provide opportunities for all.

The Club has a junior section with training sessions held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, throughout which juniors between 8-15 join the Athletics 365 England Athletics Development Scheme until coaches adjudge they are competent to join a specific event training group.

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 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.

Imported demand

There are in fact three track and field clubs which use the Salt Ayre Leisure centre track because Kendal Amateur Athletics Club (KAAC) imports demand from Kendal (South Lakeland) to access the track. It imports demand for one session per week on Thursday evenings from 6-8pm for middle distance and field event training.

The Club imports demand to Lancaster as the nearest accessible track facility. Other track facilities in the region are located in Preston or Carlisle (though the flood damaged building there is to be demolished) whilst there is also a training track in Barrow, however all are much further away than Lancaster. There is no track in Kendal though the Club uses indoor facilities at a school there.

This considered, the location of the Salt Ayre Leisure Centre track is most accessible for KAAC and so it is likely that the Club will contain to access the track in the future.

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Running clubs

Lancaster Runners

Lancaster Runners is a relatively young club founded in 2017 which affiliates to UKA. It is online and social media driven and aimed at people who wish to participate but with flexibility to attend when they want to and do not want or are unable to commit to the regular demands of training which may be required of a track club environment.

The Club organises and runs many race events throughout the year from fun runs through various different distances to full marathons. It also assists with the running of the Lancaster Parkrun event.

Other groups

There are other groups which make use of the Salt Ayre Leisure Centre track including several local schools. Adapted cycling group Network Wheels uses the track on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to provide safe cycling opportunities for adults with special needs. City of Lancaster Triathlon Club (COLT) also makes occasional use of the track for running training sessions.

Parkrun

Parkrun is a series of weekly five kilometre (k) runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of parks and open space across 850 locations in 12 countries including the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Parkrun events are all ability runs open to all aged 14 years and older, whilst there are shorter 2k Junior Parkrun events available on Sunday mornings for runners aged four to fourteen years old. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to receive a printed barcode which gives them access to all Parkrun events.

Parkrun actively promotes local clubs as part of its weekly events in order to advertise them to runners who may potentially be interested in joining a club, whilst approximately 10% of current Parkrun participants are already associated to running clubs. It is common for local clubs to also support Parkrun events through volunteering.

The Lancaster Parkrun is held at Williamson Park on Saturday mornings and averages over 300 runners each week. Following each run, participants often socialise and purchase food and drinks within the park café, increasing revenue generation at the site.

At present there is no Junior Parkrun events in Lancaster and EA reports that opportunities for juniors are limited outside of an established club setting.

Great Run Local

Great Run Local is a network of running events which operate very much like Parkrun in that they too are free, weekly and volunteer driven. It differs, however, in that distances offered are flexible, but generally include two routes at 2k and 5k in order to encourage participation of all abilities. There are currently no Great Run Local events held in Lancaster.

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Couch to 5k

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

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

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 leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Lancaster & Morecambe AC delivers a Couch to 5k programme over the course of ten weeks based at the Salt Ayre Leisure Centre track on Tuesday evenings. It is also delivered by the Active Lancaster programme at various times and locations throughout the Lancaster District.

RunTogether

RunTogether is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. The role of RunTogether is to provide enjoyable, supportive and inclusive running opportunities across England in the form of set routes, running groups and access to programmes such as Find a Guide and Mental Health Ambassadors. LegitLancaster is the only registered RunTogether group in Lancaster and uses the track at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre on Monday evenings.

Future demand

England Athletics reports that there is generally a current growth being experienced in relation to athletics and running.

In addition to any future growth of Lancaster & Morecambe AC, it is to be expected that the popularity of the Parkrun event and demand for RunTogether groups will increase in future, following national trends.

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics within Lancaster but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies a potential catchment of 3,174 people, of which the largest segment proportions are 'Leanne – supportive singles (12.2% of catchment, 386 people)' and 'Tim – settling down males' (11.7% of catchment, 372 people). However, as previously stated, the way in which people participate in running is changing and there has been a growth in popularity of running clubs rather than track and field, though there may be some linked growth between the two.

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10.4: Supply & demand analysis

It is considered that in order for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of 200 is required; however, a number of other factors should also be considered. Whilst exact membership numbers for the user clubs based at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre are not known, given the indicative size of Lancaster & Morecambe Athletics AC particularly, supplemented by use from other clubs and groups, it is considered both that the level of demand for track use in the District is sufficient to sustain an athletics track and that the track is able to sufficiently accommodate the level of demand exhibited.

10.5: Conclusion

The track at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre is considered sufficiently able to cater for track and field athletics demand in Lancaster. The track is considered to be both well used and sustainable, both in light of levels of regular member demand and use by a number of other clubs, groups and organisations.

There is little demand for use of formal track facilities by other running clubs and demand can be met through the natural environment for road and trail running, though other clubs are able to access the track and do so to supplement training when required.

Key priority for formal athletics facilities should be to improve poor quality field event facilities at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre as well as surrounding provision such as the quality and function of perimeter fencing and lighting.

In addition to the athletics track, focus should be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the wider running market and multi-discipline running clubs, including driving participation in running events such as Parkrun.

Athletics summary

- ▶ **Current supply of track and field athletics facilities is sufficient to cater for current demand and future growth.**
- ▶ **There is however a need to improve poor quality facilities for field events in order for user clubs to drive participation growth and quality of provision for competition.**
- ▶ There is one athletics track in Lancaster City located at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre (Lancaster Area).
- ▶ The track was developed in 1993, resurfaced circa 2012/13 and is rated as standard quality.
- ▶ Both resident club Lancaster & Morecambe AC and England Athletics report that many of the field event facilities are of poor quality and require improvement.
- ▶ The track is owned and managed by the City Council, with maintenance undertaken by the onsite leisure centre.
- ▶ Tenure for the Club as resident user is considered secure, whilst all other users access via rental and continued access is not considered to be at threat.
- ▶ Lancaster & Morecambe AC is the only community track and field athletics club based in the District. Kendal Amateur AC does however import demand from South Lakeland for a weekly track session.
- ▶ Lancaster Runners provides a more flexible running offer and a semi-formal pathway from participation initiatives and events into club membership. The wider running market is reported to be growing and expected to continue to do so in future.
- ▶ There is a well-attended Parkrun event held in Williamson Park on Saturday mornings, averaging around 300 participants.

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PART 11: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS

11.1: 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 and all matches are played on natural turf rugby pitches dually used for other sports. Trimpell Sports & Club has a rugby league pitch rated as standard quality, whilst Lancaster University has rugby union pitches also rated as standard quality.

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 are two American football clubs in Lancaster; one a community club and one at Lancaster University.

Morecambe Bay Storm

Morecambe Bay Storm is a community club formed in 2016. It has one contact team which plays in the BAFANL leagues. The Club is based at Trimpell Sports & Social Club and matches are played on the rugby league pitch onsite on Sunday afternoons. Training also takes place on the pitch on Wednesday evenings for 90 minutes, whilst there is a Sunday afternoon training session for two hours when there is no arranged fixture.

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 hours training per week split across the 3G and sand based pitches for an hour and two hours respectively.

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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 two-hour training session on weekends when there is no scheduled fixture.

Capacity analysis

As evidenced within Part 4: Rugby League, additional use of the rugby league pitch by Morecambe Bay Storm causes existing overplay derived from rugby league use at Trimpell Sports & Social Club to be exacerbated.

As evidenced within Part 5: Rugby Union, American football use of rugby union pitches at Lancaster University 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 insufficient capacity on sports pitches presently used for American football to accommodate current levels of demand. Whilst use of Lancaster University can be accommodated providing current quality and maintenance levels are sustained, Trimpell Sports & Social Club is overplayed even without American football use which further exacerbates this.

There is demand for additional capacity for both American football and rugby league in light of this. This additional capacity for American football may be met through creation of a specific American football pitch, use of an alternative grass pitch with sufficient capacity, or through access to and use of a 3G pitch suitably equipped to accommodate contact sport safely.

American football summary

- ◀ **Supply of facilities for American football cannot sufficiently cater for current levels of demand based on present levels of maintenance, access and total sporting use.**
- ◀ **Additional use of the rugby league pitch at Trimpell Sports & Social Club for American football exacerbates the level of exhibited overplay deriving from rugby league demand alone.**
- ◀ **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 are two American football clubs each with one team. One is a community club (Morecambe Bay Storm) and one is university based (Lancaster Bombers).
- ◀ All matches are played on natural turf pitches used for other sports at Trimpell Sports & Social Club (rugby league) and Lancaster University (rugby union).

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11.2: 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 Lancaster, it is played by Lancaster University.

Supply

There is just one dedicated grass lacrosse pitch in Lancaster City, located at Lancaster University and used only by the university teams.

Demand

Lancaster University fields one men's and one women's lacrosse team, 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 3G pitch on campus and on Thursdays for 90 minutes on the AGP.

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.

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 one 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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11.3: Netball

Introduction

England Netball (EN) governs netball in England. Levels of participation are quickly increasing, with over 100,000 affiliated members and at least one million women and girls playing during a typical week. The NGBs aim is to provide its members and partners with the best possible service and experience in sport.

Nationally, netball activity takes place both indoors and outdoors. England Netball is currently working on delivering its new five-year plan, Your Game Your Way. Its mission is for netball to be played in a diverse range of ideal environments that inspire and enable participation, growth and world class performance. It is to achieve this mission through directing tailored programmes to each of its segments of participation, which are:

- ◆ Minis, returners, adult casual, youth social and recreational
- ◆ I Heart Netballers, Hooked on Netball
- ◆ Hooked on netball, Aspiring to perform, Talented youth and developing excellence
- ◆ Elite and high performance, aspiring to perform, Talented youth and developing excellence

Consultation

Consultation was undertaken by the Council (2017) with the England Netball Development Officer for Lancashire & Cumbria to inform this section, in addition to telephone consultation undertaken by KKP (2018) with both leagues based in Lancaster.

Supply

In total, there are 26 outdoor netball courts located across eight sites in Lancaster District, of which 14 are floodlit (54% of supply).

All of the identified outdoor netball court provision is located at education sites, whether secondary schools, Lancaster & Morecambe College or Lancaster University. EN reports that access to courts at independent schools can be more difficult.

Court type

All but four outdoor netball courts in the District have a macadam, hard court surface. The four that don't are located at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy and are marked on the AGP which is a sand filled surface.

The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, dependent on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place by the provider in conjunction with key club and team users for the likes of eventual repair, re-lining, refurbishment or ultimately resurfacing if required.

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Quality

Of the 26 courts, eight are rated as good quality and three as standard, however the majority are rated as poor (15 courts – 58%).

Lancaster & Morecambe Netball League is based at both LMC Sports & Fitness and Morecambe Community High School. It is of the opinion that court quality at the former is not very good but better than at the latter. It believes that line markings are poor, there are patches of moss and it is slippery when wet forcing match cancellations. It also reports issues with the floodlighting although understands that bulbs are due to be replaced. This user opinion considered, EN indicates that it judges the courts to be of relatively good quality and consequently are considered as such within the audit.

The league used Morecambe Community High School prior to late 2017 but has since switched all matches to LMC Sports & Fitness because the courts were reportedly too slippery when wet to play safely and many matches were cancelled.

England Netball reports that qualitative improvements are required to the quality of both fencing and floodlighting at Our Lady's Catholic College to be able to accommodate regular use for netball. The surface is also identified as requiring improvement though priority lies with the fencing and lighting.

The Sportsreach League reports that the AGP at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy on which the netball courts are marked has some quality issues. The surface is reported to be old now, though the exact age is not known, and was repaired in part last season. Furthermore, incidents of standing water retained on the surface lead to a few evenings being cancelled last season, with fixtures relocated to LMC Sports & Fitness on Tuesdays and Thursday to complete the season.

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Table 11.1: Netball courts in Lancaster District

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability for community use	Total number of courts	Number of floodlit courts	Surface type	Quality
46	LMC Sport and Fitness (Lancaster & Morecambe College)	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	3	3	Macadam	Good
53	Morecambe Community High School	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	3	3	Macadam	Standard
58	Our Lady's Catholic College	Lancaster	Yes	3	0	Macadam	Poor
11	Carnforth High School	Carnforth/ Rural	Yes	3	2	Macadam	Poor
17	Central Lancaster High School	Lancaster	No	2	0	Macadam	Poor
31	Bay Leadership Academy ⁴³	Heysham & Morecambe	Yes	3	0	Macadam	Poor
62	Ripley St Thomas CE Academy	Lancaster	Yes	4	4	Artificial turf	Poor
44	Lancaster University Sports Centre	Lancaster	Yes	5	2	Macadam	Good
Total				26	14		

⁴³ Formerly Heysham High School before June 2018 academy conversion

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Over marking

Whilst beneficial for usage and sustainability, an issue for netball nationally is that the majority of available courts are dually used and marked as tennis courts. This may limit accessibility (especially during the summer when tennis nets are often permanently in place) and may also impact on quality due to higher levels of use and wear. In Lancaster District all netball courts are overmarked with tennis courts, whilst most may also be used as general hard court areas for several types of curricular activity due to their location at school sites. The artificial turf courts at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy are part of an AGP which is likely to be used for school football and hockey.

Demand

The EN Development Officer for the area reports that netball in Lancaster is mainly played in outdoor leagues, with no large clubs and no junior clubs. Participation is more socially focused and driven rather than high level match play, though EN's aim is to increase involvement.

The lack of a junior netball club is identified as a priority issue for EN and it has begun discussions to potentially establish one through the head coach of Wyre Netball Club (Wyre). It is understood that this league will be based indoors.

Displaced demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Lancaster District based teams that are currently accessing courts outside of the local authority for home fixtures, normally because their court requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. In the same manner, it also refers to demand imported from other local authorities into the District based on the same reasoning.

Whilst there is no exported demand identified, there is demand imported into the District to play in the two leagues. Notably into the Lancaster & Morecambe Netball League from South Lakeland including clubs such as Kendal and Milnthorpe. Imported demand into the Sportsreach League comes from the likes of Chipping (Ribble Valley), Preston and Garstang (Wyre), although this may be linked to the League's use of faith as a key driver.

Lancaster & Morecambe Netball League

The Lancaster & Morecambe Netball League (LMNL) is the only EN affiliated netball league in Lancashire. The league operates two divisions with over 20 teams as well as a smaller summer league. The league reports that it is growing and though most play takes place outdoors it would actually prefer to be based indoors. Matches are based at two central venues on Monday evenings from 7-9.30pm; LMC Sport & Fitness (Lancaster & Morecambe College) and Morecambe Community High School. However, the league reports that since January 2018 all play has been based at LMC Sports & Fitness due to the slippery surface at the School, with this planned to now be the sole venue moving forwards. The league would like to operate a youth league but states it is restricted by availability of facilities.

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Sportsreach League

The Sportsreach League is somewhat unique in that every netball team is required to have church leadership, therefore faith is in part a key driver to participation. There are 25 teams across three divisions and whilst demand has increased by six teams over the past three seasons, the League does not anticipate considerable future growth. Matches are played at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy where courts are marked on at small sized sand based AGP.

Training

Due to the socially driven nature of participation, few teams train throughout the year. It is reported that some including Jet Blacks and Heysham netball clubs do so but generally use indoor facility. Some pre-season training may be held outdoors however this is likely to be ad-hoc.

Back to Netball and Walking Netball

Back to Netball sessions are running across England and provides women of all ages a welcoming re-introduction to the sport. Sessions cover the basics of the game including passing, footwork and shooting and finish with a friendly game. Since its creation in 2010, over 60,000 women have taken part.

Back to Netball sessions previously ran at Lancaster & Morecambe College through the help of Active Lancashire CSP funding, however these sessions have since stopped since the funding ended. EN reports that Back to Netball sessions did result in a couple of teams forming which now play in the leagues.

Walking netball has evolved from a growing demand of walking sports e.g. walking football. Walking netball is a slower version of the game. It has been designed so that anyone can play regardless of age and fitness level and therefore offers opportunities for older adults to participate and enjoy.

Indoor facilities are generally preferred for walking netball and because most suitable indoor spaces are located at education sites sessions are unable to run during the day, consequently sessions are instead run from community centres. Walking netball sessions currently operate at two centres. One is at the Hatton Centre held indoors in winter and on an outdoor court in summer, whilst a session is held in a small hall at Barton Road Community Centre (Lancaster Analysis Area).

Conclusion

In conclusion there is sufficient quantity of outdoor netball provision in Lancaster District to meet current demand. Key issues are instead regarding quality and access given all courts are located at education sites and access is by rental, whilst maintenance levels are likely to be basic at many School sites particularly.

Focus should be to improve quality of courts and supporting infrastructure at key netball sites Morecambe Community High School and Ripley St Thomas CE Academy. Doing so would help to reduce the number of match cancellations presently putting pressure on LMC Sports & Fitness as the best quality venue for netball.

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Netball summary

- There is sufficient quantity of outdoor netball provision in Lancaster District to meet current demand.
- However, there is a requirement to improve quality at key venues (Morecambe High School and Ripley St Thomas CE Academy) and to work with providers to increase level and security of access given clubs and leagues have no influence over existing assets.
- In total, there are 26 outdoor macadam netball courts across eight sites. 14 of these courts are floodlit.
- All are education sites, including secondary schools, colleges and the University, therefore all leagues and clubs access facilities through rental.
- There are four artificial turf courts marked on the AGP at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy, otherwise all other courts are hard macadam surfaces.
- Of the 26 courts, eight are rated as good quality and three as standard, however the majority are rated as poor (15 courts – 58%).
- All netball demand for matches (and some training by a few clubs) is located at three key sites; LMC Sports & Fitness (Lancaster & Morecambe College), Morecambe Community High School and Ripley St Thomas CE Academy.
- The leagues report LMC Sports & Fitness to be better of these venues, with matches relocated to there from the other two due to the impact of surface quality issues exacerbated by wet weather.
- Netball demand is mostly accommodated within the two leagues based within the District. Both leagues have over 20 teams but do not anticipate significant future growth.
- England Netball reports that the development of club opportunities for juniors and a junior league is a development priority for the District.
- The Lancaster & Morecambe Netball League would like to establish a youth league but reports availability of indoor facilities to be a key challenge.

11.4: Ultimate frisbee

Introduction

UK Ultimate is the national governing body of Ultimate Frisbee, commonly known as Ultimate. Its role is to assist and encourage both players and teams at all levels of the sport.

The rules of Ultimate frisbee are a homogenisation of two sports: American football and basketball. Two teams of seven compete to score points in the opponents 'end zone' located at either side of the pitch. Players cannot run with the disk or allow it to hit the ground and must throw it to a teammate located in the opposing end zone to score. This non-contact sport is played on a pitch 100x37 metres in size. Competitive outdoor matches occur between the months of April and August with matches lasting approximately one hour.

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Supply

Ultimate frisbee is played only at Lancaster University and there are no dedicated pitches, with playing areas marked onto playing fields used for football and rugby union.

Ultimate frisbee can also be played indoors and there are often series played made up of both indoor and outdoor matches, notably within the Roses Series, a multi-sport competition held between Lancaster and York universities at the end of each academic year.

Demand

Ultimate frisbee is increasingly popular at Lancaster University and the university club known as Lancaster University Ultimate Club or 'The Fish' has one team playing within the BUCS leagues on Wednesday afternoons.

Training is held four times a week, with two indoor and two outdoor sessions. Outdoor sessions are held on Tuesday evenings for an hour on the 3G pitch and Saturday afternoons for two hours on the grass rugby pitches. Indoor training is held in the university sports hall.

Conclusion

Current facilities available and accessible for university Ultimate frisbee can sufficiently cater for the level of demand on either artificial or natural turf pitches, on the basis that grass pitch quality is sustained through a continued high quality maintenance regime.

Ultimate frisbee summary

- ◀ **Current facilities available and accessible for university Ultimate can sufficiently cater for the level of demand on either artificial or natural turf pitches, on the basis that grass pitch quality is sustained through a continued high quality maintenance regime.**
- ◀ Only Lancaster University fields an Ultimate team and there are no community clubs. The University has one team playing on Wednesday afternoons in the BUCS leagues.
- ◀ All match play and training is accommodated onsite at the university campus. Matches and training takes place on the grass football or rugby union pitches, whilst some training also takes place on the 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 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.

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

National Planning Policy Framework (2012, updated 2018)

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.

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As a prerequisite, the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◆ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◆ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◆ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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 NPPF is accompanied by Planning Practice Guidance⁴⁴ on several different topics which relate to it, including amongst others open space, sport and recreation facilities including public rights of way and local green space.

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 is presently in draft and is due for publication in 2018.

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).

⁴⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

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The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a 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. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

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The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ ***More Play*** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Clubs and leagues*
 - ◀ *Kids*
 - ◀ *Communities*
 - ◀ *Casual*
- ◀ ***Great Teams*** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Pathway*
 - ◀ *Support*
 - ◀ *Elite Teams*
 - ◀ *England Teams*
- ◀ ***Inspired Fans*** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Fan focus*
 - ◀ *New audiences*
 - ◀ *Global stage*
 - ◀ *Broadcast and digital*

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- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Integrity*
 - ◀ *Community programmes*
 - ◀ *Our environments*
 - ◀ *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game's revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - ◀ *People*
 - ◀ *Revenue and reach*
 - ◀ *Insight*
 - ◀ *Operations*

The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary, the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

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England Hockey Strategy

Our vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

Our core objectives are as follows:

1. Grow our Participation
2. Deliver International Success
3. Increase our Visibility
4. Enhance our Infrastructure
5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

Club Participation

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

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Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

England Hockey Facilities Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

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The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 – 2017

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 RLWC 2021's 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

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England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17 Whole Sport Plan

England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.



To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ▶ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ▶ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ▶ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ▶ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ▶ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

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British Tennis Strategy 2019

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

Vision: tennis opened up

Mission: to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
 - ◀ The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

1. Visibility - Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. 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.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

British Crown Green Bowling Association

Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England.

<http://bcgba.org.uk/index.html>

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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.

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The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims “To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England”.

UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and the 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA’s Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future “running” facilities.

The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

Key outcomes:

- ◆ Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
- ◆ Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
- ◆ Increased talent pool
- ◆ Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
- ◆ Securing the long term future of existing facilities
- ◆ More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
- ◆ Improving the athletics experience for all participants
- ◆ Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators

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APPENDIX 2: STEERING GROUP CONTACTS

The Steering Group will be responsible for the vision and direction of the Playing Pitch Strategy from a strategic perspective and supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group will be the client for any consultancy support required. The group will consist of the following officers and stakeholders:

Lancaster District Council:		
Name		Role
Helen Ryan		Public Realm Development Manager
Paul Hatch		Senior Planning Officer
Maurice Brophy		Planning & Housing Policy Manager
Eleanor Woodhouse		Planning Assistant – Regeneration & Planning Service
External stakeholders:		
Organisation	Name	Role
Sport England	Helen Ledger	Planning Manager
Football Foundation	Alice Watson	Engagement Manager (West)
Lancashire County Football Association	Shaun Burke	Facilities & Investment Officer
Lancashire County Football Association	Tony Callister	Football Development Officer
England & Wales Cricket Board	Fiona Prescott	Regional Club & Facilities Manager (North West)
Lancashire Cricket Foundation	James Cutt	Club & Community Cricket Manager
Rugby Football League	John McMullen	Club & Competition Manager
Rugby Football Union	Tom Bartram	Area Facilities Manager
England Hockey	Gary Limbert	Facilities Relationship Manager
English Lacrosse	Martin Cragg	North West Officer & Boys National Academy Co-Ordinator
England Athletics	Emma Davenport	Club Support Manager