



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT UPDATED NOVEMBER 2019

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
IOG	Institute of Groundmanship
IMS	International Match Standard
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf Pitch
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RFLC	Rugby Football League Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This is an update to the Solihull Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Assessment Report (originally completed in January 2017). It was initially prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) and commissioned by the Council in a joint study with Birmingham City Council. A combined Assessment Report was produced, followed by separate strategy documents. As Birmingham City Council is not involved in the update, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council will now have its own individual Assessment Report document.

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the original PPS. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the work being signed off, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) will consider it to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document and kept up to date, its lifespan can be extended. This update therefore extends the lifespan of the PPS to at least 2022.

A combination of desk-based research as well as high level consultation with the Council, Sport England and NGBs was carried out in order to update the supply and demand data whilst validating and adding new context to reflect key changes since the initial data was recorded. Unless stated otherwise, where consultation is referred to in relation to other stakeholders (e.g. clubs and leagues), this applies to the consultation that took place across 2016 and 2017 for the original study.

Both the original PPS and this update present a supply and demand analysis of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a PPS, separated into five distinct sections:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the strategy document and Stage E ongoing.

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the PPS is being updated

An up-to-date PPS provides the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting the provision of outdoor sports facilities and to support sports development objectives. The primary purpose of the PPS is to provide a strategic framework that ensures that the provision of playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents within Solihull. The Strategy is produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provides robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision.

The Council is currently undertaking a Local Plan Review, with a draft plan published in November 2016. Since that time, more detailed work has been carried out on the proposed allocations, in the form of concept masterplans and the Government has revised its National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and produced a methodology for assessing local housing need.

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In response, the Council has:

- ◀ Revised its proposed site allocations
- ◀ Updated the housing requirement figure to reflect the new methodology
- ◀ Continued the commitment to a 2,000 dwelling contribution to the Birmingham and Black County Housing Market Area
- ◀ Changed the plan period to 2018-2035

A supplementary consultation update was published in January 2019 which includes the revised site allocations and proposes additional 'green sites' as a number of 'amber sites' that may be potentially included within the final submission. Several of the proposed site allocations will have an impact on existing or former playing pitches.

- ◀ Site 1: Barratt's Farm, Balsall Common
- ◀ Site 2: Frog Lane, Balsall Common
- ◀ Site 4: West of Dickens Heath
- ◀ Site 8: Hampton Road, Knowle
- ◀ Site 9: South of Knowle (Arden Triangle)
- ◀ Site 15: Auckland Drive, Chelmsley Wood
- ◀ Site 16: East of Solihull (off Lugtrout Lane)
- ◀ Site 18: Sharman's Cross Road
- ◀ Site 20: Damson Parkway
- ◀ Amber Site: A6 Rowood Drive

In addition, although not proposed through site allocations, Jaguar Land Rover Sports & Social Club may be pursued through the planning application process as it could be required for future expansion of the plant and/or supporting areas. Similarly, a new dual carriageway provided as part of the M42 J6 improvements could impact on provision at Páirc na hÉireann (Gaelic Athletic Association).

The PPS update is considered vital to determine the effect that such development will have on sport and what mitigation is required to offset any loss of provision and cater for any additional demand from resultant population growth. Given this, the PPS update will inform a review of the implications of existing sport, recreation and leisure provision for the delivery of site allocations and other significant developments that come forward. This will lead to a mitigation strategy (also to be undertaken by KKP) that will offer strategic planning advice to the Council and provide an evidence-based report to support the preparation of the Submission Draft version of the Local Plan Review and subsequent consultation.

Meeting Sport England PPS Requirements

PPS requirements set out by Sport England include:

- ◀ To support the improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
- ◀ Sports development programmes and changes in how the sports are played.
- ◀ The need to provide 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.
- ◀ To review budgetary pressures and ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.

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- ◀ To develop a priority list of deliverable projects that will help to meet any current deficiencies, provide for future demand and feed into wider infrastructure planning.
- ◀ To prioritise internal capital and revenue investment.
- ◀ To provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; 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.

Paragraphs 97 and 98 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraphs 99 and 100 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

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, within the cost envelope and to the required quality standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, the Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting as well as checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and NGBs.

It is important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPS has been updated 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 PPS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the PPS’s recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

Agreed scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the original Assessment and Strategy:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)
- ◀ Other grass sports pitches (lacrosse, Ultimate frisbee, Australian rules football, baseball/softball, American football, Gaelic football and Kabaddi)

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- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Athletics tracks

It should be noted that for the non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis and athletics) included within the scope of this study, the supply and demand principles of Sport England methodology: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) are followed, to ensure the process is compliant with the NPPF. This is less prescriptive than the PPS guidance.

Although a large number of other grass sports pitches were included in the original study, most of these were related to Birmingham and had no relevance to Solihull. As such, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, Australian rules football and American football have been discounted from the update as no supply of pitches is evident and no demand is exists.

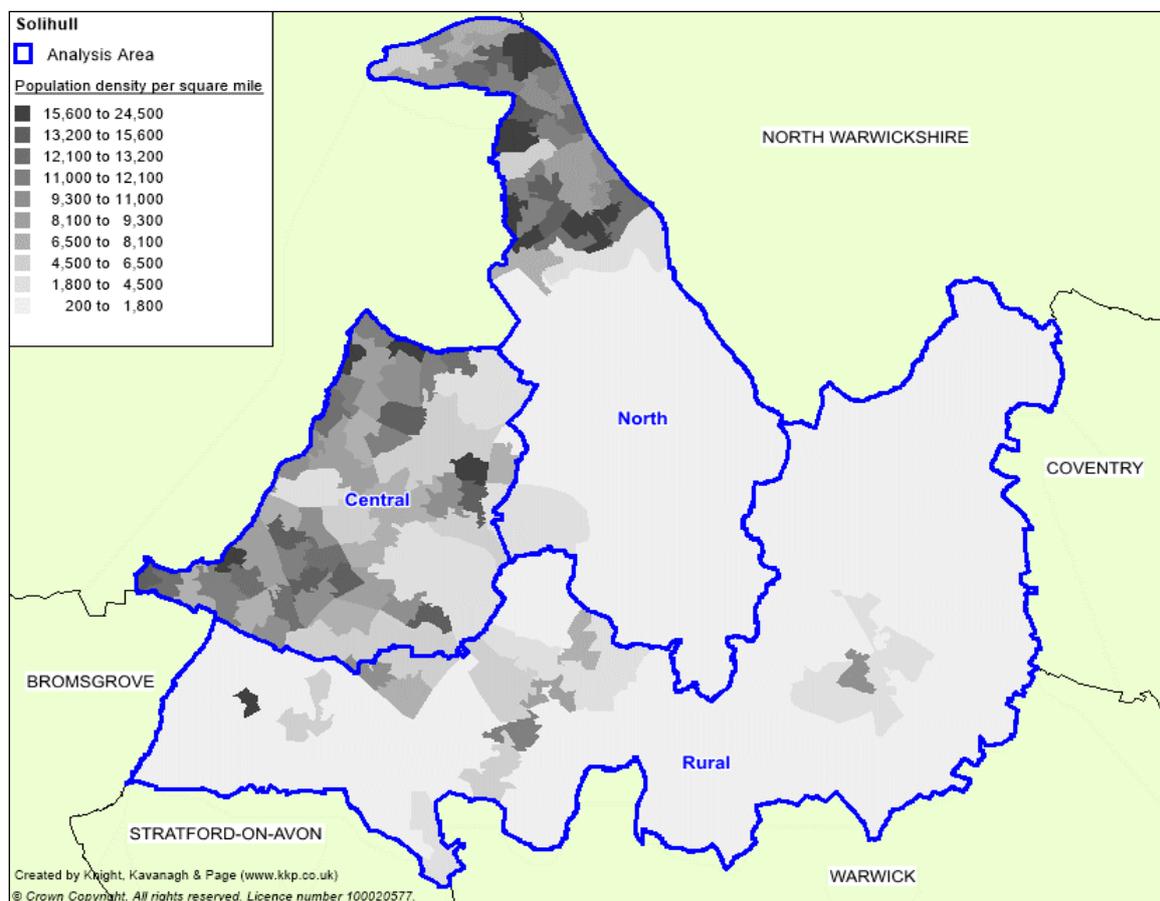
The study area

The study area is the Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council area. In addition, sub areas or analysis areas have also been created to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be accounted for.

The analysis areas are unchanged from the original study, with the Council's administrative area split into three neighbourhood areas, made up of the following wards:

- ◀ **North Area** – Bickenhill, Kingshurst and Fordbridge, Castle Bromwich, Chelmsley Wood, Smiths Wood.
- ◀ **Central Area** – Elmdon, Lyndon Olton, Silhill, St Alphege, Shirley East/West/South.
- ◀ **Rural Area** – Blythe, Dorridge and Hockley Heath, Knowle, Meriden.

Figure 1.1: Solihull 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 PPS 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 was originally gathered in Solihull as well as how it has updated, if it was required.

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'.¹

- ◀ ***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.

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.

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 PPS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, such as mini 5v5 football pitches. This PPS 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 Solihull; however, there may be instances, for example at 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, exclusions of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

Where known, 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, with the Council and NGBs supportive of this process by checking and updating the 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

¹ www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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Such information has been refreshed as part of the PPS update through consultation with NGBs, the Council and other providers, where necessary.

Accessibility

Not all playing 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:

- ◀ **Available for community use and used** - 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 use 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** – pitches 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 NPPF).

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. NB: This refers to pitches in community use and not lapsed/disused sites.

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 that 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 were assessed as part of the original PPS regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating was 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.

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In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments across 2016 and 2017 (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), partners and local stakeholders were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this. Where quality is known to have changed since original study and since the non-technical assessments, or where maintenance regimes have significantly altered, quality ratings have again been adjusted for the update.

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 Solihull tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play

In addition, unmet and imported/exported 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; imported/exported demand refers to teams that are generated from residents of an area but due to any number of factors do not currently play within it.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information in 2016 about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport, with face-to-face consultation carried out with key stakeholders from each sport. 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, an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face-to-face consultation. Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the 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 or face-to-face interviews.

The response rates of the 2016 consultation was as follows:

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	100	64	64%	Face-to-face; online survey
Football teams	380	300	79%	
Cricket clubs	19	19	100%	Online survey
Rugby union clubs	6	6	100%	Face-to-face; online survey
Rugby league clubs	1	1	100%	Telephone
Hockey clubs	4	6	67%	Online survey
Colleges	2	2	100%	Face-to-face
Secondary schools	17	17	100%	Face-to-face
Primary schools	50	31	62%	Online survey

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Some follow-up consultation was carried out with selected clubs as part of the update. These were key, large clubs identified as experiencing the most changes since the original PPS, or where recent key issues or development plans have become evident.

Future demand

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

Population growth

The resident population in Solihull is recorded as 214,909 (based on ONS 2018 mid-year estimates). By 2035 (in line with the timescale identified in the Local Plan Review), it is projected to increase to 232,787 (ONS 2017-based projections 2017-2035).

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for playing pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area. Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the ONS population increases in each analysis area (to 2035). This figure is then applied to the team generation rates and is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

Participation increases

Many clubs within Solihull have future demand aspirations that could be exclusive of population growth. Furthermore, some NGBs have initiatives aimed at increasing participation that could grow demand above and beyond that derived from increases in population. Sources used to inform this 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 female participation).

Where clubs expressed future demand when consulted in 2016, this has remained as future demand unless it is known through NGB consultation and data to have been achieved or to no longer be an aspiration.

Housing growth

The Solihull Draft Local Plan Review states that it will allocate sufficient land for 15,765 dwellings for the period 2018-2035. This includes proposed additional allocations (6,310 dwellings), the UK Central Hub (2,500 dwellings), remaining Local Plan allocations (1,236 dwellings), existing planning permissions and windfall sites.

Using Sport England's New Development Calculator, it is possible to predict the likely demand generated for playing pitches from housing growth, again using current participation levels and team generation rates. This can be used for overall housing growth and for housing growth on a site-by-site or area-by-area basis.

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Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered within Stage B (and subsequent update findings) is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Solihull. It focuses on how much use each site could potentially accommodate compared to how much use is currently taking place.

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 sessions² 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, exported and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This also includes, 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 updated Strategy report and therefore does not form part of the updated Assessment Report.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing the above steps, it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Solihull. This report seeks to identify and present the updated key findings and issues prior to updating the Strategy document.

² A match equivalent session can be either a match or a training session

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The following sections summarise the local administration of each included sport in Solihull. Each chapter 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. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

Where significant, changes from the original PPS are noted and a comparison is drawn to show the difference between the updated findings and the findings of the earlier study.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Birmingham County FA is the primary organisation responsible for the development (and some elements of administration) of football across Solihull. 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 only. Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches (AGPs). In the 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.

The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth 11v11 pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s and 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s, whilst for 9v9 football (u12s and u11s) it is 73 x 46 metres. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches (u10s and u9s) is 55 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches (u8s and u7s) it is 37 x 27 metres. All pitch sizes should also include a three metre safety run-off area.

Local Football Facility Plan

To support in delivery of the National Football Facilities Strategy, the FA has commissioned a national project. By 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 under-represented 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 future facility investments will be identified via LFFPs. Each LFFP will focus on four key aspects:

- ◀ 3G pitches
- ◀ Grass pitches
- ◀ Changing room clubhouses/pavilions
- ◀ Small-sided football facilities

The LFFP for Solihull was produced in 2018 and identifies 30 priority projects for investment. As an investment portfolio, the LFFP is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. The PPS did, however, provide the evidence base for its production and this update will therefore take account of the included projects.

As the supply and demand balance may have changed for football in this update, there may be a requirement to update the LFFP as a consequence to ensure the two studies continue to complement each other.

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Consultation

In addition to face-to-face consultation with key football clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs playing in Solihull during the 2016/2017 season. Contact details were provided by Birmingham County FA and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email. Response was received by 64 clubs (including face-to-face meetings), which equates to a club response rate of 64% and a team response rate of 79%. The following key clubs were met with for a face-to-face consultation:

- ◀ Balsall & Berkswell Hornets FC
- ◀ Kingshurst Sporting FC
- ◀ Knowle FC
- ◀ Leafield Athletic FC

In addition, Solihull Moors Juniors, Solihull, Arden Forest, CCC's and Marston Green football clubs in Solihull were invited to a face-to-face consultation but were either unavailable or did not reply to requests. The majority did, however, complete a survey with the only exception being CCC's FC.

As part of the update, Birmingham County FA were consulted to discuss key changes and it provided new affiliation data (2018/2019 season).

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies 246 grass football pitches within Solihull across 89 sites. Of the pitches, 210 are available, at some level, for community use across 72 sites, as presented in the table below. The large majority of unavailable pitches are located within schools.

Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

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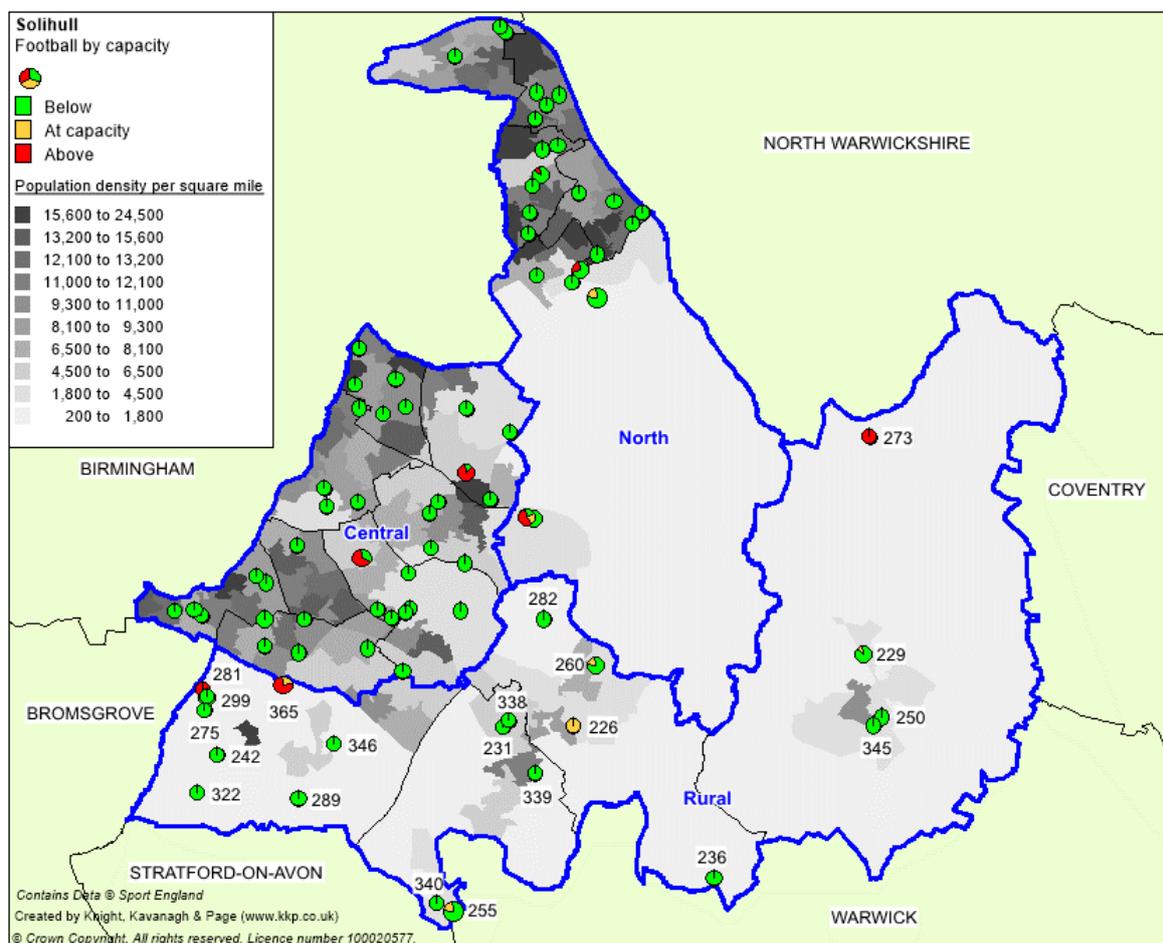
Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Central	40	3	5	9	6	63
North	30	8	14	14	14	80
Rural	27	4	10	12	14	67
Solihull	97	15	29	35	34	210

When compared to the PPS data collected in 2016/2017, there are seven more pitches in existence now that are available for community use. This is predominately due to re-configuration rather than through new sites being created.

The North Analysis Area (80 pitches) contains the most number of pitches, followed by the Rural Analysis Area (67 pitches). The Central Analysis Area contains the least (57 pitches). There are significantly more adult pitches (97) when compare to other pitch types, with fewer youth 11v11 pitches (15). It should be therefore be noted that nationally many youth 11v11 teams are play on adult pitches, which may be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.

Figure 2.1 overleaf identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Solihull. For a key to the map, see Table 2.13.

Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Solihull



Future provision

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The Draft Local Plan proposes a number of new site allocations, mainly for housing, that could impact of football provision. Each allocation in the table below has unique implications for the football pitches on the sites affected, with some to be retained or even improved and some to be relocated/mitigated. This PPS update will help inform what is required before a wider mitigation strategy is developed. More information will also be included within the Strategy document that document that follows this report.

Table 2.2: Sites affected by Draft Local Plan Review allocations

Site allocation	PPS site ID	PPS site/s affected	Grass football pitches on site
Site 2: Frog Lane, Balsall Common	251	Heart of England School (Holly Lane)	One adult; one youth
Site 4: West of Dickens Heath	242	Dickens Heath Sports Club	Two adult; two youth; two mini
	253	Highgate United Football Club	Three adult; one youth; five mini
	281	Shirley Town Football Club	One adult
	299	Wychall Wanderers Football Club	Two adult
	408	Leafield Athletic Football Club	One youth; four mini
Site 8: Hampton Road, Knowle	260	Knowle Football Club	One adult; one mini
Site 9: South of Knowle	226	Arden Academy Trust	Two adult
Site 15: Auckland Drive, Chelmsley Wood	403	Auckland Drive	One youth
Site 16: East of Solihull	265	Lugtrout Lane	Three youth; three mini
Site 20: Damson Parkway	225	Solihull Moors Football Club	One adult

In addition, an Amber Site (Rowood Drive) has also been identified that could impact on lapsed provision if it proceeded. The site was used for mini football up to around 2011, with Lode Heath School maintaining the facilities despite not using it for many years. Whilst the site is located in an urban area and would be well suited to residential development, the need for mitigation as a result of its former use as playing field land needs to be established.

Another development to be considered is Land Rover Sports & Social Club, with an expansion to the adjacent plant possibly required which could encroach on or completely remove the playing field land. The site contains four adult, one youth and one mini pitch and is considered to be key for football with 18 teams currently using the site and coach education courses being ran from it.

In relation to Site 2: Frog Lane, the football pitches may be retained as they could be excluded from the developable area of the site, with the Developer not interested to include the playing fields.

For Site 4: West of Dickens Heath, Play4Sport was commissioned on behalf of the landowner (Horne Estates) to develop a proposal for the relocation of the sites affected to a new sports hub to the North of Tythebarn Lane (known as Dickens Heath Sports Hub). However, the FA objected to the findings as they did not believe it offered appropriate mitigation.

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Site 8: Hampton Road proposes the development of Knowle Football Club and adjacent land, with a sports hub potentially to be created adjacent to the Grand Union Canal that could provide upgraded facilities to the Club. This could be tied into the development of Site 9: South of Knowle due to the proximity of the sites; this development proposes the relocation of the School and its associated facilities.

For Site 15: Auckland Drive, it is considered likely that the pitch will be retained, although it could be realigned. Given that it is an underused one pitch site, potential rationalisation could be considered as an alternative approach if contributions could go to developing increased and/or improved provision elsewhere in the locality.

Site 16: East of Solihull proposes the loss of the pitches at Lugtrout Lane; the initial idea is for these to be relocated to the North where Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club is located.

Finally, Site 20: Damson Parkway is unlikely to impact directly on Solihull Moors Football Club as the development area does not include the playing pitches. The application is for Jaguar Land Rover to create a Logistics Centre. The key is to ensure this does not affect the supporting infrastructure for the Club or accessibility.

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Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in Solihull was assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation in 2016/2017 to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Where quality is known to have changed since the non-technical assessments, via consultation with the FA and the Council, the ratings have been amended accordingly.

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

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. The maintenance of council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The majority of pitches in Solihull are assessed as standard quality, although there are more poor quality pitches than good quality pitches. In total, nine pitches are assessed as good quality, 164 as standard quality and 37 as poor quality.

Table 2.3: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
6	75	16	2	36	6	2	53	14

All pitches managed by the Council receive a basic level of maintenance which is limited to regular grass cutting (every ten days from March until October) and end of season seeding of high traffic areas (i.e. goalmouths and the centre circle). No regular sand dressing, weed killing, aeration or fertilisation takes place, although it has been noted that weed killer has been mixed into the line marking solution at certain sites. It is possible that ongoing budget restrictions could further reduce the level of maintenance in the future, thus placing greater threat on council pitches and further deteriorating the quality of those pitches. As such, rationalisation and/or asset transfer of sites may be required.

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The majority of pitches within schools receive an adequate maintenance regime, which in most cases is sub-contracted to an external company such as Fairways Limited. Of the schools, only John Henry Newman Catholic College contains good quality pitches, whereas Arden Academy, Heart of England School, Tudor Grange Academy and various primary schools contain poor quality pitches predominately due to drainage/waterlogging issues.

Maintenance of pitches at club and private sites varies. Some clubs hire dedicated ground staff, whilst others depend on remedial work by volunteers that is often limited by cost and a lack of specialised equipment. Club sites containing good quality pitches include Shirley Town Football Club and Solihull Moors Football Club, as well as Balsall and Berkswell Football Club, which has recently had drainage work completed. In Contrast, Highgate United Football Club and Glades Football Club contain pitches assessed as poor quality.

The LFFP for Solihull identifies key, strategic sites that should be improved within the lifespan of the plan (ten years). These following existing sites are included:

- ◀ Balsall & Berkswell Football Club
- ◀ Bluebell Recreation Ground
- ◀ Castle Bromwich Playing Fields
- ◀ Chelmsley Town Football Club
- ◀ Elmdon Heath Recreation Ground
- ◀ Glades Football Club
- ◀ Heart of England School
- ◀ Hockley Heath Recreation Ground
- ◀ Silhillians Sports Club
- ◀ The Pavilions

These are all assessed as standard or poor quality in the PPS. For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.13.

FA Pitch Improvement Programme

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 this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

Following a PIP report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified in order to improve the quality of their pitches. Clubs can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams to obtain the relevant equipment maintenance equipment.

In Solihull, numerous sites have undergone an inspection:

- ◀ Balsall & Berkswell Football Club
- ◀ CTC Kingshurst Academy
- ◀ Glades Football Club
- ◀ Hockley Heath Recreation Ground
- ◀ Land Rover Sports & Social Club
- ◀ Marston Green Football Club
- ◀ Silhill Football Club
- ◀ Solihull Moors Football Club

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Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini or youth pitches may be marked onto adult pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch. Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

There are also some football pitches that are dual use rugby union pitches. This can create availability issues as the rugby union and football seasons run parallel to each other. Furthermore, numerous pitches are marked onto cricket outfield. This creates availability issues as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. Generally, cricket is given priorities at such sites, meaning football teams either finish their season early or have to relocate to another site.

The following sites are known to regularly have over markings in Solihull:

- ◀ Dickens Heath Sports Club
- ◀ Hampton Sports Club
- ◀ John Henry Newman Catholic College
- ◀ Knowle Football Club
- ◀ Solihull Municipal Club
- ◀ Moseley Cricket Club
- ◀ Tanworth Lane Sports Ground
- ◀ Silhill Football Club

Ancillary facilities

The non-technical assessment assesses ancillary facilities servicing pitches. This includes the condition of clubhouses, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, car parking and boundary fencing, amongst other things.

The 2016 assessment concluded that 28% of community available pitches are not serviced by accessible changing accommodation. The majority of these are found at school sites that do have on-site changing rooms but do not allow for community use of them, although some are without provision entirely such as Tanworth Lane Sports Ground, which is accessed by Solihull Moors FC. Council sites such as Bluebell Recreation Ground are also without provision.

Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 6% are serviced by good quality facilities, 74% by standard quality facilities and 20% by poor quality facilities. The only pitches serviced by good quality changing rooms are at Balsall and Berkswell Football Club and CTC Kinghurst Academy, both of which have recently had a new clubhouse built via the Football Foundation (the latter to service the 3G pitch on site).

Table 2.4: Clubs response to changing facility quality in Solihull

Good	Standard	Poor
6%	74%	20%

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The LFFP for Solihull identifies five projects relating to improving existing ancillary facilities. These are at the following sites:

- ◀ Castle Bromwich Playing Fields
- ◀ Glades Football Club
- ◀ Highgate United Football Club
- ◀ Hockley Heath Recreation Ground
- ◀ The Pavilions

The Pavilions has recently undergone a management change, with the site now ran by The Pavilions Club. It is looking to redevelop the site, providing new social and ancillary facilities whilst extending what provision currently exists. A planning application has been submitted for this.

In addition, the LFFP also recommends that new changing facilities are created to service any relocation of Knowle FC and as part of the creation of Dickens Heath Sports Club, should it be created. This could also impact on the recommended project at Highgate United Football Club as the Club would likely form part of the new Sports Hub; the project was identified in the event of the Club staying at its current location.

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Solihull is generally secure, i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. A common exception to this is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use. In total, 18 educational providers do not allow community use of some or all of their pitches and this includes schools that have a large number of pitches such as Alderbrook School and Solihull School

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 perceived lack of profitability.

Moreover, some schools that do provide community availability do so without providing security of tenure, meaning they can stop the external use at any point devoid of any warning. To prevent this happening, it is recommended that club users enter community use agreements with the schools that they access.

Away from schools, all sites allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review are considered to have unsecure tenure. Whilst it is recognised that the Council will protect such provision in line with NPPF, this will remain the case until all mitigation and replacement has been ascertained and agreed to by Sport England and the FA. The danger is that the landowners or developers take the pitches out of use before development begins.

In addition, Marston Green FC reports security of tenure issues as the lease of its site of the same name is nearing expiry and the Club states that this is preventing pitch and ancillary facility improvements. The lease is acquired from Solihull Council.

Hampton Junior FC has recently entered into a lease agreement for use of Hampton Sports Club in an arrangement that now has eight years remaining. Whilst this does offer improved security of tenure to the Club, it is unlikely to assist with any funding bids or development plans due to its short lifespan.

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Football pyramid demand

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of 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 requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 7 clubs.

In Solihull, five clubs play within the football pyramid, as seen in the table below.

Table 2.5: Solihull clubs playing within the football pyramid

Step	Clubs
1	Solihull Moors FC
2	-
3	-
4	-
5	Highgate United FC
6	Cadbury Athletic FC
7	Hampton FC; Knowle FC

When the original PPS was completed, Smithswood Firs FC were also within the football pyramid, playing at Step 7. However, they folded in 2018 following promotion to Step 6.

All clubs are currently able to meet their league requirements, although improvements may be needed in some instances for clubs to progress. For example, Knowle FC cannot gain promotion to Step 6 (ground grading G) using its existing site due to a lack of floodlighting, dugouts and spectator toilets.

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 on 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).

Women's National League system

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System, similar to the adult men's system, which provides structure to the women's game. As seen in the table below, this covers numerous steps with each step requiring differing ground grading requirements.

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Table 2.6: Summary of ground grading for women's football

Level	League	Grading category
Step 3 and 4	Women's Super League 1	Grade A
Step 3 and 4	Women's Super League 2	Grade B
Step 5	Northern and Southern Women's Premier League	Grade A
Step 6	Women's Combination Leagues	Grade B
Step 7	Women's Regional Leagues – Premier Divisions	Grade C

Birmingham Ladies FC plays in the Women's Super League 1 and uses Solihull Moors FC for home matches, despite, as its name suggests, being a club based in Birmingham. In addition, there are numerous other clubs fielding teams in Solihull lower down the pyramid, such as Leafield Athletic, Crusaders, Knowle and Solihull Ladies football clubs.

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

In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women's league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes were implemented from the start of the 2018/2019 season and saw the top league, FA WSL 1, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at tier two.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 478 teams from within 102 clubs are identified as playing within Solihull (2018/2019 affiliation data). These figures consist of 95 adult men's, nine adult women's, 204 youth boys', 19 youth girls' and 151 mini soccer teams.

Table 2.7: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Solihull

Analysis area	Number of teams					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Central	32	34	22	11	6	105
North	46	51	34	42	38	211
Rural	26	50	32	25	29	162
Total	104	135	88	78	73	478

The Central Analysis Area provides for the fewest number of teams (105); the North Analysis Area caters for the most (211 teams). This coincides with the former analysis area providing the least number of pitches and the latter providing the most. The most prevalent playing format in Solihull is youth 11v11 football (135 teams) although substantial demand for each format exists.

There has been a significant growth in demand since the original PPS was complete, with an additional 98 teams now identified and an increase evidenced for each playing format

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and for both males and females. The largest increase is seen at mini level, with 51 more teams now playing 5v5 or 7v7 football compared to 2016/2017 data.

The growth can predominately be assigned to large, multi-team clubs growing substantially, such as Solihull Moors FC. The County FA reports that Solihull is in a healthy position in terms of participation in comparison with other local authorities; however, it must be stated that the increase in demand will be having a direct impact on the pitch supply as the number of pitches has not grown to correlate with the number of teams.

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 this as being the case in Solihull.

Latent demand

During the 2016/2017 consultation process, three clubs identified that if more pitches were available at their home ground or in the local area they could develop more teams in the future (latent demand). These figures have now been re-visited and amends have been made where initial demand is known to have been realised.

Table 2.8: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
Chelmsley Town Colts FC	North	1 x Adult		1
		2 x Youth	(11v11)	0.5
			(9v9)	0.5
Hampton FC	North	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5
Knowle FC	Rural	1 x Adult		0.5
		4 x Youth	(11v11)	1
			(9v9)	1
		6 x Mini	(7v7)	1.5
(5v5)	1.5			

In total, latent demand quantified by clubs now equates to eight match equivalent sessions. This is a reduction of seven match equivalent sessions since 2016 given that some of the demand has been realised for all three clubs. However, that is not to say other clubs have not gone on to develop additional latent demand given the likely increased pressure on pitches following team growth. This should be further explored following this update.

Table 2.9: Latent demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Latent demand (match equivalent sessions)					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Central	-	-	-	-	-	0
North	1	0.5	1	-	-	2.5
Rural	0.5	1	1	1.5	1.5	5.5

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Total	1.5	1.5	2	1.5	1.5	9
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Identified latent demand exists for each pitch type. It equates to two match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and 1.5 match equivalent sessions on the remaining pitch types. The Rural Analysis Area has the most expressed latent demand (5.5 match equivalent sessions), followed by the North Analysis Area (2.5 match equivalent sessions). None is evident in the Central Analysis Area.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways. Through participation increases, using population forecasts and additional demand generated from housing growth. The latter is assessed via a range of scenarios contained within the Strategy document, with the former two detailed below.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (to 2035) based on population growth. It is predicted that there will be a possible increase of seven adult, 15 youth 11v11 boys' teams and one youth 11v11 girls' team. No increases within the other formats of play are forecast.

Table 2.10: Team generation rates (2035)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population³
Senior Mens (16-45)	33,253	95	350	35,904	102.6	7
Senior Women (16-45)	34,463	9	3829	36,340	9.5	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	7,994	125	64	9,303	145.5	15
Youth Girls (12-15)	7,369	10	737	8,841	12.0	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	2,868	79	36	3,079	84.8	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	2,627	9	292	2,884	9.9	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	5,286	78	68	5,780	85.3	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	5,779	83	70	5,674	81.5	0

When broken down by analysis area, the increase in senior men's teams is likely to be split across all three areas, with four teams in the North Analysis Area, two teams in the Rural Analysis Area and one team in the Central Analysis Area. For youth 11v11 growth, it equates to nine teams in the North Analysis Area, five in the Rural Analysis Area and two teams in the Central Analysis Area.

Whilst no other formats of play have sufficient population growth to indicate an increase in demand, it must be stated that team generation rates 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, they cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as club development

³ Rounded to the nearest whole number

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plans, NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing female participation within Solihull and nationally which is likely to lead to more women's and girls' teams in the future.

Participation increases

During the 2016/2017 consultation process, a number of clubs reported aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. These figures have now been re-visited and amends have been made where initial demand is known to have been realised, as well as incorporating some additional demand from consultation that took place for this update.

In total, ten clubs expressed some level of future demand that is yet to be realised, equating to a growth of 17 additional teams. This is 22 teams less than that identified in 2016 as some of the demand has been realised, whilst some of the demand was expressed by clubs that have now folded.

Please note that latent demand highlighted previously has been discounted from these calculations as it is presumed to be absorbed in future growth.

Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions	
AFC Solihull	Central	1 x Adult		0.5	
Silhill FC	Central	1 x Adult		0.5	
Solihull Ladies FC	Central	1 x Adult		0.5	
Solihull Moors FC	Central	1 x Adult		0.5	
		2 x Mini	(5v5)	1	
Yardley Kings FC	Central	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5	
Coldland Colts FC	North	2 x Mini	(7v7)	0.5	
			(5v5)	0.5	
Hampton FC	North	1 x Adult		0.5	
			2 x Youth	(11v11)	0.5
				(9v9)	0.5
Hockley Heath Dynamos FC	Rural	2 x Mini	(7v7)	0.5	
			(5v5)	0.5	
Leafield Athletic FC	Rural	2 x Mini	(7v7)	0.5	
			(5v5)	0.5	
Racing Blythe FC	Rural	1 x Youth	(9v9)	0.5	

In total, future demand equates to 3.5 match equivalent sessions in the Central Analysis Area and 2.5 match equivalent sessions in both the North and Rural analysis areas. It is expressed for each pitch type but most predominately for adult and mini 5v5 pitches (2.5 match equivalent sessions each).

Table 2.12: Future demand expressed by clubs by analysis area

Analysis area	Latent demand (match equivalent sessions)					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Central	2	-	0.5	-	1	3.5
North	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5

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Rural	-	-	0.5	1	1	2.5
Total	2.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	2.5	8.5

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 ratings were used in Solihull:

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 2.13 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

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP.

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

For Solihull, current play at primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and independent schools has been enlarged on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

Informal use

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Where information is known, informal and unofficial use of pitches has been factored into current play. This is especially the case at high-traffic open access sites such as Castle Bromwich Playing Fields and Elmdon Heath Recreation Ground, which are heavily used, particularly during the summer for club training purposes.

It must be noted that informal use of 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.

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 operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Solihull, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for all formats of play as this is when the majority of teams access each pitch type.

The table overleaf considers site-by-site the capacity of pitches to accommodate further play and determines if they can be deemed as having 'actual spare capacity'. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality and attract increased demand.

School sites that are currently available for community use but unused are also not considered to have actual spare capacity as the full availability of these pitches cannot be determined. Further consultation with the providers is therefore recommended to fully understand community use aspects, i.e. are the pitches available during peak time, are they available throughout the playing season and are they affordable.

Similarly, sites with unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as their future usage cannot be guaranteed.

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Table 2.13: Football pitch capacity analysis in Solihull

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
224	Alderbrook School	B91 1SN	Central	School	Unsecured	Adult		1	No	Standard	0	1	1	-	Unavailable for community use
						Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	0	2	2	-	Unavailable for community use
						Mini	(5v5)	3	No	Standard	0	12	12	-	Unavailable for community use
225	Alternated Technology Group Stadium (Solihull Moors Football Club)	B91 2PP	Central	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
230	Barn Lane Recreation Ground	B92 7ND	Central	Council	Secured	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
240	Colebrook Recreation Ground	B90 1AF	Central	Council	Secured	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
244	Elmdon Heath Recreation Ground	B91 2RD	Central	Council	Secured	Adult		5	Yes	Poor	2.5	5	2.5	2.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
						Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	0	4	4	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
245	Elmdon Park	B92 9EY	Central	Council	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
246	Eversfield Preparatory School	B91 1AT	Central	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	0	4	4	-	Unavailable for community use
254	Hillfield Park	B91 3LU	Central	Council	Secured	Adult		3	Yes	Poor	0.5	3	2.5	2.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
262	Langley School	B92 7ER	Central	School	Unsecured	Adult		1	No	Standard	0	2	2	-	Unavailable for community use
						Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	0	2	2	-	Unavailable for community use
263	Light Hall School	B90 2PZ	Central	School	Unsecured	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
264	Lode Heath School	B91 2HW	Central	School	Unsecured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity through curricular and community demand
266	Lyndon Playing Field	B92 7PW	Central	Council	Secured	Adult		4	Yes	Standard	1	8	7	3	Substantial actual spare capacity at peak time
267	Lyndon School	B92 8EJ	Central	School	Unsecured	Adult		2	No	Standard	0	2	2	-	Unavailable for community use
						Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	0	2	1	-	Unavailable for community use
						Mini	(7v7)	4	No	Standard	0	16	16	-	Unavailable for community use
276	Olton Jubilee Park	B92 8QJ	Central	Council	Secured	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
277	Palmers Rough Recreation Ground	B90 3LH	Central	Council	Secured	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
280	Shirley Park	B90 2DH	Central	Council	Secured	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
286	Solihull Municipal Club	B91 3LE	Central	Community	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1		0	Played to capacity
287	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Central	School	Unsecured	Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Standard	0	2	2	-	Unavailable for community use
						Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Good	0	12	12	-	Unavailable for community use
288	Solihull Sixth Form College	B91 3WR	Central	School	Unsecured	Adult		2	No	Poor	2	2		-	Played to capacity through curricular use and unavailable for community use.
290	St Peters Catholic School	B91 3NZ	Central	School	Unsecured	Adult		2	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
292	Land Rover Sports and Social Club	B92 9LN	Central	Commercial	Unsecured	Adult		4	Yes	Standard	6.5	8	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time

⁴ 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.

⁵ Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
295	Tudor Grange Academy	B91 3PD	Central	School	Unsecured	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1		0	Played to capacity through curricular use
						Mini	(7v7)	3	Yes-unused	Poor	0	6	6	3	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure
296	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	B91 1NB	Central	Commercial	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Retain minimal spare capacity for school use
298	West Warwickshire Sports Club	B91 1DA	Central	Sports Club	Secured	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
335	Shirley Heath Junior School	B90 3DS	Central	School	Unsecured	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
303	Moseley Cricket Club	B90 2PE	Central	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to the site primarily being used for cricket
329	Sharman's Cross Junior School	B91 1RQ	Central	Education	Unsecured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
						Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	1	8	7	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
348	Greswold Primary School	B91 2AZ	Central	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	0	4	4	-	Unavailable for community use
						Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	0	4	4	-	Unavailable for community use
350	Haslucks Green Junior School	B90 2EJ	Central	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
351	Langley Primary School	B92 7DJ	Central	School	Unsecured	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	1	4	3	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality
354	Mill Lodge Primary School	B90 1BT	Central	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
355	Oak Cottage Primary School	B91 1DY	Central	School	Unsecured	Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Standard	0	8	8	-	Unavailable for community use
356	Our Lady of the Wayside School	B90 4AY	Central	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	0	2	2	-	Unavailable for community use
357	Peterbrook Primary School	B90 1HR	Central	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	0	4	4	-	Unavailable for community use
358	St Andrew's Catholic Primary School	B92 8QL	Central	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	0	4	4	-	Unavailable for community use
360	St Margaret's C of E Voluntary Aided Primary School	B92 7RR	Central	School	Unsecured	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	0	4	4	-	Unavailable for community use
364	St Augustine's Primary School	B91 3NZ	Central	School	Unsecured	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	0	2	2	-	Unavailable for community use
365	Tanworth Lane Sports Ground	B90 4BY	Central	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	3.5	1	2.5	0	Substantially overplayed, in part due to being over marked
						Youth	(11v11) (9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	3	1	2	0	Substantially overplayed, in part due to being over marked
366	Silhill Football Club	B91 1RQ	Central	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity
						Youth	(11v11) (9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	0	Played to capacity at peak time
228	Babbsmill Park	B37 6LN	North	Council	Secured	Adult		3	Yes-unused	Standard	0	6	6	3	Substantial actual spare capacity
233	Bluebell Recreation Ground	B37 6SS	North	Council	Secured	Adult		3	Yes	Standard	1	6	5	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
234	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	B36 9PB	North	Parish Council	Secured	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity
						Adult		3	Yes	Standard	4	6	2	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	0	No spare capacity at peak time
237	Chelmsley Town Football Club	B37 7HW	North	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
238	Chelmsley Wood Squash Club	B37 7NS	North	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Minimal actual spare capacity
239	CTC Kinghurst Academy	B37 6NU	North	School	Secured	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	4	4		0	Played to capacity
						Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3.5	8	4.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	4	8	4	0	Played to capacity
247	Grace Academy	B37 5JS	North	School	Secured	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
						Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	1	8	7	0	Played to capacity at peak time
249	Hampton Sports Club	B91 2RX	North	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Good	4	3	1	0	Overplayed
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity at peak time and over marked
252	Heath Park	B37 6SS	North	Council	Secured	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
256	John Henry Newman Catholic College	B37 5GA	North	School	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Good	2.5	4	1.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Good	4	4		0	Played to capacity
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Good	3.5	6	2.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
261	Lanchester Park	B36 9LP	North	Council	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Minimal actual spare capacity at peak time
265	Lugtrout Lane	B91 2RX	North	Sports Club	Unsecured	Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
						Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	0	8	8	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
269	Marston Green Football Club	B37 7EL	North	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity at peak time
270	Marston Green Recreation Ground	B37 7ER	North	Parish Council	Secured	Adult		3	Yes	Standard	2	6	4	1	Actual spare capacity
272	Meriden Park	CV7 7SP	North	Council	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity
278	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	North	School	Unsecured	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
						Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	3	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
						Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
284	Smiths Wood Sports College	B36 0UE	North	School	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity through community use
						Youth	(11v11)	1		Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity through community use
293	The Pavilions	B37 6BX	North	Private	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
						Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	2	8	6	0	Played to capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity at peak time
336	St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School	B36 0QE	North	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	4	-	Unavailable for community use

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
341	Kingshurst Primary School	B37 6BN	North	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	4	-	Unavailable for community use
353	Marston Green Junior School	B37 7BA	North	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	1	4	4	-	Unavailable for community use
347	Fordbridge Community Primary School	B37 5EG	North	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure
362	Windy Arbour Primary School	B37 6RN	North	School	Unsecured	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
367	Glades Football Club	B91 2RX	North	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	4	2	2	0	Overplayed
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	2	2		0	Played to capacity
403	Auckland Drive	B36 0QE	North	Council	Unsecured	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
226	Arden Academy Trust	B93 0PT	Rural	School	Unsecured	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure
229	Balsall and Berkswell Football Club	CV7 7BN	Rural	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	3	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
						Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1.5	8	6.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	6	5.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
231	Bentley Heath Recreation Ground	B93 9AN	Rural	Council	Secured	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time
236	Chadwick End	B93 0BN	Rural	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Minimal actual spare capacity
242	Dickens Heath Sports Club	B94 5NA	Rural	Sports Club	Unsecured	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	5	4	1	0	Overplayed.
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity
						Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	8	7.5	4	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
250	Heart of England School	CV7 7FW	Rural	School	Unsecured	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	2	1	1	0	Overplayed through curricular and community use
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	1.5	0	Overplayed through curricular and community use
251	Heart of England School (Holly Lane)	CV7 7FW	Rural	School	Unsecured	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1		0	Played to capacity through community use
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1		0	Played to capacity through curricular use
253	Highgate United Football Club	B90 1PH	Rural	Sports Club	Unsecured	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Adult		2	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed
						Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Poor	4	4		0	Played to capacity
						Mini	(5v5)	3	Yes	Standard	1.5	12	10.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
255	Hockley Heath Recreation Ground	B94 6HH	Rural	Parish Council	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
						Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
260	Knowle Football Club	B93 0NU	Rural	Trust	Unsecured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	7.5	2	5.5	0	Substantially over played due to being over marked
						Mini	(7v7)								
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
273	Meriden Sports Park	CV7 7SP	Rural	Parish Council	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Standard		1	1	0	Overplayed
275	Old Yardleians Rugby Club	B90 1PW	Rural	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	3	1	2	0	Overplayed
281	Shirley Town Football Club	B90 1PH	Rural	Sports Club	Unsecured	Adult		1	Yes	Good	0.5	3	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
282	Silhillians Sports Club	B93 9LW	Rural	Sports Club	Secured	Adult		4	Yes	Standard	7	8	1	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity at peak time
289	St Patrick's CE Academy	B94 6DE	Rural	School	Unsecured	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality
297	Lavender Hall Park	CV7 7BN	Rural	Council	Secured	Adult		1	Yes-unused	Poor	0	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
						Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes-unused	Poor	0	4	4	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
299	Wychall Wanderers Football Club	B90 1PN	Rural	Sports Club	Unsecured	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	5.5	4	1.5	0	Overplayed
322	Woodbourne Sports Club	B94 5LW	Rural	Sports Club	Secured	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Minimal actual spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Minimal actual spare capacity at peak time
338	Bentley Heath Church of England Primary School	B93 3AS	Rural	School	Unsecured	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
						Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
339	Dorridge Primary School	B93 8EU	Rural	School	Unsecured	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
340	Hockley Heath Academy	B94 6RA	Rural	School	Unsecured	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Poor	1	1		-	Unavailable for community use
345	Balsall Common Primary School	CV7 7FS	Rural	School	Unsecured	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes-unused	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
346	Cheswick Green Primary School	B90 4HG	Rural	School	Unsecured	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	3	-	Unavailable for community use
408	Leaffield Athletic Football Club	B94 5NA	Rural	Sports Club	Unsecured	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2		0	Played to capacity
						Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1	8	7	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
						Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	0	No spare capacity at peak time
409	Rumbush Lane	B94 5NA	Rural	Sports Club	Unsecured	Adult		2	Yes-unused	Standard	2	4	4	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Actual spare capacity

The table below highlights the pitches that have actual spare capacity in Solihull. To qualify, a pitch must be available for further use in the peak time, be standard or good quality and have secure tenure.

Table 2.14: Summary of actual spare capacity (Solihull)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
230	Barn Lane Recreation Ground	Central	Adult	2	1.5
240	Colebrook Recreation Ground	Central	Adult	1	1
266	Lyndon Playing Field	Central	Adult	4	3
276	Olton Jubilee Park	Central	Adult	1	1
277	Palmers Rough Recreation Ground	Central	Adult	2	1
280	Shirley Park	Central	Adult	2	1.5
298	West Warwickshire Sports Club	Central	Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
228	Babbsmill Park	North	Adult	3	3
233	Bluebell Recreation Ground	North	Adult	3	2
			Youth (9v9)	1	1
			Mini (7v7)	1	1
237	Chelmsley Town Football Club	North	Mini (5v5)	1	0.5
238	Chelmsley Wood Squash Club	North	Mini (7v7)	1	1
			Mini (5v5)	1	0.5
247	Grace Academy	North	Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
249	Hampton Sports Club	North	Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
252	Heath Park	North	Adult	2	1.5
261	Lanchester Park	North	Adult	1	0.5
270	Marston Green Recreation Ground	North	Adult	3	1
229	Balsall and Berkswell Football Club	Rural	Mini (7v7)	2	1.5
			Mini (5v5)	1	1
231	Bentley Heath Recreation Ground	Rural	Adult	2	1.5
			Mini (7v7)	1	1
236	Chadwick End	Rural	Adult	1	0.5
255	Hockley Heath Recreation Ground	Rural	Adult	1	0.5
322	Woodbourne Sports Club	Rural	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
			Mini (5v5)	1	0.5

In total, 29.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity are identified across 21 sites and 42 pitches. This has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type in the table below.

Table 2.15: Actual spare capacity by pitch type and analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Central	9	-	-	0.5	-
North	8	-	1	3	1
Rural	2.5	-	0.5	2.5	1.5
Total	19.5	-	1.5	6	2.5

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The large majority of spare capacity in Solihull is for adult pitches, with 19.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity existing on this pitch type. The largest amount of actual spare capacity resides in the North Analysis Area whilst the Rural Analysis Area has the lowest amount.

In addition, it should be noted that 18.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity have been discounted in Solihull due to poor pitch quality. This compares to 16 match equivalent sessions that were discounted due to poor pitch quality in 2016. An improvement in quality at these sites will therefore result in increased actual spare capacity.

Similarly, 36.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are discounted in Solihull due to unsecure tenure agreements. Ensuring that such spare capacity can be accessed and utilised by the community in an affordable manner and at peak time will therefore increase actual spare capacity.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain, which is often due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches. The table below shows which pitches are overplayed in Solihull and the amount of overplay evident.

Table 2.16: Overplay on pitches (Solihull)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
365	Tanworth Lane Sports Ground	Central	Adult	1	2.5
			Youth (11v11)	1	2
237	Chelmsley Town Football Club	North	Adult	1	0.5
238	Chelmsley Wood Squash Club	North	Adult	1	0.5
249	Hampton Sports Club	North	Adult	1	1
			Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
269	Marston Green Football Club	North	Adult	1	0.5
293	The Pavilions	North	Adult	1	1.5
			Youth (11v11)	1	1
367	Glades Football Club	North	Adult	1	0.5
			Youth (11v11)	1	2
			Youth (9v9)	1	1.5
242	Dickens Heath Sports Club	Rural	Adult	2	1
250	Heart of England School	Rural	Adult	1	1
			Youth (9v9)	1	1.5
253	Highgate United Football Club	Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
260	Knowle Football Club	Rural	Adult	1	5.5
273	Meriden Sports Park	Rural	Adult	1	1
275	Old Yardleians Rugby Club	Rural	Adult	1	2
299	Wychall Wanderers Football Club	Rural	Adult	2	1.5

In total, 29 match equivalent sessions of overplay are identified across 14 sites and 22 pitches.

This has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type in the table below. Most overplay occurs on adult pitches, although some overplay occurs on youth pitches; no overplay of

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mini pitches has been identified. The majority of overplay resides in the Rural Analysis Area whilst the least amount of overplay is located in the Central Analysis Area.

Table 2.17: Overplay by pitch type and analysis area (Solihull)

Analysis area	Overplay (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Central	2.5	2	-	-	-
North	4.5	4.5	1.5	-	-
Rural	12	0.5	1.5	-	-
Total	19	7	3	-	-

Of the overplayed pitches, five are assessed as poor quality. As such, an improvement in quality at these sites will reduce overplay. Improving quality is likely to increase demand and allow for the transfer of demand from overplayed standard and good quality pitches.

Moreover, two pitches (located at Tamworth Lane Sports Ground) are over marked by other pitch types or over mark other pitch types, which intensifies usage and either causes the overplay or makes it significantly worse.

2.6: Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay in Solihull and in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on team generation rates (broken down by analysis area) as well as club development plans.

Table 2.18: Spare capacity/overplay of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Central	9	2.5	6.5	-	2.5	4
North	8	4.5	3.5	1	2.5	
Rural	2.5	12	9.5	0.5	1	11
Solihull	19.5	19	0.5	1.5	6	7

Currently, there is overall, minimal actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions, although a shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions is identified in the Rural Analysis Area. After considering future and latent demand, it is expected that there will be an overall shortfall of seven match equivalent sessions, which can be attributed solely to the shortfall in the Rural Analysis Area.

Table 2.19: Spare capacity/overplay of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁷	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Central	-	2	2	-	1	3
North	-	4.5	4.5	0.5	3	8

⁶ In match equivalent sessions

⁷ In match equivalent sessions

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Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁷	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Rural	-	0.5	0.5	1	4.5	6
Solihull	0	7	7	1.5	0.5	17

There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches in Solihull equating to seven match equivalent sessions per week, with a shortfall evident in each analysis area. This is expected to be exacerbated across the board when accounting for future demand.

Table 2.20: Spare capacity/overplay of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁸	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Central	-	-		-	0.5	0.5
North	1	1.5	0.5	1	0.5	2
Rural	0.5	1.5	1	1	0.5	2.5
Solihull	1.5	3	1.5	2	1.5	5.5

The current picture shows that there is currently a shortfall of 9v9 pitches in Solihull equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions, with a shortfall in the North and Rural analysis areas and the Central Analysis Area played to capacity. After accounting for latent demand and future demand, overall shortfalls are expected to be exacerbated to 5.5 match equivalent sessions with shortfalls across all three analysis areas.

Table 2.21: Spare capacity/overplay of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Central	0.5	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
North	3	-	3	-	-	2.5
Rural	2.5	-	2.5	1.5	1	
Solihull	6	-	6	1.5	1.5	3

There is overall spare capacity of 7v7 pitch in Solihull, equating to six match equivalent sessions currently and three match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand. None of the analysis areas have identified shortfalls.

Table 2.22: Spare capacity/overplay of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁰	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Central	-	-		-	1	1
North	1	-	1	-	0.5	0.5
Rural	1.5	-	1.5	1.5	1	1
Solihull	2.5	-	2.5	1.5	2.5	1.5

⁸ In match equivalent sessions

⁹ In match equivalent sessions

¹⁰ In match equivalent sessions

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Currently, there is overall spare capacity on 5v5 pitches in Solihull amounting to 2.5 match equivalent sessions, with demand being met in each analysis area. However, when taking into consideration future demand, there is an overall shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions, with a shortfall noted in both the Central and the Rural analysis areas.

Football grass pitch summary - Solihull

- ◀ The audit identifies 246 grass football pitches within Solihull across 89 sites, of which 210 pitches are available for community use across 72 sites.
- ◀ Allocations in the Draft Local Plan Review may affect 10 sites with football provision in addition to Rowood Drive (identified as an Amber site) and Land Rover Sports & Social Club (subject to plant extension).
- ◀ In total, nine pitches are assessed as good quality, 164 as standard quality and 37 as poor quality.
- ◀ Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 6% are serviced by good quality facilities, 74% by standard quality facilities and 20% by poor quality facilities.
- ◀ Secure of tenure is an issue at the allocated sites as well as at the Pavilions and Marston Green Football Club.
- ◀ Five clubs play on the football pyramid.
- ◀ Through the audit, 478 teams from within 102 clubs are identified as playing within Solihull consisting of 95 adult men's teams, nine adult women's teams, 204 youth boys' teams, 19 youth girls' teams and 151 mini soccer teams; this is a significant increase since 2016/2017.
- ◀ Three clubs express latent demand amounting to two adult, seven youth and six mini teams.
- ◀ Of the 15 based clubs that quantify their potential future demand, there is a predicted growth of 17 teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates (2035) predict a growth of seven senior men's, 15 youth boys' and one youth girls' team.
- ◀ There are 35 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity identified across 24 sites and 50 pitches.
- ◀ There are 27 match equivalent sessions of overplay identified across 14 sites and 22 pitches, most of which occurs on adult pitches.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches.
- ◀ Taking into account future demand, a shortfall is evident on adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches.

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

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard (IMS) tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality (previously FIFA One Star), as well as for training purposes.

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

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

Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability

Surface	Sport	Comments
Rubber crumb	Rugby	Long pile surface (60mm) that is compliant to World Rugby regulation 22 and/or RFL Community Standard
Rubber crumb	Football	Performance standard to meet FIFA Quality after FIFA or IMS testing with the preferred surface medium pile (55-60mm)
Rubber crumb	Hockey	Short pile surface (40mm) for lower level hockey only

3.2: Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100x64 metres (106x70 metres including run offs); however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 100x60 metres (inclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate.

There are four full size 3G pitches in Solihull that fully comply with the above specification; two in the North Analysis Area and two in the Central Analysis Area. There are no full size pitches in the Rural Analysis Area. This is an increase of one since the original PPS, with the pitch at Solihull Moors Football Club newly built.

Table 3.2: Full size 3G pitches in Solihull

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
225	Solihull Moors Football Club	Central	Yes	Yes	100 x 70
296	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	Central	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
239	CTC Kinghurst Academy	North	Yes	Yes	106 x 71
256	John Henry Newman Catholic College	North	Yes	Yes	106 x 71

All four pitches are available to the community and floodlit. Both CTC Kinghurst Academy and John Henry Newman Catholic College were funded by the FF.

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Additional provision

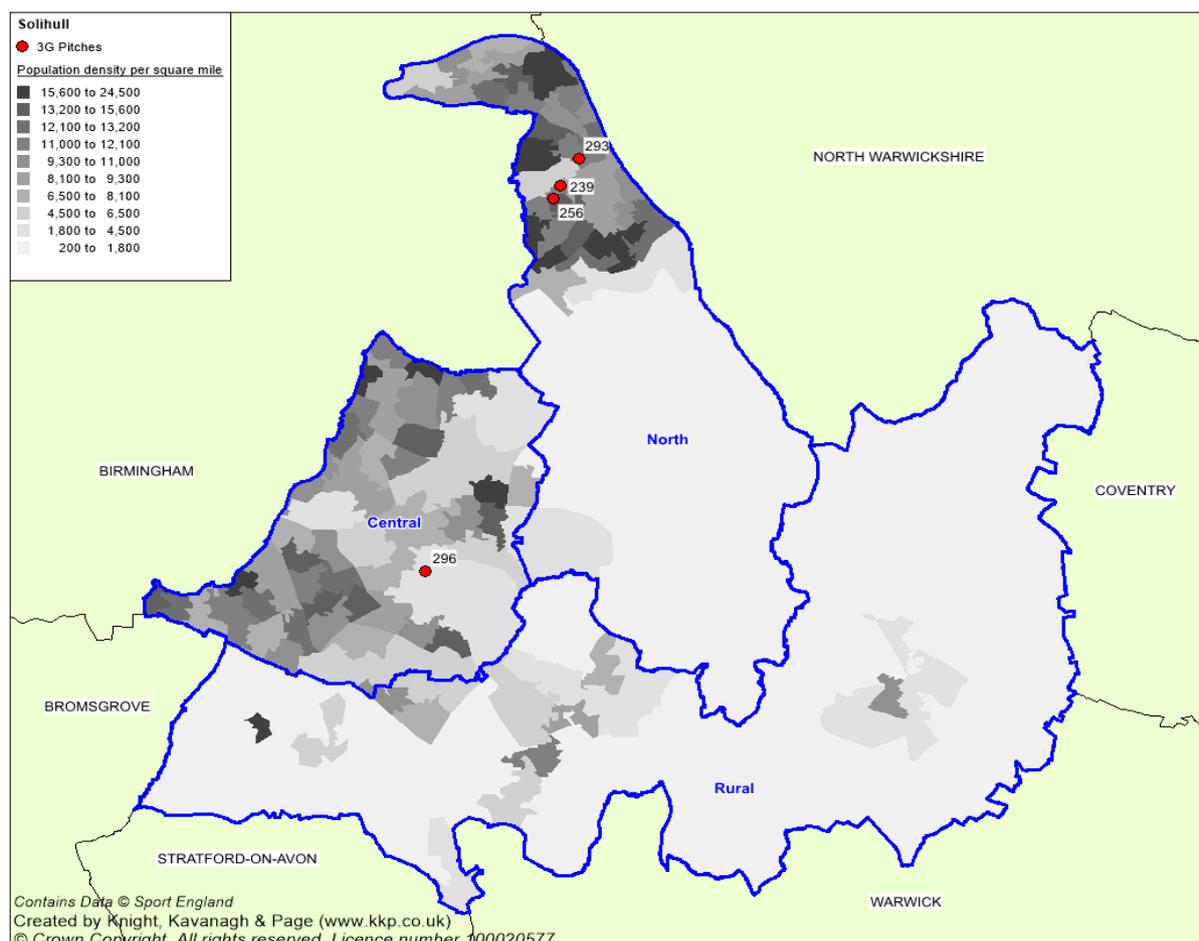
As well as full size 3G pitches, there is also one smaller sized pitch servicing Solihull, large enough to accommodate 5v5 football. Located at Solihull Football Centre, it is available to the community and floodlit.

A 5v5 3G pitch was also previously provided at the Pavilions; however, this has recently been removed following a change of ownership at the site.

Smaller sized pitches are generally not suitable for adult match play but can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches provided they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with adequate run-off areas. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football (including u17s and u18s) is 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s and 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches is 54 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches, it is 37 x 27 metres. All pitch sizes should also include a three-metre safety run-off area.

In addition, smaller sized pitches can accommodate recreational and casual football demand, which is an area growing in priority for the FA.

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Solihull



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Future provision

The LFFP for Solihull identifies priority sites for full size 3G pitch development using the shortfalls identified in the existing PPS. The priority list of full size pitches is as follows:

- ◀ North Solihull Sports Centre
- ◀ Tudor Grange Academy
- ◀ Arden Academy Trust or Knowle Football Club
- ◀ Dickens Heath Sports Hub x2

The development of a pitch at Solihull Moors Football Club was also on the list when the LFFP was produced, with this since being developed. Work is now being carried out in relation to Tudor Grange Academy, with a proposal to be submitted in January 2020 with the aim of a Summer build.

As expressed above, the proposal at Arden Academy Trust or Knowle Football Club is an either/or project given the proximity of the two sites. At this moment in time, not enough demand is considered to exist to warrant development at both. Arden Academy Trust has been allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review (Site 9: South of Knowle). This proposes the relocation of the School and its playing field land, meaning 3G provision could be developed (and possibly funded) as part of this.

The proposal at North Solihull Sports Centre is for the existing full size sand based pitch to be converted to 3G. As the site is not currently used for hockey there is nothing to suggest that this is not possible, providing it continues to be supported by EH.

The project at Dickens Heath Sports Hub is for two full size 3G pitches to be created. The site is proposed as mitigation for the loss of playing pitch sites identified in the Draft Local Plan Review, with this study informing whether such development is still appropriate and what other facilities may be required. Both the FA and the RFU commented on the original proposal stating that the recommended mitigation was insufficient.

In addition to the full size pitch projects, the LFFP also identifies Grace Academy and Smith's Sports College for the development of smaller sized 3G pitches. As with North Solihull Sports Centre, both would involve the conversion of existing sand-based facilities.

Given that the LFFP is a live document informed by an up-to-date PPS, it is recommended that the project list is re-assessed following this update. Given that demand has changed since 2016/2017, 3G pitch shortfalls may have also altered and the LFFP project list may need amending as a result. This is determined later in this section of the report.

Outside of the LFFP, Silhillians Sports Club is identified as a potential location for a World Rugby compliant pitch by the RFU. This would satisfy Silhillians RUFC and the wider rugby partnership. It would not impact on the 3G pitches proposed in the LFFP as football clubs would not be primary users (although some activity is likely).

In the original PPS, potential future developments were also referenced at Light Hall School and Sharman's Cross. With neither brought forward in the LFFP, it is considered that such proposals are now unlikely, unless demand increases to a level that additional facilities are required.

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FA/FIFA approved pitches

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

Pitches undergo 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 criteria.

Fifa Quality 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 are typically 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 expected to certify their pitches annually, whilst pitches below the national league pyramid require FA testing every three years in order to stay on the register.

In Solihull, the pitches at Solihull Moors Football Club and John Henry Newman Catholic College are on the FA register and can be used for competitive matches. Neither CTC Kinghurst Academy nor Tudor Grange Leisure Centre are approved; testing in the near future is recommended, especially at CTC Kinghurst Academy as match play activity is recorded at the site. Existing quality issues may need resolving at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre if it is to be registered in the future.

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability. The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA.

Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with the above specification and must be tested every two years to maintain its World Rugby compliance. In Solihull, no pitches have undergone World Rugby testing and none of the existing stock are suitable.

The RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. However, this is currently on hold as existing facilities and projects are reviewed.

Proposals at Dickens Heath Sports Club and Silhillians Sports Club are for compliant pitches to be created.

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Management

CTC Kinghurst Academy and John Henry Newman Catholic College are managed in-house by the respective schools, whilst Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is operated by Parkwood Leisure on behalf of the Council but is generally hired for use by Solihull College at specific times. Solihull Moors Football Club is managed by the Club itself.

Availability

Availability varies for each pitch throughout the week, with some pitches reserved for curricular use until 17:00 or 18:00 from Monday to Friday. Only Solihull Moors Football Club is available throughout the day on weekdays and even that can be limited to other hirers as the Club itself utilises a lot of the capacity.

Please note that the table below relates to the availability of the pitches and not current capacity or usage levels. This is instead discussed further on in this section of the report.

Table 3.3: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
225	Solihull Moors Football Club	Central	Available to the community everyday from noon until 23:00, although a lot of capacity is utilised by the Club itself.
296	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	Central	Available to the community from 07:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, although access can be restricted due to hired use by Solihull College, and from 08:00 until 17:00 Saturday to Sunday.
239	CTC Kinghurst Academy	North	Reserved for private use during the week until 17:30. Available to the community from 17:30 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 15:00 Saturday to Sunday.
256	John Henry Newman Catholic College	North	Reserved for private use during the week until 18:00. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 17:00 on Saturday to Sunday.

Quality

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

The following table indicates when each full size 3G pitch was installed or last resurfaced in Solihull together with an agreed quality rating. This follows non-technical assessments and user and provider consultation in 2016, with amends made for the update where quality is known to have changed. The pitch at Solihull Moors Football Club was not assessed (as it did not exist when assessments took place) but is recorded as good quality on account of it being a new facility.

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Table 3.4: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
225	Solihull Moors Football Club	Central	2019	Good
296	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	Central	2009	Poor
239	CTC Kinghurst Academy	North	2015	Good
256	John Henry Newman Catholic College	North	2016	Good

The pitch at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is assessed as poor quality. It has reached the end of its lifespan and therefore requires a resurface. Anecdotal evidence suggests that it cannot become FA registered until quality improvements take place.

The three other full size 3G pitches are assessed as good quality. They have all been provided within the last four years and no major issues have been identified.

Ancillary facilities

All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate and no issues have been raised.

3.3: Demand

All 3G provision currently servicing Solihull is reported as operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months. Most of the pitches that are FA approved are also heavily used during weekends for competitive matches. Capacity is taken up not only by sports teams for training and match purposes but also by casual users and small-sided commercial football leagues.

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for football use. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly used for competition which the FA wholly supports.

Training demand

Getting access to good, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities.

The FA's long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. Based on peak time access being on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings (as teams do not want to train on Mondays and Fridays), and based on full size 3G pitches being divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes, it is estimated that 38 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch. This has altered from the original PPS as it was previously estimated that 42 teams could be accommodated.

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Using the above calculation, with 478 teams currently playing in Solihull, there is a need for 13 full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 12.5). This is an increase of four pitches when compared to what was required in the original PPS. As there are four full size pitches currently provided, this means a current shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches. This is compared to a shortfall of six when the original PPS study was conducted.

Table 3.5: Current demand for 3G pitches in Solihull (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Local authority	Current number of teams	3G requirement ¹¹	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Solihull	478	13	4	9

When considering future demand for an additional 32 teams (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), the demand for 13 full size 3G pitches remains (rounded down from 13.4).

Table 3.6: Future demand for 3G pitches in Solihull (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Local authority	Future number of teams	3G requirement ¹²	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
Solihull	510	13	4	9

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in.

Table 3.7: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ¹³	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Central	105	3	2	1
North	211	6	2	4
Rural	162	4	-	4
Solihull	478	13	4	9

As evidenced, there is a shortfall in each analysis area totalling one full size 3G pitch in the Central Analysis Area and four in both the North Rural analysis areas. The remains the case when factoring in future demand.

If the above figures are used, additions may be required to the 3G project list featured in Solihull's LFFP. If all projects in the LFFP are delivered, there will be an outstanding shortfall of three 3G pitches in the North Analysis Area and one 3G pitch in the Rural Analysis Area; demand will be met in the Central Analysis Area.

Moving match play to 3G pitches

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football.

¹¹ Rounded to the nearest whole number

¹² Rounded to the nearest whole number

¹³ Rounded to the nearest whole number

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The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is FA/FIFA approved, floodlit and available for community use during the peak period.

In Solihull, as a reminder, two of the four full size 3G pitches have undergone testing and are therefore FA/FIFA approved.

A total of 15 teams currently play home matches on 3G pitches in Solihull. This is a low number when compared to the majority of other local authorities, which is most likely a reflection of only two 3G pitches being suitable. To that end, it must also be reiterated that match play is identified at CTC Kinghurst Academy, despite it not being FA registered.

The Strategy document that proceeds this report will run a number of scenarios to determine how many full size 3G pitches would be required to move certain formats or all match play on to 3G provision. If more matches are played on 3G pitches, shortfalls of grass pitches will lessen as demand will be transferred, which in turn can improve quality as pitches will have more opportunity to be rested and rotated.

Rugby

There are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Solihull, although proposals are in place at Silhillians Sports Club and Dickens Heath Sports Hub. As such, no rugby demand is currently identified on the 3G stock.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

The FA model suggests that to meet training demand there is a current and future need for at least 13 community available full size 3G pitches in Solihull, of which there are currently four. As such, combined with limited spare capacity existing on the current stock and a shortfall of grass pitch provision, there is a clear need for more pitches to be developed.

Priority should therefore be placed on the creation of new, strategically located full size 3G pitches in order to reduce shortfalls. First and foremost, the LFFP should be used to determine where pitches are delivered, although this will require adding to given that the shortfall has increased since the LFFP was finalised.

Additionally, the current pitch stock requires sustaining. To that end, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure future refurbishment and it is also recommended that all new and existing pitches undergo FA testing every three years to remain or become FA approved to host competitive matches.

For rugby union, given the identified overplay of grass pitches (see Part 5: Rugby Union), development of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches should be supported as a method to reduce shortfalls.

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3G summary - Solihull

- ◀ There are currently four 3G pitches in Solihull that are considered to be full size.
- ◀ In addition, there is one smaller sized pitch (Solihull Football Centre).
- ◀ Two of the full size 3G pitches (Solihull Moors Football Club and John Henry Newman Catholic College) are FA approved to host competitive matches.
- ◀ No pitches are World Rugby compliant, although proposals at Dickens Heath Sports Hub and Silhillians Sports Club would provide provision.
- ◀ All full-size pitches are available for community use, although access is limited during weekdays due to curricular use.
- ◀ The 3G pitch at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre has reached the end of its lifespan and should be resurfaced; all remaining pitches are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ The LFFP identifies sites for the creation of five full size 3G pitches and two smaller sized 3G pitches (although this may need updating based on the findings of this update).
- ◀ All full size 3G pitches are reported as operating at or close to capacity at desirable times, especially during winter months.
- ◀ 15 teams currently use 3G pitches for matches.
- ◀ For training purposes, based on the FA model, there is a current shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches based on 478 teams requiring 13 full size pitches in total.
- ◀ When considering future demand for an additional 32 teams, the shortfall of pitches remains as nine.
- ◀ If each team was to remain within their respective analysis area for training, shortfalls equate to one in the Central Analysis Area, four in the North Analysis Area and four in the Rural Analysis Area.
- ◀ With limited spare capacity existing on the current stock and a shortfall of grass pitch provision, there is a clear need for more pitches to be developed in strategically suitable locations.
- ◀ An increase in World Rugby compliant provision may be needed given identified overplay of grass pitches.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Warwickshire Cricket Board (WCB) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within Solihull. It works closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) 'to provide a cricketing future for all', co-ordinating and supporting a wide range of activities designed to provide playing opportunities for adults, boys, girls and people with disabilities. Working closely with Warwickshire County Cricket Club, support is also offered through coaching, mentoring and the development of coaches, officials and volunteers.

Senior cricket is typically played in leagues on Saturday afternoons, although in Solihull there is also a high level of demand on Sundays and midweek, with many teams playing friendly matches and informal league cricket on these days. For junior cricket, matches are generally played midweek on various nights, however, demand also exists on a Sunday (e.g. u13s and u15s Premier League fixtures).

The boundary is the perimeter of the field of play. For senior matches, the ground authority should aim to provide the largest playing area, subject to no boundary exceeding a distance of 82 metres or less than a minimum of 45 metres from the centre of any pitch. On grounds where the boundary is not clearly defined by a perimeter fence or edge of grass area, it must be marked by a rope. Whilst the size of the field varies from site to site, a wicket is always a rectangular area of 20.12 metres in length and 3.05 metres in width. The popping crease is marked 1.22 metres in front of the stumps at either end, with the stumps set along the bowling crease.

Consultation

There are 19 cricket clubs playing in Solihull. All of these responded to consultation requests in 2016 resulting in a response rate of 100%.

Table 4.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Berkswell CC	Yes
Castle Bromwich CC	Yes
Catherine De Barnes CC	Yes
Dorridge CC	Yes
Earlwood CC	Yes
Hampton & Solihull CC	Yes
Hampton-in-Arden Village CC	Yes
Heart of England CC	Yes
Knowle & Dorridge CC	Yes
Knowle Village CC	Yes
Marston Green CC	Yes
Moseley CC	Yes
Old Edwardians CC	Yes
Olton & West Warwickshire CC	Yes
Shirley CC	Yes
Solihull Blossomfield CC	Yes
Solihull Municipal CC	Yes
Tanworth & Camp Hill CC	Yes
Woodbourne CC	Yes

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In addition, there are also numerous, predominately South Asian based, unaffiliated teams fielded in leagues such as the Al Faisals Cricket League, the Arden Sunday Cricket League and Local Leagues. Demand from these clubs/teams and key issues affecting them was accounted for through consultation with the leagues in 2017. Although this activity is not club based, please note that the ECB recognises that all participation is equally important and most of its recent investment has been for such demand.

For the update, demand information from the original PPS was checked and challenged against ECB data and online research.

4.2: Supply

In total, there are 26 grass cricket squares in Solihull across 21 sites, with 22 of the squares considered to be available for community use.

Table 4.2: Summary of squares available for community use

Analysis area	Squares available for community use
Central	8
North	5
Rural	9
Solihull	22

As seen in the table above, the Rural Analysis Area contains the highest number of squares (nine), closely followed by the Central Analysis Area (eight). The North Analysis Area contains the least (five).

Non turf pitches (NTPs)

There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at five sites:

- ◀ Knowle Village Cricket Club
- ◀ Moseley Cricket Club
- ◀ Solihull School
- ◀ Tippetts Field
- ◀ Tudor Grange Academy

Four of these sites are available for community use, with Solihull School not available due to it having its own comprehensive cricket programme. It has four grass wicket squares, three of which are accompanied by NTPs. Each other site has just one square accompanied by an NTP.

In addition, there are standalone NTPs located at the following nine sites:

- ◀ Eversfield Preparatory School
- ◀ Heart of England School
- ◀ Light Hall School
- ◀ Lode Heath Park School
- ◀ Meriden Sports Park
- ◀ Park Hall Academy
- ◀ Smith's Wood Sports College
- ◀ Solihull Sixth Form College
- ◀ Widney Junior School

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

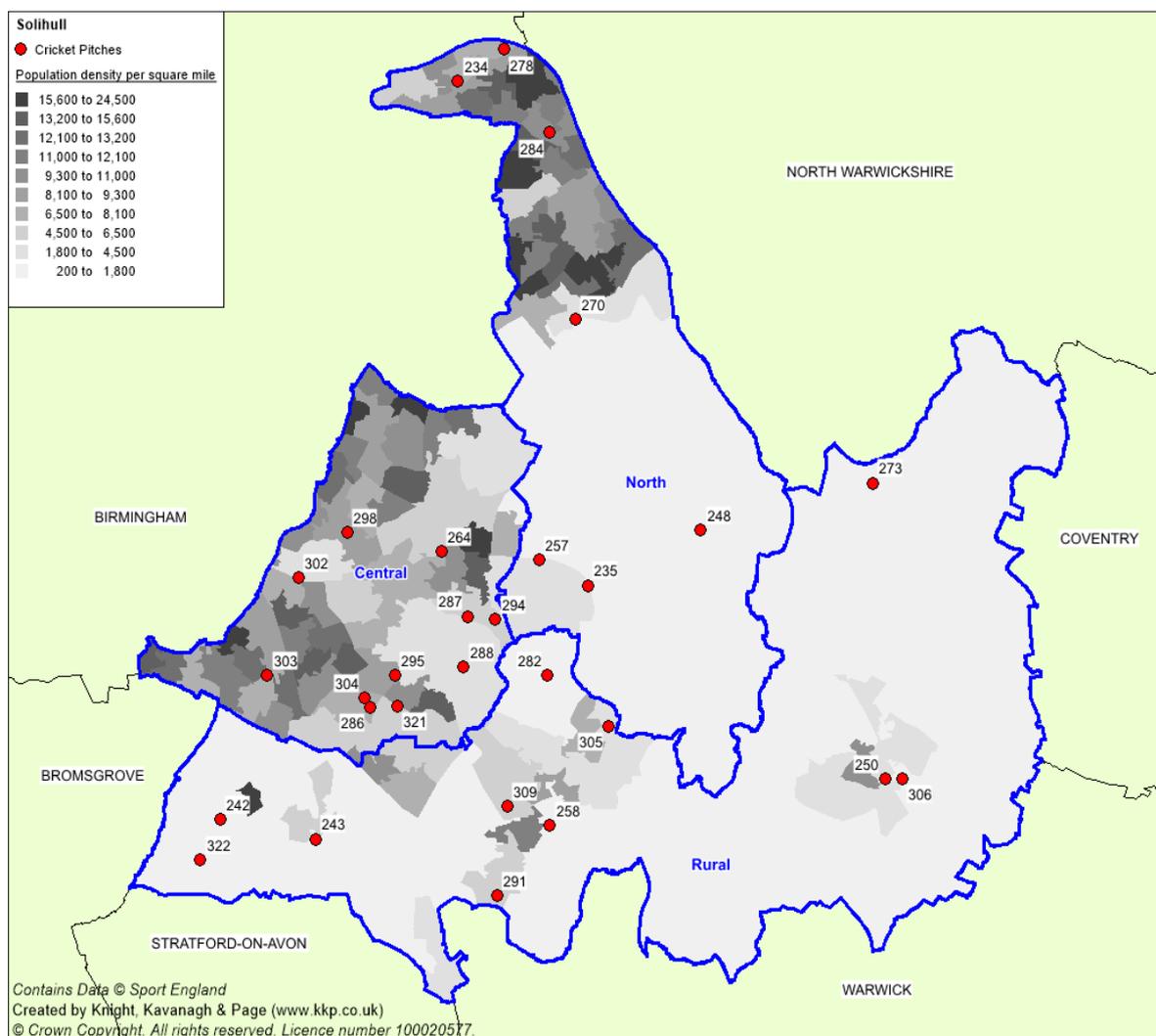
Meriden Sports Park is accessed by Heart of England CC for its two senior teams and Lode Heath School and Widney Junior School are accessed by Old Edwardians CC and Solihull Municipal CC respectively for their third senior teams. All remaining standalone NTPs across both local authorities are either considered unavailable for community use or are unused by the community despite being available. The latter may be because clubs are unaware of existence or availability rather than due to a lack of demand.

The ECB highlights that pitches which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play as well as for junior matches and training (with the aid of mobile nets). No standalone NTPs across Solihull are recorded as regularly accommodating junior play, however, some clubs have their own NTP accompanying their grass wicket square and therefore use this provision instead.

Disused wickets

Both Land Rover Sports & Social Club and Civil Service Sports Ground previously contained grass wicket squares. Both are company sports ground that are unlikely to reinstate the provision, especially in the case of Land Rover Sports & Social Club given the wider plans for the site. Any permanent loss would have to satisfy Sport England's planning policy, despite the disused status.

Figure 4.1: Summary of cricket pitches in Solihull (for a key to map, see Table 4.3)



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.3: Key to map of cricket pitches

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
						Grass	non-turf
246	Eversfield Preparatory School	B91 1AT	Central	Yes	1	-	1
263	Light Hall School	B90 2PZ	Central	Yes	1	-	1
264	Lode Heath School	B91 2HW	Central	Yes	1	-	1
286	Solihull Municipal Club	B91 3LE	Central	Yes	1	16	-
287	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Central	No	4	9	-
						9	2
						8	1
						4	1
288	Solihull Sixth Form College	B91 3WR	Central	No	1	-	1
294	Tippetts Field	B91 2PF	Central	Yes	1	11	1
295	Tudor Grange Academy	B91 3PD	Central	Yes	1	8	1
298	West Warwickshire Sports Club	B91 1DA	Central	Yes	1	10	-
302	Old Edwardians Sports Club	B90 3PE	Central	Yes	1	10	-
303	Moseley Cricket Club	B90 2PE	Central	Yes	2	12	-
						8	1
304	Widney Junior School	B91 3LQ	Central	Yes	1	-	1
321	Blossomfield Sports Club	B91 3JY	Central	Yes	1	11	-
234	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	B36 9PB	North	Yes	1	12	-
235	Catherine De Barnes Cricket Club	B91 2TJ	North	Yes	1	9	-
248	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	B92 0DQ	North	Yes	1	6	-
257	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Lugtrout Lane)	B91 2RX	North	Yes	1	13	-
270	Marston Green Recreation Ground	B37 7ER	North	Yes	1	8	-
284	Smith's Wood Sports College	B36 0UE	North	Yes	1	-	1
242	Dickens Heath Sports Club	B94 5NA	Rural	Yes	1	10	-
243	Earlswood Cricket Club	B94 6EE	Rural	Yes	1	11	-
250	Heart of England School	CW7 7FW	Rural	No	1	-	1

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
						Grass	non-turf
258	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Station Road)	B93 8ET	Rural	Yes	1	14	-
273	Meriden Sports Park	CV7 7SP	Rural	Yes	1	-	1
278	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	North	Yes	1	-	1
282	Silhillians Sports Club	B93 9LW	Rural	Yes	1	4	-
291	The John Woolman Ground	B93 8QA	Rural	Yes	1	13	-
305	Knowle Village Cricket Club	B93 0NX	Rural	Yes	1	12	1
306	Berkswell and Balsall Common Sports Association	CV7 7GE	Rural	Yes	1	12	-
309	Grove Lane	B93 8AR	Rural	Yes	1	8	-
322	Woodbourne Sports Club	B94 5LW	Rural	Yes	1	10	-

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Future developments

Dickens Heath Sports Club is subject to allocation in the Draft Local Plan Review. Whilst no other existing cricket squares are allocated, Site 16: East of Solihull could have an impact on provision. This is because the site contains playing pitches in use by sports clubs, with a proposal in place to re-locate the facilities to the North, where Knowle and Dorridge Cricket Club is located.

During 2016 consultation both Berkswell CC and Dorridge CC reported an aspiration for second squares to be created. The former had an aim to develop a square at Lavender Hall Road, where Balsall Hornets FC are currently based, to enable the Club to field more Saturday teams. The latter wanted to develop a square adjacent to its current provision at John Woolman Memorial Ground in order to relocate its third Saturday team from Grove Lane. Neither development has since taken place.

In addition to the above, Solihull Blossomfield CC also now has an aspiration to develop an additional square adjacent to its current site at Blossomfield Sports Club. The Club currently fields teams at Silhillians Sports Club due to a lack of capacity, with long-term access not guaranteed due to the area primarily being used for rugby union.

The ECB states a need for grass wickets to be installed at Meriden Sports Park, which currently has a standalone NTP only. The site, which is owned by Meriden Parish Council, is used by Heart of England CC; a newly formed club that has ambitions for growth that cannot be accommodated unless grass wickets are provided. As with Berkswell CC and Dorridge CC, this development has not happened since so it is still a requirement.

Security of tenure

Five clubs in Solihull own their grounds, nine lease them and five rent them. All clubs that rent their sites do so on a yearly or seasonal basis.

Table 4.4: Summary of ownership/management

Owned	Leased	Rented
Earlwood CC	Berkswell CC	Castle Bromwich CC
Knowle Village CC	Catherine De Barnes CC	Heart of England CC
Moseley CC	Dorridge CC	Knowle & Dorridge CC
Solihull Blossomfield CC	Hampton & Solihull CC	Olton & West Warwickshire CC
Tanworth & Camp Hill CC	Hampton Village CC	Shirley CC
	Marston Green CC	
	Old Edwardians CC	
	Solihull Municipal CC	
	Woodbourne CC	

In addition to clubs only renting their squares, particular concern relates to clubs with lease agreements nearing expiry, with any arrangement under 25 years considered to offer limited security of tenure which may result in difficulty applying for funding. Catherine De Barnes CC has very limited time remaining on its lease from Greene King, Dorridge CC has five years on its lease from John Woolman and Marston Green CC has six years left on its lease from Bickenhall and Marston Green Parish Council.

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Many clubs in Solihull also use secondary venues either due to a lack of capacity at their main ground or to prevent significant overplay. This normally occurs via a weekly or an annual rental agreement and applies to ten clubs, as seen below:

- ◀ Berkswell CC
- ◀ Castle Bromwich CC
- ◀ Dorridge CC
- ◀ Hampton & Solihull CC
- ◀ Knowle & Dorridge CC
- ◀ Knowle Village CC
- ◀ Old Edwardians CC
- ◀ Olton & West Warwickshire CC
- ◀ Solihull Blossomfield CC
- ◀ Tanworth & Camp Hill CC

Whilst a rental agreement is not generally encouraged for access to a main ground, it is advisable for access to a secondary ground as the level of usage tends to be minimal and is not guaranteed in the long-term.

Pitch quality

As part of the PPS Guidance, there are three levels to assessing the quality of cricket pitches: good, standard and poor. Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares in Solihull found nine community available squares to be good quality and to be standard quality; none were assessed as poor. These have remained unchanged since 2017 following consultation with the ECB.

Table 4.5: Summary of cricket pitch quality in Solihull

Good	Standard	Poor
9	13	-

Although none are assessed as poor quality, Knowle Village, Heart of England, Solihull Municipal and Shirley cricket clubs all report that the quality of their squares (Knowle Village Cricket Club, Meriden Sports Park, Solihull Municipal Club and Moseley Cricket Club respectively) has worsened recently. Knowle Village CC recognises that the deterioration is due to an increase in competitive play and a reduction in maintenance, whereas Solihull Municipal CC reports that the drainage on its outfield is deteriorating.

The audit of standalone non-turf wicket squares identified quality issues at Heart of England School and Solihull Sixth Form College, both of which are assessed as poor albeit neither are available for community use. The remaining NTP stock is assessed as standard.

For a full breakdown of quality ratings, see Table 4.12.

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Ball-strike

Ball strike issues are emerging nationally as a result of proposed developments nearby to cricket grounds. An example of this in Solihull is identified at Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club, with the Club needing netting due to the site's proximity to the adjacent tennis club and nearby roads. Even if developments do not directly impact on cricket provision, Sport England and NGBs should still be a consultee for plans which may have consequences on playing field land (or supporting infrastructure).

Hybrid wickets

SIS Pitches installed pioneering hybrid cricket wickets at County cricket clubs across the United Kingdom ahead of the 2019 cricket season. Previously, hybrid wickets have been installed and trialed in practice net areas and on main ground squares since 2017. A report found that the provision improved surface stability, reduced wear, reduced bowler foot holes and significantly extended hours of playing time. Further research will be carried out to ascertain whether they can provide increased pace and carry and more consistent bounce.

Should hybrid pitches be rolled out to a wider market that includes community clubs, sites that are well used and/or used for high level play could be considered.

Ancillary facilities

Only one club in Solihull is considered to be catered by a poor quality pavilion; Shirley CC. All other clubs either have standard or good quality facilities.

Table 4.6: Club responses regarding ancillary facility quality in Solihull

Good	Standard	Poor
Berkswell CC Castle Bromwich CC Dorridge CC Hampton & Solihull CC Heart of England CC Knowle & Dorridge CC Knowle Village CC Marston Green CC Moseley CC Old Edwardians CC Solihull Blossomfield CC Solihull Municipal CC	Catherine De Barnes CC Hampton-in-Arden Village CC Olton & West Warwickshire CC	Shirley CC

The facilities at Moseley Cricket Club that accommodate Shirley CC are poorly maintained and the building is generally too small to accommodate demand. It must therefore be noted that the Club has its own clubhouse on site, separate to the main pavilion that is used by Moseley CC and that is rated as good quality by users.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training, with many clubs expressing an aspiration for additional training facilities to be provided. This to eight clubs in Solihull, as seen in the table below.

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Table 4.7: Clubs reporting a need for additional practice nets

Club name	Site
Aston CC	Aston Park
Bournville CC	Bournville Cricket Club
Shenley Fields CC	Shenley Lane Community Association
Catherine De Barnes CC	Catherine De Barnes Cricket Club
Dorridge CC	The John Woolman Ground
Hampton and Solihull CC	Tippetts Field
Hampton Village CC	Hampton In Arden Sports Club Ltd
Heart of England CC	Meriden Sports Park
Old Edwardians CC	Old Edwardians Sports Club
Tanworth & Camp Hill CC	Dickens Heath Sports Club
Woodbourne CC	Woodbourne Sports Club

In addition, Marston Green CC reports a need for its existing nets to be replaced or improved due to quality issues.

As well as practice nets, several clubs also indicate an interest towards installing an NTP at their home site that can be used to accommodate training needs with the aid of a mobile net. The addition of an NTP to squares without such provision will also enable the transfer of play from the grass wickets, thus preserving quality, reducing any overplay and potentially allowing for an increase in demand. Clubs with such aspirations comprise of:

- ◀ Catherine De Barnes CC
- ◀ Dorridge CC
- ◀ Hampton Village CC
- ◀ Knowle Village CC
- ◀ Marston Green CC
- ◀ Tanworth & Camp Hill CC
- ◀ Woodbourne CC

During winter months, the majority of clubs prefer to train using indoor nets and most do this via sports halls located at local secondary schools and leisure centres. There are no specialised cricket centres in Solihull, although it is considered that enough demand exists for one to be provided. Indoor cricket facilities not only aid with training requirements but they can also be used for eight-a-side indoor cricket matches/tournaments providing the lighting and flooring is of an adequate standard.

4.3: Demand

In total, there are 19 clubs competing in Solihull generating 166 teams (2019 affiliation data). As a breakdown, this equates to 66 senior men's, three senior women's, 90 junior boys' and 17 junior girls' teams.

As seen in the table below, the majority of clubs are large clubs offering several senior teams and numerous junior teams across different age levels. Only five of the clubs do not provide a junior section and only one of these is a one team club.

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Table 4.8: Summary of teams

Club name	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Berkswell CC	Rural	4	1	9	3
Castle Bromwich CC	North	3	-	-	-
Catherine De Barnes CC	North	2	-	-	-
Dorridge CC	Rural	3	-	10	3
Earlswood CC	Rural	5	1	6	5
Hampton & Solihull CC	Central	2	1	7	1
	North	2	-	-	-
Hampton-in-Arden Village CC	North	1	-	-	-
Heart of England CC	Rural	2	-	-	-
Knowle & Dorridge CC	Rural	3	-	8	2
	North	2	-	2	-
Knowle Village CC	Rural	4	-	3	-
Marston Green CC	North	2	-	3	-
Moseley CC	Central	6	-	8	-
Old Edwardians CC	Central	4	-	2	-
Olton & West Warwickshire CC	Central	4	-	8	-
Shirley CC	Central	2	-	-	-
Solihull Blossomfield CC	Central	4	-	4	3
	Rural	1	-	-	-
Solihull Municipal CC	Central	5	-	3	-
Tanworth & Camp Hill CC	Rural	3	-	6	-
Woodbourne CC	Rural	2	-	1	-
Total		66	3	80	17

The Rural Analysis contains the highest number of teams (85), followed by the Central Analysis Area (64 teams). The North Analysis Area has substantially less teams (17). This is reflective of the breakdown of supply.

Table 4.9: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of teams				Total
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	
Central	27	1	32	4	64
North	12	-	5	-	17
Rural	27	2	43	13	85
Solihull	66	3	80	17	166

Compared to the 2016 data used in the original PPS, there has been an overall increase in the number of teams, with eight additional teams now fielded. However, this increase can be solely attributed to a growth in female participation as there are now 12 additional junior girls' teams and one additional senior women's team. Junior boys' demand has remained static, whilst there has been a decrease of five senior men's teams.

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In 2016, the ECB unveiled a strategic five-year plan (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success is being measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the game and the plan sets out five important headline elements: more play; great teams; inspired fans; good governance and social responsibility; strong finance and operations. Whilst a new strategy is coming in 2020 and specific details will emerge over coming months, junior cricket and women's and girls' participation will remain a focus.

The National Player Survey (NPS) conducted over the past three years by the ECB reveals that the nature of participation in traditional league cricket is currently suffering a decline, although this is being offset by a rapid increase in non-traditional formats (such as LMS and T20 competitions). These are shorter, quicker formats of the game and are referenced further on in this report.

Exported demand

Four Solihull based clubs currently export demand to other local authorities. These are:

- ◀ Castle Bromwich CC
- ◀ Earlswood CC
- ◀ Lapworth CC
- ◀ Tanworth & Camp Hill CC

Castle Bromwich CC fields its third Saturday team in Birmingham due a lack of capacity at its home ground in Solihull and travels approximately nine miles to do so. Although this is not seen as ideal by the Club, it is accepted that there is currently no realistic alternative. It accesses the Co-operative Sports & Social Club, which has unsecure tenure due to proposals relating to its future development.

Earlswood CC and Tanworth & Camp Hill CC access secondary grounds in Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon respectively due to a lack of spare capacity at their preferred home grounds.

Lapworth CC fields all of its demand at Nelson Memorial Ground, in Warwick. The Club has no intentions on returning to Solihull as this site is just outside of the boundary and is therefore considered to be its preferred home venue.

A bigger issue within Solihull is the level of imported demand, with numerous Birmingham based clubs utilising squares within Solihull due to a lack of capacity within the City and because the quality of provision within Solihull tends to be better.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, using population forecasts and housing growth. The Strategy Report that proceeds this report contains a range of housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development.

Participation increases

When clubs were consulted in 2017, a number of clubs reported plans to increase their number of teams in the future. These figures have now been re-visited and amends have been made where initial demand is known to have been realised, as well as incorporating some additional demand from consultation that took place for this update.

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Where quantified, future demand now amounts to an increase of five senior men's, one senior women's and 17 junior teams, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.10: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Berkswell CC	Rural	1	-	-
Dorridge CC	Rural	1	-	2
Hampton and Solihull CC	Central	-	-	1
Hampton-in-Arden Village CC	North	-	-	3
Marston Green CC	North	1	-	2
Moseley CC	Central	-	1	-
Olton and West Warwickshire CC	Central	1	-	-
Solihull Municipal CC	Central	-	-	2
Tanwoth & Camp Hill CC	Rural	1	-	5
Woodbourne CC	Rural	-	-	2
Total		5	1	17

Population forecasts

In addition, team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2035) based on population growth. Using this, an increase of two senior men's, nine junior boys' and two junior girls' teams is expected.

Table 4.11: Team generation rates based on population growth (2035)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population ¹⁴
Senior Men (18-55)	48,542	66	735	50,228	68.3	2
Senior Women (18-55)	50,603	3	16868	51,536	3.1	0
Junior Boys (7-17)	16,357	80	204	18,303	89.5	9
Junior Girls (7-17)	15,205	18	845	17,330	20.5	2

When broken down by analysis areas, the future growth equates to one senior men's team in both the Rural and Central analysis areas as well as six junior teams in the Rural Analysis Area, four in the Central Analysis Area and one in the North Analysis Area.

It must be stated that team generation rates 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, they do not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as club development plans, NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing female participation within Solihull and nationally which is likely to lead to more women's and girls' teams in the future, in addition to the recent growth.

¹⁴ Rounded to the nearest whole number

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Additional demand

In addition to the demand referenced above, there are also numerous teams playing within Solihull that are not fielded by affiliated clubs. The following section therefore highlights the supply and demand aspects and the key issues affecting such demand following on from consultation.

Al Faisals Cricket League

The Al Faisals Cricket League focuses on grassroots participation. The League does not use council pitches, instead choosing to hire club-based venues comprising of Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club in Solihull and various venues within Birmingham. It presently has 16 teams playing in two divisions, one on a Sunday and one midweek, whilst reporting a waiting list of around 15 teams pending the introduction of a T20 League, which is due to commence in the 2017 season.

Arden Sunday Cricket League

The Arden Sunday League is a thriving friendly league based mainly around the Birmingham and Solihull boundary area, although some demand also comes from Warwick and Coventry. In 2019, the League ran five divisions comprising of 40 teams in total (with each division hosting eight teams). This has increased from 32 teams in 2016, partly due to the recent folding of the Warwickshire Sunday League. By having numerous divisions, the League accommodates different levels of ability and enables clubs that have numerous teams to enter.

The League services teams that are unattached to clubs as well as club-based teams. Each team fielded must provide its own home ground, with fixtures played on a home and away basis. This is opposed to the central venue system that is used by the Al Faisals Cricket League.

Clubs from Solihull participating in the League include Berkswell, Knowle Village and Solihull Municipal cricket clubs.

LL Cricket League

The LL Cricket League is a substantial Sunday and midweek league that covers a large part of the Midlands and hosts competitions for 40, 30 and 20 over cricket. There are currently five Solihull based clubs competing within it, the majority of which are teams that are unattached to clubs although some teams are entered from those with affiliations. In total, 50 teams are currently participating.

In addition, the following venues are used in Solihull:

- ◀ Castle Bromwich Playing Fields
- ◀ Dickens Heath Sports Club
- ◀ Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club
- ◀ Moseley Cricket Club
- ◀ Woodbourne Sports Club

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Shirley Midweek Cricket League

The Shirley Midweek League was formed in 2007 and is a 15 overs of eight balls per side league currently made up of one division of five teams, with matches played on a variety of midweek days. There has been a substantial decrease in participation since 2016, with 12 teams forming two divisions three years ago.

The League is exclusively designed to attract cricketers from the Solihull area who are not playing first team cricket. The emphasis is to promote junior cricketers in the area, thus giving them more cricket to encourage them to stay in the sport and to help them gain exposure to senior cricket.

Last Man Stands

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005, in London. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on NTPs. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity.

There is no specific LMS franchise operating within Solihull; however, there is scope for one to be created given the high demand for cricket in general. Demand currently gravitates to Birmingham as this would be geographically the closest, especially if additional venues are accessed in the South moving forward.

Informal demand

Although no informal use is recorded on cricket squares in Solihull, it is considered that informal cricket is being heavily played elsewhere, such as on parks, recreation grounds and even on macadam surfaces such as car parks. Informal formats of play are often preferred amongst South Asian communities, which have a large presence within Solihull, and the ECB considers the development of cricket within these communities to be a key focus.

All Stars Cricket

All Stars Cricket is an initiative from the ECB aimed at providing children aged five to eight with a great first experience in cricket. 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 children and volunteers to follow and play the game

A number of clubs are involved in the All Stars initiative in Solihull and, in the future, the ECB predicts that more clubs will register to become involved. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs and in turn have an impact on the usage and availability of provision.

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Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturdays, with 40 affiliated teams playing on this day. That being said, there is a similar level of demand for Sunday cricket, with numerous affiliated teams in Solihull playing on this day plus a large number of unattached teams competing in leagues such as the LL Cricket League. As such, both days have to be taken into consideration when determining actual spare capacity.

For junior cricket, peak time demand is considered mid-week, although some matches are scheduled on a Sunday. It should therefore be noted that mid-week cricket has the potential to be spread across numerous days (Monday-Friday) and, as a result, pitches have greater capacity to carry junior demand (providing the pitches are not overplayed).

4.4: Capacity analysis

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

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season that each square can accommodate against the number of matches currently taking place.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist due to health and safety issues. This has changed since the original PPS was carried out as previously, the capacity of each wicket was five matches per season regardless of quality. The impact of this alteration means that standard and poor quality squares in Solihull are now deemed to have less capacity than they did in 2017 (for the original study).

The above guidance is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from information supplied by the ECB as well as from consultation with clubs. Where such information was not made available, the assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

The ECB suggests that a non-turf wicket can accommodate 60 matches per season. As no non-turf wickets are recorded as accommodating more than this in Solihull, they are all considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity as they are generally accessed during mid-week by junior teams and as a result can be used on a variety of days. For this reason, non-turf wicket capacity has been discounted from the table overleaf so that it does not distort the capacity of grass wickets.

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Table 4.12: Cricket pitch capacity

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (match equivalent sessions per season)	Actual play (match equivalent sessions per season)	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions per season)
246	Eversfield Preparatory School	B91 1AT	Central	Yes-unused	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
263	Light Hall School	B90 2PZ	Central	Yes-unused	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
264	Lode Heath School	B91 2HW	Central	Yes	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
286	Solihull Municipal Club	B91 3LE	Central	Yes	1	Standard	16	64	31	33
287	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Central	No	4	Good	9	-	-	-
						Good	9			
						Good	8			
						Good	4			
288	Solihull Sixth Form College	B91 3WR	Central	No	1	Poor	-	-	-	-
294	Tippetts Field	B91 2PF	Central	Yes	1	Good	11	55	48	7
295	Tudor Grange Academy	B91 3PD	Central	Yes	1	Standard	8	32	18	14
298	West Warwickshire Sports Club	B91 1DA	Central	Yes	1	Good	10	50	50	
302	Old Edwardians Sports Club	B90 3PE	Central	Yes	1	Standard	10	40	37	3
303	Moseley Cricket Club	B90 2PE	Central	Yes	2	Good	12	92	100	8
						Standard	8			
304	Widney Junior School	B91 3LQ	Central	Yes	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
321	Blossomfield Sports Club	B91 3JY	Central	Yes	1	Good	11	55	57	2
234	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	B36 9PB	North	Yes	1	Standard	12	48	26	22
235	Catherine De Barnes Cricket Club	B91 2TJ	North	Yes	1	Good	9	45	20	25
248	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	B92 0DQ	North	Yes	1	Standard	6	24	12	12
257	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Lugtrout Lane)	B91 2RX	North	Yes	1	Standard	13	52	64	12
270	Marston Green Recreation Ground	B37 7ER	North	Yes	1	Standard	8	32	30	2
278	Park Hall Academy	B36 0UE	North	Yes-unused	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
284	Smith's Wood Sports College	B94 5NA	North	Yes-unused	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
242	Dickens Heath Sports Club	B94 6EE	Rural	Yes	1	Standard	10	40	60	20
243	Earlswood Cricket Club	CW7 7FW	Rural	Yes	1	Standard	11	44	66	22
250	Heart of England School	B93 8ET	Rural	No	1	Poor	-	-	-	-
258	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Station Road)	CV7 7SP	Rural	Yes	1	Good	14	70	58	12
273	Meriden Sports Park	B36 9HF	Rural	Yes	1	Standard	-	-	-	-
282	Silhillians Sports Club	B93 9LW	Rural	Yes	1	Standard	4	16	16	
291	The John Woolman Ground	B93 8QA	Rural	Yes	1	Standard	13	52	74	22
305	Knowle Village Cricket Club	B93 0NX	Rural	Yes	1	Standard	12	48	37	11
306	Berkswell and Balsall Common Sports Association	CV7 7GE	Rural	Yes	1	Good	12	60	87	27
309	Grove Lane	B93 8AR	Rural	Yes	1	Good	8	40	10	30
322	Woodbourne Sports Club	B94 5LW	Rural	Yes	1	Standard	10	40	62	22

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

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 protect quality or to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions.

There are 11 squares across the same number of sites that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets equating to 171 match equivalent sessions per season. However, this may not represent actual spare capacity, i.e. whether a pitch is available at peak time. Whilst peak time for playing senior cricket in Solihull is Saturday, availability on a Sunday also needs to be considered due to high levels of demand for both days. Midweek capacity does not need to be included due to its ability to be spread over five days (Monday-Friday).

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

Where spare capacity is identified on either a Saturday or a Sunday in the table overleaf, this can be deemed as actual spare capacity. Note that where there is a showing of 0.5 of a square this accounts for teams only needing access every other week due to playing home and away fixtures (i.e. one team equals 0.5 of a square).

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Table 4.13: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Squares available on Saturdays	Squares available on Sundays	Comments
286	Solihull Municipal Club	Central	1	33	-	-	No spare capacity on either a Saturday or a Sunday
294	Tippetts Field	Central	1	7	-	-	No spare capacity on either a Saturday or a Sunday
295	Tudor Grange Academy	Central	1	14	-	1	Spare capacity discounted due it being a school site
302	Old Edwardians Sports Club	Central	1	4	-	-	No spare capacity on either a Saturday or a Sunday
234	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	North	1	22	-	0.5	Actual spare capacity on a Sunday
235	Catherine De Barnes Cricket Club	North	1	25	-	1	Actual spare capacity on a Sunday
248	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	North	1	12	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity on both a Saturday and a Sunday
270	Marston Green Recreation Ground	North	1	2	-	-	No spare capacity on either a Saturday or a Sunday
258	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Station Road)	Rural	1	12	-	-	No spare capacity on either a Saturday or a Sunday
305	Knowle Village Cricket Club	Rural	1	11	-	0.5	Actual spare capacity on a Sunday
309	Grove Lane	Rural	1	30	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity on both a Saturday and a Sunday

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Although a large amount of spare capacity is identified, it is not as simple as to aggregate this into a general oversupply of cricket squares. Of the 11 squares identified with spare capacity, only two are available for further senior cricket activity on a Saturday, amounting to one square, with only six available for further play on a Sunday, amounting to five squares.

No actual spare capacity is identified on a Saturday in the Central Analysis Area, whilst it is split across all three analysis areas on a Sunday.

Table 4.13: Summary of actual spare capacity in Solihull

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (squares)	
	Saturday	Sunday
Central	-	1
North	0.5	2.5
Rural	0.5	1.5
Solihull	1	5

Whilst some of the actual spare capacity on specific sites has altered since 2016, the overall amount remains similar, with only a slight reduction on Sundays.

For junior cricket, each square with potential spare capacity is considered to have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. The reason for this being substantially higher than the capacity for senior cricket is because fixtures can be split across numerous days, meaning more than two home teams can be assigned to a square. In addition, junior teams are more likely to access NTPs, if they are available.

Overplay

Nine squares in Solihull are overplayed, with total overplay amounting to 91 match equivalent sessions. This is an increase of 28 match equivalent sessions compared to the original PPS, which is reflective of the overall increase in demand as well as the changes in capacity ratings.

Table 4.14: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
303	Moseley Cricket Club	Central	2	8
321	Blossomfield Sports Club	Central	1	2
257	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Lugtrout Lane)	North	1	12
242	Dickens Heath Sports Club	Rural	1	10
243	Earlswood Cricket Club	Rural	1	11
291	The John Woolman Ground	Rural	1	9
306	Berkswell and Balsall Common Sports Association	Rural	1	27
322	Woodbourne Sports Club	Rural	1	12
Total				91

The majority of the overplay is identified Rural Analysis Area, with only minimal levels found in the Central and North analysis areas.

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Table 4.15: Summary of overplay by analysis area for senior cricket

Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
Central	10
North	12
Rural	69
Solihull	91

Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a reduction in play is recommended at sites to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. The best solution would therefore be to transfer some demand to sites with actual spare capacity, with the caveat that the arrangement must suit all parties involved in terms of accessibility, security of tenure and cost.

Alternatively, given that a large percentage of usage at the overplayed sites comes from junior cricket, particularly at sites such as Earlswood Cricket Club and the John Woolman Ground, an NTP could be provided in situ in order to transfer play from the grass wickets. This is already in practice and has alleviated or reduced potential overplay at other club sites such as Knowle Village Cricket Club.

In addition to sites that are overplayed, numerous sites are currently played to capacity. It is therefore recommended that these sites also receive no further play beyond current levels to prevent them becoming overplayed in the future. This pertains to Moseley Cricket Club, Silhillians Rugby Club and West Warwickshire Sports Club.

4.6: Conclusions

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for senior cricket on both Saturdays and Sundays. For junior and midweek cricket, overall capacity is considered to exist both now and in the future so it has not been taken into consideration. Nevertheless, there is evidence to suggest that an increase in provision of NTPs would further help satisfy junior demand, as well as increasing capacity for senior matches on grass wickets and alleviating identified overplay on grass wickets.

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Saturday cricket. For this, actual spare capacity has been converted from squares to match equivalent sessions based on the average number of matches played per season by a senior team (ten). As such, ten match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity are considered to exist for every 0.5 squares that are available (as one square can accommodate two teams).

Similarly, match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (ten matches for senior men's teams and six matches for junior teams). Junior future demand has been included as it will take capacity from the grass wickets should they not play on the NTP stock.

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Table 4.16: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Saturday cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central	-	10	10	38	48
North	10	12	2	40	42
Rural	10	69	69	84	153
Solihull	20	91	71	162	233

As seen in the table above, there is an overall current shortfall of grass wicket squares in Solihull for peak time senior play amounting to 81 match equivalent sessions, with a shortfall in each analysis area. When factoring in future demand, the overall shortfall increases to 233 match equivalent sessions, with shortfalls identified in each analysis area.

When analysing demand for Sunday cricket, there is overall spare capacity albeit a shortfall is recognised in the Rural Analysis Area. When factoring in future demand, there is an overall shortfall amounting to 163 match equivalent sessions, with shortfalls exacerbated in the Rural Analysis Area and created in the Central and North analysis areas.

Table 4.17: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Sunday cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central	20	10	10	38	28
North	50	12	38	40	2
Rural	30	69	49	84	133
Solihull	100	91	9	162	153

Next steps

It must be noted that this update has been completed outside of the cricket season. As such, the data used is likely to be outdated relatively quickly when clubs begin to affiliate ahead of 2020 fixtures. The ECB therefore believes, given the time elapsed since the original study, that a further update is required in the near future to ensure an accurate portrayal of the current picture.

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Cricket summary - Solihull

- ◀ There are 26 grass cricket squares in Solihull across 21 sites, 22 of which are considered to be available for community use.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at five sites and there are standalone NTPs located at nine sites.
- ◀ Land Rover Sports and Social Club and Civil Service Sports Ground previously contained grass wicket squares that are now considered disused.
- ◀ Five clubs own their squares, nine clubs lease their squares and five clubs rent their squares (on an annual or seasonal basis).
- ◀ Catherine De Barnes, Dorridge and Marston Green cricket clubs have less than remaining on their lease agreements and therefore have limited security of tenure.
- ◀ The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares found nine community available pitches to be good quality and 13 to be standard quality.
- ◀ Shirley CC rates the quality of its ancillary facilities as poor quality.
- ◀ Eight clubs report demand for practice nets or additional practice nets whilst seven clubs report demand for an NTP to be provided.
- ◀ There are 19 affiliated clubs that generate 66 senior men's, three senior women's and 97 junior teams.
- ◀ Displaced demand is expressed by Castle Bromwich, Earlswood, Lapworth and Tanworth & Camp Hill cricket clubs.
- ◀ A total of ten clubs express future demand equating to an increase of five senior men's, one senior women's and 17 junior teams, whilst team generation rates predict a growth of two senior men's, nine junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.
- ◀ There are high levels of South Asian league demand from leagues such as the LL Cricket League.
- ◀ There is no Last Man Stands franchise in Solihull although scope exists for one to be created.
- ◀ There are 11 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets totalling 171 match equivalent sessions per season across the same number of sites.
- ◀ Despite 11 sites showing potential spare capacity, only two are available for further use on a Saturday totalling one square and only six are available for further use on a Sunday totalling five squares.
- ◀ Eight squares are overplayed by 101 match equivalent sessions combined.
- ◀ As junior teams can play on NTPs and generally play midweek on a variety of days, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches (and midweek senior cricket) both now and in the future.
- ◀ For Saturday cricket, there is an overall shortfall of provision both currently and in the future.
- ◀ For Sunday cricket, there is overall spare capacity currently but a future shortfall.

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. A full-time development officer is responsible for Solihull (as part of the Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire and North Midlands area) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, including working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

For senior rugby, best practice is for the playing enclosure (exclusive of in goal areas) to be in line with international pitch minimum and maximums (between 94 and 100 metres long and between 68 and 70 metres wide). The in-goal area should measure no more than 22 metres, although the size of many existing pitches will vary. For mini and junior rugby (up to and including u14s) the size of pitch and format of play differs for each age group ranging from 20 x 12 metre pitches for u7s to 90 x 60 metre pitches for u13s.¹⁵

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are six rugby union clubs in Solihull, all of which responded to consultation in 2016 requests resulting in a 100% response rate. The clubs are:

- ◀ Birmingham Civil Service RUFC
- ◀ Birmingham Exiles RUFC
- ◀ Camp Hill RUFC
- ◀ Edwardian RUFC
- ◀ Old Yardleians RUFC
- ◀ Silhillians RUFC

In addition, Berkswell & Balsall Common RUFC were also consulted. The Club originates in Solihull but currently plays in Warwick.

For the update, demand information from the original PPS was checked and challenged through consultation with the RFU. The RFU also provided a Stage B report, presenting updated demand information as well as key issues faced by the clubs as well as future aspirations.

5.2: Supply

There are 17 sites providing rugby union pitches in Solihull, equating to a supply of 33 senior, five junior and 14 mini pitches. Of these, 26 senior, two junior and six mini pitches are available for community use, with all those not available being located at educational sites such as Solihull School (which contains five senior, three junior and three mini pitches).

¹⁵http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/MyRugby/Players/01/30/98/93/AGCR-NewRulesofPlayandPlayerProgressionPathway_Neutral.pdf

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Although there are dedicated junior and mini pitches identified, it must be noted that most junior and mini rugby traditionally takes place on over marked senior pitches. This is the case across Solihull, even at sites with dedicated junior/mini markings.

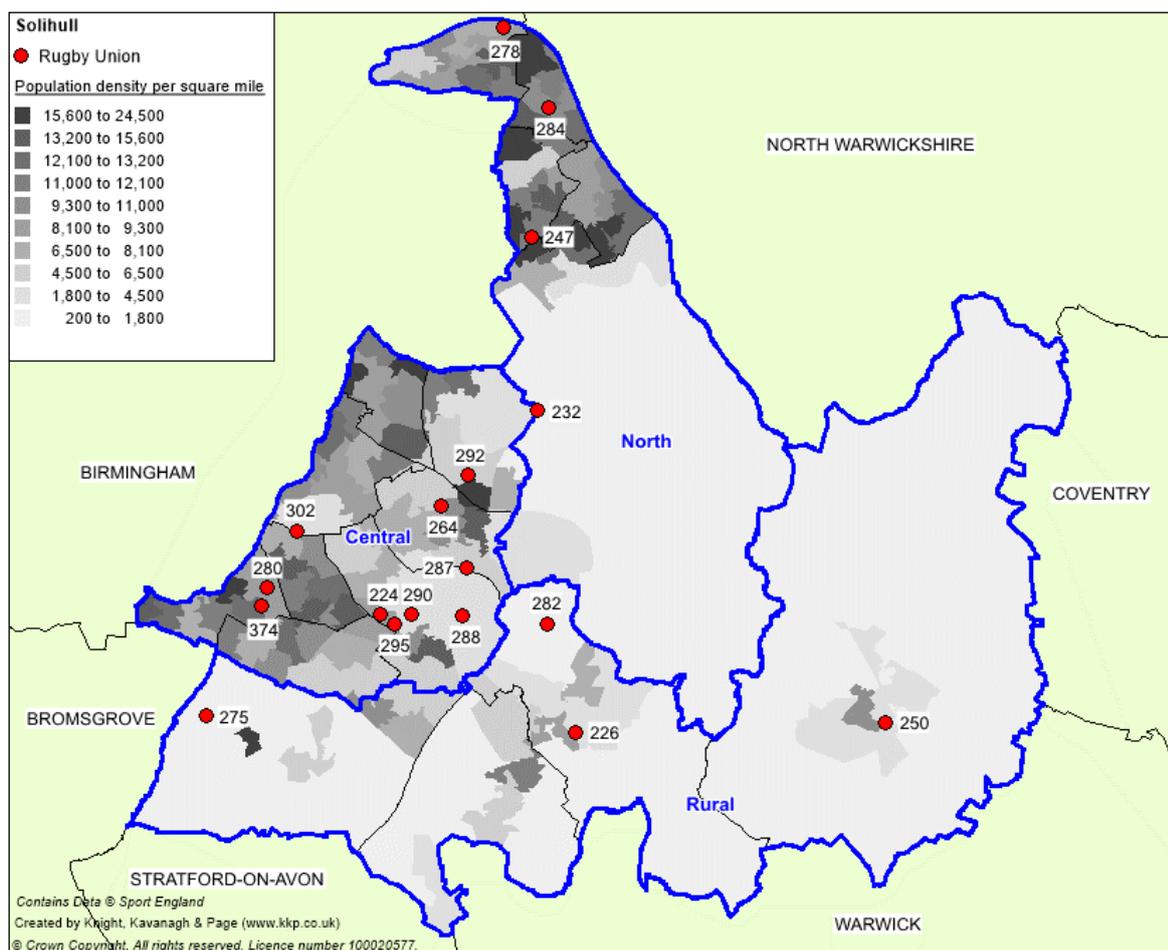
Table 5.1: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of pitches		
	Senior	Junior	Mini
Central	8	2	-
North	6	-	1
Rural	12	-	5
Total	26	2	6

As seen in the table above, the Rural Analysis Area contains the most community available pitches (17), whilst the North contains the least (seven). The number of pitches has reduced by two since the original study, with two senior pitches at Sharman's Cross no longer included as they are considered to be disused.

Figure 5.1 below shows the location of all rugby union pitches servicing Solihull, regardless of community availability. For a key to the map, see Table 5.6.

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Solihull



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Future developments

The creation of a sports hub West of Dickens Heath (Site 4 in the Draft Local Plan Review) may involve the re-location of Old Yardelians RUFC, with its existing site subject to development. Emerging proposals from the Developer (Richborough Estates) identify the pitches being relocated to the sports hub, with existing pitches to the South used for housing. However, there may be other options, with work ongoing and future options to be informed by this PPS update. The RFU reports that any re-location would require like for like replacement of current facilities, security of tenure and for the Club and the RFU to continue to be consulted on and supportive of any potential scheme.

Sharman's Cross has also been allocated for development (Site 18 in the Draft Local Plan Review). The site was previously home to Birmingham & Solihull RUFC (which now plays in Birmingham) but has been unused for a number of years. A planning application was refused a number of years ago, but not on the grounds of a loss of playing pitches as this was to be mitigated as part of the proposal.

Site 20: Damson Parkway in the Draft Local Plan Review could impact on Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club due to employment use proposals (Jaguar Land Rover); however, this should not result in the loss of any playing pitches. Somewhat connected to this is Land Rover Sports & Social Club, with an expansion to the adjacent plant possibly required which could encroach on or completely remove the playing field land. This site is used by Birmingham Civil Service RUFC.

Also allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review is Arden Academy Trust (Site 9: South of Knowle). This proposes the relocation of the School and its playing field land, which includes three rugby union pitches.

Security of tenure

Due to the proposals relating to Birmingham Exiles RUFC, Old Yardelians RUFC and Birmingham Civil Service RUFC, none are considered to have security of tenure. Old Yardelians RUFC has 16 years remaining on its lease agreement for use of its current site; however, the arrangement includes a break clause whereby the landowner (Horne Estates) can evict the Club with 12 months' notice. Birmingham Civil Service RUFC accesses Land Rover Sports & Social Club via an agreement that has previously been renewed annually; however, notice has been served meaning the Club must now find an alternative venue.

Conversely, both Camp Hill RUFC and Birmingham Exiles RUFC are considered to have security of tenure as both own their respective sites (Camp Hill Rugby Club and Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club). In addition, Camp Hill RUFC also rents pitches at Shirley Park from the Council. Most pitches at council sites are considered to provide security of tenure as part of a continued commitment for councils to provide a leisure offering. The only occasions where this is not the case is if sites are allocated for future development within a local plan.

Tenure is also secure for Silhillians RUFC as the Club forms part of the Old Silhillians Association, which has a long-term lease (50 years) in place at Silhillians Sports Club.

Edwardian RUFC forms part of Old Edwardians Sports Club LTD which has 21 years remaining on its lease of Old Edwardians Sports Club from the Old Edwardian Association. Due to the length of time remaining, this is considered secure, although a lease extension is recommended. Generally, clubs require 25 or more years on an arrangement if they are to secure external funding for site development and improvements.

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Pitch quality

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

Table 5.2: 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 5.3: Definition of drainage categories

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

Table 5.4: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

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

The quality of rugby union pitches in Solihull was assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the RFU) in 2016. Of the community available pitches, six are assessed as good quality, 21 are assessed as standard quality and seven are assessed as poor quality. This is relatively unchanged since the original PPS; the only difference (in addition to the removal of pitches at Sharman's Cross) is that one of the pitches at Old Edwardians Rugby Club is now assessed as standard rather than poor following the installation of a drainage system.

Table 5.5: Quality of pitches available for community use

Senior pitches			Junior pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
5	15	6	1	-	1	-	6	-

The table overleaf shows the quality ratings on a site-by-site basis (and includes pitches not available for community use).

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Table 5.6: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
224	Alderbrook School	B91 1SN	Central	No	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
264	Lode Heath School	B91 2HW	Central	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
280	Shirley Park	B90 2DH	Central	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Junior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
287	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Central	No	10	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
288	Solihull Sixth Form College Sports Hall	B91 3WR	Central	No	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
290	St Peters Catholic School	B91 3NZ	Central	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
292	Land Rover Sports & Social Club	B92 9LN	Central	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
295	Tudor Grange Academy Solihull	B91 3PD	Central	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
302	Old Edwardians Sports Club	B90 3PE	Central	Yes	2	Senior	Yes	M1 / D2	Standard
						Senior	Yes (half)	M1 / D0	Poor
329	Sharman's Cross	B91 1HT	Central	No-disused	2	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor
						Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor
374	Camp Hill Rugby Club	B90 2DH	Central	Yes	2	Senior	Yes	M2 / D2	Good
						Junior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
232	Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club	B92 9ED	North	Yes	3	Senior	Yes	M1 / D2	Standard
						Senior	No	M1 / D2	Standard
						Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
247	Grace Academy Solihull	B37 5JS	North	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
278	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	North	Yes-unused	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
284	Smith's Wood Sports College	B36 0UE	North	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
226	Arden Academy Trust	B93 0PT	Rural	Yes-unused	3	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
250	Heart Of England School	CV7 7FW	Rural	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor
275	Old Yardleians Rugby Football Club	B90 1PW	Rural	Yes	4	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
						Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
282	Silhillians Sports Club	B93 3LW	Rural	Yes	10	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
						Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good
						Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
						Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
						Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard
						Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard

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Poor quality pitches are found at the following community available sites:

- ◀ Heart of England School
- ◀ Lode Heath School
- ◀ Old Edwardians Sports Club
- ◀ Shirley Park
- ◀ Smith's Wood Sports College
- ◀ St Peters Catholic School
- ◀ The Land Rover Sports and Social Club

The majority of pitches at the above sites are assessed as poor quality due to drainage issues (D0) and this is a particular problem at Land Rover Sports and Social Club as it is accessed by a club (Birmingham Civil Service RUFC).

Similarly, although the senior pitch at Shirley Park is assessed as standard quality as it has recently had drainage work completed (D1), the junior pitch still has drainage issues (D0). This is a concern as the pitch is used by Camp Hill RUFC.

The second senior pitch at Old Edwardians Rugby Club remains poor quality despite improvements to the first pitch at the site.

The remaining poor quality pitches are all school sites that are not accessed by the community despite being available. That said, they are all in use for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and therefore still warrant quality improvements. An improvement in quality will also increase their appeal to potential community users should they be required.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Solihull have access to clubhouse facilities, although quality varies. Camp Hill RUFC reports a need for its clubhouse to be extended so that it can include a function room and a committee room. It is believed that such provision will enable the Club to generate additional income that can be used to fund sustainability and other facility improvements.

Edwardian RUFC reports that the roof of its clubhouse at Old Edwardians Rugby Club is causing concern due to water leaking through and mould growing, whilst Birmingham Civil Service RUFC reports an issue with its shower facilities. The Club only has access to port-a-cabin provision at Land Rover Sports and Social Club despite enclosed showers existing elsewhere on the site.

All remaining clubs that responded to consultation rate the quality of their clubhouse facilities as adequate and no other issues were discovered during assessments. Solihullians RUFC is in particular well serviced following recent RFU investment.

5.3: Demand

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

Competitive play

Six rugby union clubs play in Solihull. The majority of these are large clubs with multiple senior, junior and mini teams, with the only exception being Birmingham Civil Service

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RUFC which fields just one senior team. Overall, the clubs field 68 teams, equating to 15 senior teams, 23 junior teams and 30 mini teams (2018/2019 affiliation data).

Table 5.7: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams		
		Senior	Junior	Mini
Birmingham Civil Service RUFC	Central	1	-	-
Camp Hill RUFC	Central	4	6	6
Edwardian RUFC	Central	2	5	6
Birmingham Exiles RUFC	North	3	5	6
Old Yardleians RUFC	Rural	2	3	6
Silhillians RUFC	Rural	3	4	6
Total		15	23	30

Since the original PPS was completed using 2016/2017 affiliation data, there has been an overall increase of five teams, although there are now four less senior teams fielded with Birmingham Civil Service, Silhillians and Old Yardleians rugby clubs all suffering a decline. This is offset by six additional junior teams and four additional mini teams.

All clubs that possess junior and mini sections have received RFU support to develop their number of teams, which is reflected in the recent growth. The focus going forward will be to transition these additional players to senior rugby.

The largest increase in teams is evident at Birmingham Exiles RUFC, which now has 14 teams in comparison to four only two seasons ago. The Club also operates a girls' section, with activity taking place at U13 and U15 age level.

Both Old Yardleians RUFC and Edwardian RUFC also operate a cluster for these formats of play. A further focus in terms of female participation will be to offer U18s girls rugby at these clubs, with a longer-term aspiration to see the creation of a senior women's team.

Most current teams play within the Central Analysis Area (30), followed by the Rural Analysis Area (24 teams). The least amount play in the North Analysis Area (14 teams).

Table 5.8: Summary of demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior	Junior	Mini
Central	7	11	12
North	3	5	6
Rural	5	7	12

Exported demand

Berkswell & Balsall RUFC is designated to Solihull but is currently based in Warwick where it accesses its own site that contains three senior pitches. The Club consists of three senior, three junior and six mini teams as well as a girls' team that plays 'tag' fixtures. The Club does not express an interest in returning to Solihull but does report that it wants to extend its clubhouse to better cater for female members in addition to purchasing nearby land to increase its pitch stock.

Imported demand

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University College Birmingham previously fielded a team in the BUCS league in Solihull; however, this demand has now returned to Birmingham and has therefore been removed from this study.

Training demand

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

Both Edwardian RUFC and Silhillians RUFC have access to two floodlit pitches, one of which on both sites is used for training whilst the other is reserved for matches. In the case of Edwardian RUFC, its pitch that it uses for training is only partially illuminated.

Camp Hill RUFC also has access to two floodlit pitches (one senior and one junior); however, the Club generally trains on a separate floodlit training area to protect the pitches from overuse. Any training that cannot be accommodate on the training area takes place on the floodlit junior pitch rather than the floodlit senior pitch.

Birmingham Exiles RUFC accesses its floodlit pitch for all training demand. The same also applies to Old Yardleians RUFC, which has access to one floodlit pitch, although the floodlighting extends beyond the pitch allowing some activity to take place in surrounding areas.

Birmingham Civil Service RUFC does not have access to a floodlit pitch but instead uses portable floodlighting to train on an area away from its match pitch at Land Rover Sports and Social Club. Given the Club will soon be needing to move to an alternative site, it is imperative that the Club's training needs continue to be met in addition to its match play needs.

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality. The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. However, this programme is currently suspended whilst current facilities are evaluated.

Silhillians RUFC has been earmarked by the RFU as a potential venue for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. This will enable training demand to be transferred away from its grass pitches should it come to fruition. Early plans for the relocation of Old Yardleians RUFC to a sports hub also proposed the creation of a World Rugby compliant pitch.

Additional usage

Additional, non-club usage of rugby pitches can impact on capacity and also limit club activity depending when the provision is required for other activities. An example is evident at Old Yardleians Rugby Club, whereby the fourth senior pitch is a dual use football pitch that is accessed by a local club. This impacts on its capacity to accommodate rugby although it remains extensively used for junior activity on Sundays.

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Camp Hill Rugby Club, Old Edwardians Sports Club and Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club all regularly host school fixtures and festivals, in addition to being used by North Midlands County Rugby for representative matches. These venues are chosen due to the quality of facilities provided.

Camp Hill Rugby Club is also used during the summer for women's touch rugby. The rest of the year, this takes place at Light Hall School (albeit this site doesn't contain a rugby union pitch).

Old Edwardians Sports Club was previously used during summer months by South Birmingham Hawks RLFC (a rugby league); however, this is no longer the case. The Club merged with a club in Birmingham and no plays all of its fixtures within the City.

Education

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools and this is particularly the case at Solihull School, which has extensive rugby activity within its curriculum.

The RFU is also active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012. The aim is to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to a local team of RFU Rugby Development Officers (RDOs). The RDO's deliver coaching sessions and support the schools to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme.

Within Solihull, the following schools are part of the All Schools programme:

- ◀ Archbishop Isley Catholic School
- ◀ King Edward IV Sheldon Heath Academy
- ◀ Light Hall School

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, using population forecasts and housing growth. The Strategy Report that proceeds this report contains a range of housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing development.

Participation increases

When clubs were consulted in 2016, all six clubs reported plans to increase their number of teams in the future. These figures have now been re-visited and amends have been made where initial demand is known to have been realised, as well as incorporating some additional demand from consultation that took place for this update.

Table 5.9: Future demand expressed by clubs

Name of club	Analysis area	Future demand (no. of teams)		
		Senior	Junior	Mini
Birmingham Civil Service RUFC	Central	1	-	-
Camp Hill RUFC	Central	1	2	-

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Name of club	Analysis area	Future demand (no. of teams)		
		Senior	Junior	Mini
Edwardian RUFC	Central	2	1	-
Birmingham Exiles RUFC	North	-	1	-
Old Yardleians RUFC	Rural	2	-	-
Silhillians RUFC	Rural	-	1	-

In total, remaining future demand equates to six senior and five junior teams. Further investigation should also take place with the likes of Birmingham Civil Service RUFC and Old Yardleians RUFC to discover if, in addition to expressed future demand, they also want to re-establish teams that have been lost over the last two years.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used overleaf as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2035). As seen, an increase of three junior boys' teams is predicted.

Table 5.10: Team generation rates in Solihull (2035)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate ¹⁶	Future population within age group (2030)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	33,247	0	0	34,946	0.0	0
Senior Women (19-45)	7,922	19	417	9,199	22.1	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	7,309	4	1827	8,763	4.8	3
Junior Girls (13-18)	16,331	30	544	4,425	8.1	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	33,247	0	0	34,946	0.0	0

When broken down by analysis area, it is estimated that the growth will be split across all three analysis areas.

Please note that team generation rates do not take into account current RFU initiatives or contextual events. For example, the RFU is currently driving to increase female participation across the country and the creation of additional women's and girls' teams is a focus area for the NGB. As a result, future demand for such activity could be higher than what is suggested via the use of team generation rates.

The peak period

In order to establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be determined. Peak time for senior rugby union matches in Solihull is Saturday afternoons, although junior and mini teams also access senior pitches on Sundays. Peak time is Sunday mornings for junior and mini rugby. For women's and girls' rugby, it is Sunday afternoons.

¹⁶ Please note team generation rate figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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5.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times. To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site-by-site analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are capable of accommodate competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ Use of school pitches by schools reduces potential capacity.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where dedicated mini and junior pitches are provided).
- ◀ From u13s upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (u6-u12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two matches can be played simultaneously per senior pitch
- ◀ For senior and junior 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.
- ◀ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ◀ Senior rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Women's and girls' rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ Training taking place on pitches is met by the addition of match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Other usage of rugby pitches e.g. school festivals and representative matches is met by the addition of match equivalent sessions.

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

Table 5.11: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

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

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Table 5.12: Rugby union provision and level of community use within Solihull

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
224	Alderbrook School	B91 1SN	Central	No	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor	-	1.5	-	A mini pitch that is unavailable for community use.
264	Lode Heath School	B91 2HW	Central	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor	-	0.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
280	Shirley Park	B90 2DH	Central	Yes	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2		A senior pitches used by Camp Hill RUFC for matches.
					Junior	No	M1 / D0	Poor	2	1.5	0.5	A senior pitches used by Camp Hill RUFC for matches.
287	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Central	No	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use; school use is likely to result in no capacity existing.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use; school use is likely to result in no capacity existing.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use; school use is likely to result in no capacity existing.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use; school use is likely to result in no capacity existing.
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	A junior pitch that is unavailable for community use; school use is likely to result in no capacity existing.
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	A junior pitch that is unavailable for community use; school use is likely to result in no capacity existing.
					Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	A junior pitch that is unavailable for community use; school use is likely to result in no capacity existing.
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	A mini pitch that is unavailable for community use; school use is likely to result in no capacity existing.
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	-	-	A mini pitch that is unavailable for community use; school use is likely to result in no capacity existing.
288	Solihull Sixth Form College Sports Hall	B91 3WR	Central	No	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	2	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	2	-	A senior pitch that is unavailable for community use.
290	St Peters Catholic School	B91 3NZ	Central	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor	-	0.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
292	The Land Rover Sports and Social Club	B92 9LN	Central	Yes	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor	0.5	1.5	1	A senior pitch used by Birmingham Civil Service RUFC for matches
295	Tudor Grange Academy Solihull	B91 3PD	Central	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
302	Old Edwardians Sports Club	B90 3PE	Central	Yes	Senior	Yes	M1 / D2	Standard	2.5	2.5		A floodlit senior pitch used by Edwardian RUFC for matches
					Senior	Yes (half)	M1 / D0	Poor	5.5	1.5	4	A floodlit senior pitch used by Edwardian RUFC to accommodate training and some match demand as well as school activity
329	Sharman's Cross	B91 1HT	Central	No-disused	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor	-	-	-	Disused and subject to development allocation
					Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor	-	-	-	Disused and subject to development allocation
374	Camp Hill Rugby Club	B90 2DH	Central	Yes	Senior	Yes	M2 / D2	Good	2	3	1	A floodlit senior pitch used by Camp Hill RUFC for matches.
					Junior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good	5	3	2	A floodlit junior pitch used by Camp Hill RUFC to accommodate training demand as well as schools activity

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
232	Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club	B92 2ED	North	Yes	Senior	Yes	M1 / D2	Standard	1.5	2.5	1	A floodlit senior pitch used by Birmingham Exiles RUFC for first team matches.
					Senior	Yes	M1 / D2	Standard	5	2.5	2.5	A floodlit senior pitch used by Birmingham Exiles RUFC to accommodate all training demand as well as school activity.
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard	3	2	1	A senior pitch used by Birmingham Exiles RUFC for mini matches as well as school festivals
247	Grace Academy Solihull	B37 5JS	North	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
278	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	North	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
284	Smith's Wood Sports College	B36 0UE	North	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor	-	0.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
226	Arden Academy Trust	B93 OPT	Rural	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	-	1	1	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
250	Heart of England School	CV7 7FW	Rural	Yes-unused	Senior	No	M1 / D0	Poor	-	0.5	0.5	A senior pitch that is available to the community but unused. School usage reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
275	Old Yardleians Rugby Football Club	B90 1PW	Rural	Yes	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	4	2	2	A floodlit senior pitch accessed by Old Yardleians RUFC to accommodate its training demand.
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	A senior pitch used by Old Yardleians RUFC for matches
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	0.5	A senior pitch used by Old Yardleians RUFC for matches
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	0.5	Dual use football pitch that is considered to be at capacity.
282	Silhillians Sports Club	B93 9LW	Rural	Yes	Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	A floodlit senior pitch used by Silhillians RUFC for first team matches.
					Senior	Yes	M2 / D1	Good	5	3	2	A floodlit senior pitch used by Silhillians RUFC to accommodate its training demand.
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	A senior pitch used by Silhillians RUFC for matches
					Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	A senior pitch used by Silhillians RUFC for matches
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	A mini pitch used by Silhillians RUFC for matches.
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	A mini pitch used by Silhillians RUFC for matches.
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch used by Silhillians RUFC for matches.
					Mini	No	M1 / D1	Standard	1	2	1	A mini pitch used by Silhillians RUFC for matches.

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Spare capacity

'Actual spare capacity' has been ascertained following a review of identified 'potential capacity' in Table 5.11. 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 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.

Despite six pitches that are currently in use by clubs displaying potential spare capacity, only two are considered to have actual spare capacity during the peak period for senior rugby (Saturday PM). For the remaining pitches, three of them are already used by two teams, whilst the other would have actual spare capacity but this cannot be considered as such due to the uncertainty over the future of the provision.

Table 5.13: Summary of actual spare capacity on senior pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Potential capacity	Actual capacity	Comments
292	The Land Rover Sports and Social Club	Central	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
374	Camp Hill Rugby Club	Central	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
232	Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club	North	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
282	Silhillians Sports Club	Rural	1	-	Used to capacity at peak time
			1.5	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team; actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains
			1.5	0.5	Currently used by just one senior team; actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains

The only actual spare capacity is identified at Silhillians Sports Club on its third and fourth senior pitches. These are predominately used for junior and mini rugby and therefore have available capacity on Saturdays. As such, all actual spare capacity is identified in the Rural Analysis Area.

It is likely that some of the unused school sites also provide actual spare capacity (depending on the full programme of curriculum activity). However, none of these provide security of tenure and given the club-based nature of rugby demand in Solihull, it is also likely that no clubs would be willing to access the provision. The only exception could be Birmingham Exiles RUFC given the issues it faces at Land Rover Sports and Social Club.

Compared to the original PPS study, the amount of actual spare capacity identified has reduced by 1.5 match equivalent sessions, with some previously identified at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club and Old Yardleians Rugby Football Club in addition to that at Silhillians Sports Club. Growth at these clubs means the pitches are now played to capacity.

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For junior and mini rugby union, the programming of matches can be unclear in regard to ascertaining actual spare capacity, especially at peak time as the number of matches played varies from week to week. Teams generally do not play regular matches as part of a league format; rather, clubs enter cup competitions or organise for their younger age groups to play those from another club either at home or away and on a friendly basis.

When matches are not being played, teams will generally hold training sessions instead, meaning that mini and junior teams may require access to their home pitches for consecutive weeks whilst no away fixtures are organised. Consequently, it is presumed that no pitches used by mini or youth teams have significant actual spare capacity for an increase in demand, but it is acknowledged that some does exist when the pitches are not in use.

Overplay

There are six senior pitches across seven sites that are overplayed by a combined 11.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 5.14: Overplay summary by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
280	Shirley Park	Central	0.5
302	Old Edwardians Sports Club	Central	4
232	Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club	North	2.5
275	Old Yardleians Rugby Football Club	Rural	2
			0.5
282	Silhillians Sports Club	Rural	2
Total			11.5

The majority of overplay occurs on pitches that are used to accommodate training demand as usage of these pitches tends to be excessive and concentrated. This is case at Old Edwardians Sports Club, Silhillians Sports Club and Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club as well as on one of the overplayed pitches at Old Yardleians Rugby Football Club. The other pitch at Old Yardleians Rugby Football Club is overplayed due to quality deficiencies coupled with high levels of demand, as is also the case at Shirley Park.

Overplay of senior pitches is evident in each analysis area, with the Central Analysis Area and the Rural Analysis both having the highest levels (4.5 match equivalent sessions each).

Table 5.15: Overplay summary by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
Central	4.5
North	2.5
Rural	4.5

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The total amount of overplay has reduced slightly since the original PPS study, although it is higher at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club when studied on a site-by-site basis. The overall decline can be attributed to some clubs seeing a reduction in participation as well as some pitches improving in quality, thus increasing capacity. Old Edwardians Sports Club in particular has seen a reduction in overplay as it previously amounted to seven match equivalent sessions (as opposed to four currently).

In addition to overplay on senior pitches, overplay is also identified on the junior pitch Camp Hill Rugby Club and on the mini pitch at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club. The former is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions whilst the latter is overplay by one match equivalent session.

5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in each of the analysis areas as well as in Solihull as a whole for senior rugby union based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on club development plans and population increases and includes future demand for mini and junior teams as it is presumed that these will access senior pitches.

Table 5.16: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁷	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	-	4.5	4.5	3	7.5
North	-	2.5	2.5	1	3.5
Rural	1	4.5	3	1.5	5
Solihull	1	11.5	10.5	5.5	16

Overall, there is a shortfall of 10.5 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand, with each analysis area displaying an insufficient supply. The picture worsens when considering future demand, with a shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions recognised.

When compared to 2017 findings, the current shortfall has reduced by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, whilst the future shortfall has reduced by 18 match equivalent sessions. This can mainly be attributed to a reduction in the number of senior teams fielded as well as some pitch quality improvements.

¹⁷ In match equivalent sessions

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Rugby union summary - Solihull

- ◀ There are 17 sites containing 33 senior, five junior and 14 mini rugby pitches, of which, 26 senior, two junior and six mini pitches are available to the community.
- ◀ The creation of a sports hub at Dickens Heath may involve the re-location of Old Yardleians RUFC with its current site allocated for development, whilst another development may impact on disused rugby pitches at Sharman's Cross.
- ◀ Birmingham Civil Service RUFC is considered to have unsecure tenure as it has been served notice to leave Land Rover Sports & Social Club; Old Yardleians RUFC also has unsecure tenure due to development proposals.
- ◀ Of community available pitches, six are assessed as good quality, 21 as standard and seven as poor.
- ◀ Birmingham Civil Service, Camp Hill and Edwardian rugby clubs all report ancillary facility issues.
- ◀ There are six rugby union clubs consisting of 15 senior, 23 junior and 30 mini teams.
- ◀ In addition, Berkswell & Balsall RUFC is designated to Solihull but is currently based in Warwick where it accesses its own site that contains three senior pitches.
- ◀ Edwardian, Silhillians, Old Yardleians and Birmingham Exiles rugby clubs train on match pitches through the use of floodlighting, as does Camp Hill RUFC but on a junior pitch rather than a senior pitch.
- ◀ Silhillians RUFC has been earmarked by the RFU as a potential venue for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ All six clubs express future demand amounting to six senior and five junior teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates predicts an increase of three junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Despite six senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity, only two are considered available for further play during the peak period equating to one match equivalent session.
- ◀ There are six pitches overplayed across five sites by a combined 11.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall, there is a shortfall of 10.5 match equivalent sessions identified on senior pitches to meet current demand and this shortfall worsens to 16 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

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PART 6: RUGBY LEAGUE

6.1: 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 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).

Rugby league is considered a summer sport with leagues operating from February until October at a professional level. For community clubs, fixtures tend to be played between March and August, although, some clubs also continue to participate in winter leagues albeit this is becoming less common.

Senior rugby league is played on a field measuring 100 x 68 metres (although a minimum of 92 x 55 metres is accepted). The preferred pitch size for u7s, u8s and u9s is 60 x 40 metres (although a minimum of 50 x 30 metres is accepted), whereas for u10s and u11s it is 80 x 30 metres. U12s and above generally play on senior pitches.

Consultation

There was previously one rugby league club in Solihull; South Birmingham Hawks RLFC. It was consulted with in 2016 but has since merged with Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC (playing under this name) and now plays all matches within Birmingham.

6.2: Supply

There are no dedicated rugby league pitches within Solihull. South Birmingham Hawks RLFC was based at Old Edwardians Sports Club on a pitch that is primarily used for rugby union. Following the transfer of its play to Birmingham, rugby league markings are no longer provided at the site.

The merged club first used Moseley Rugby Union Club in Birmingham but has recently moved to Bournville Rugby Club, also in Birmingham.

6.3: Demand

South Birmingham Hawks RLFC had one senior men's team in the Midlands Rugby League competition, as did Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC. Since the merger, only one team is fielded as opposed to two.

Despite now playing in Birmingham, it is recognised that some Solihull residents still play for the Club. This could also increase in the future, with the Club looking to field at least one additional senior team in the future before additionally beginning a junior section.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is considered that the Club has a preference to utilise Birmingham provision as opposed to Solihull provision. As such, there is no need for any pitches to be provided in Solihull and therefore no action is required. That being said, ensuring there is an option should the picture change is encouraged, especially given the Club's growth plans.

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Rugby league summary - Solihull

- ◀ Following the merger of South Birmingham Hawks RLFC and Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC, there are no rugby league pitches provided in Solihull and no demand for access to provision.
- ◀ The Club continues to cater for some Solihull residents.
- ◀ The merged club has aspirations to grow in the future so, although not required at this time, ensuring demand could be met should a pitch be needed is encouraged.

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PART 7: HOCKEY

7.1: Introduction

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

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based 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 hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 7.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

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

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

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek for senior activity and requires access to a pitch and floodlights, whereas many junior teams train on a Sunday as well as during midweek.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club consultation

There are currently four hockey clubs fielding teams within Solihull:

- ◀ Hampton-in-Arden HC
- ◀ Old Silhillians HC
- ◀ Olton & West Warwickshire HC
- ◀ Solihull Blossomfield HC

Consultation took place across 2016, with three of the four clubs responding to consultation requests resulting in a 75% response rate. Old Silhillians HC were met with face-to-face, whilst Hampton-in-Arden and Olton & West Warwickshire hockey clubs responded via an online survey. Solihull Blossomfield HC was unresponsive.

In addition, two other clubs were included in the original PPS; Berkswell & Balsall Common HC and Birmingham Wasps HC. The former now fields all its demand in Coventry (see exported demand), whilst the latter folded at the end of 2017/2018 season.

For the update, demand information from the original PPS was checked and challenged through consultation with EH, with updated affiliation data provided.

7.2: Supply

There are eight full size hockey suitable AGPs in Solihull across seven sites. All of these are floodlit, although no community use is offered on one of the pitches at Solihull School. Five of the pitches are in the Central Analysis Area, two are in the North Analysis Area and one is in the Rural Analysis Area.

Table 7.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Solihull

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Floodlit?	Community use?	Size (metres)
264	Lode Heath School	Central	1	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
279	St Martin's School	Central	1	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
287	Solihull School	Central	2	Yes	No	97 x 61
				Yes	Yes	98 x 60
298	West Warwickshire Sports Club	Central	1	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
248	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	North	1	Yes	Yes	98 x 63
274	North Solihull Sports Centre	North	1	Yes	Yes	102 x 63
282	Silhillians Sports Club	Rural	1	Yes	Yes	100 x 60

All pitches identified in the original study are still in place, with an additional pitch now also provided via the second facility at Solihull School.

In addition, there are also four smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, as seen in the table below. Although too small to host competitive matches, they can be accessed to accommodate some training demand given that all four are of a decent size. Three are available for community use (Grace Academy is not) and three are floodlit (Arden Academy Trust is not).

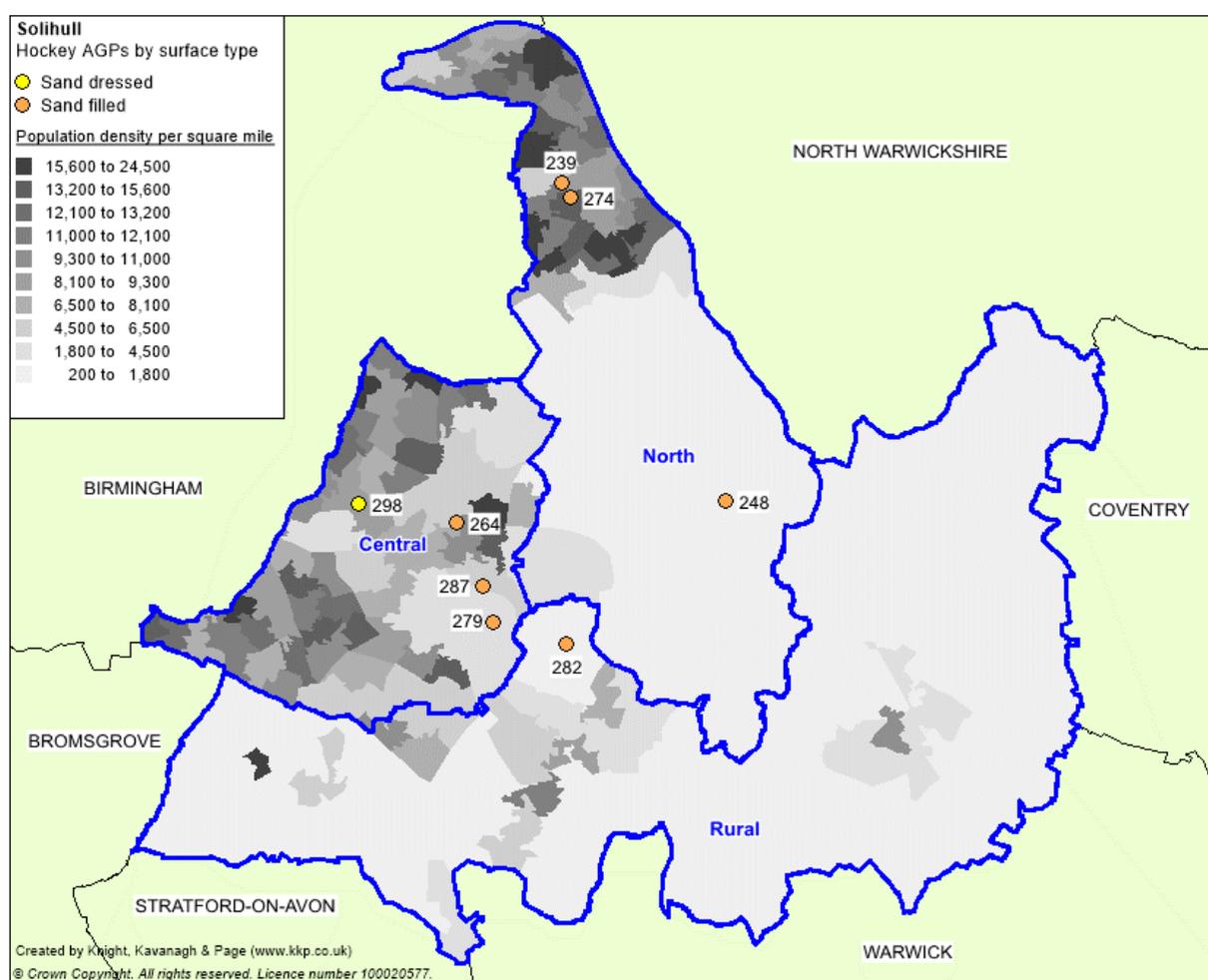
SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 7.3: Summary of smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
263	Light Hall School	Central	Yes	Yes	85 x 55
247	Grace Academy	North	No	Yes	83 x 53
284	Smith's Wood Sports College	North	Yes	Yes	75 x 52
226	Arden Academy Trust	Rural	Yes	No	85 x 50

The Figure below shows for the location of all hockey suitable AGPs in Solihull, regardless of size.

Figure 7.1: Location of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Solihull



Future developments

One of the full size AGPs and two of the smaller size AGPs are identified in the Solihull LFFP as having the potential for 3G conversion. This relates to pitches at North Solihull Sports Centre, Grace Academy and Smith's Wood Sports College. The FA will likely be carrying out further work within the lifespan of the ten-year plan, in liaison with EH, regarding feasibility. None of the pitches proposed for conversion are currently in use by hockey clubs, although North Solihull Sports Centre was used by Birmingham Wasps HC before it folded.

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Management

Management of the full size AGPs in Solihull is varied. The pitches at Lode Heath School, St Martin's School and Solihull School are all managed internally by the respective schools, whilst wider sports clubs manage provision at West Warwickshire Sports Club, Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club and Silhillians Sports Club. North Solihull Sports Centre is managed by a leisure operator, Everyone Active.

The Governor's of St Martin's School have accepted Solihull School's invitation to merge and create a 3-18 co-educational school across the two campuses. This will be effective from September 2020. It means the three full size sand-based AGPs across the sites will come under one management umbrella.

All of the smaller sized pitches are managed by schools.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this calculation, most full size AGPs in Solihull are considered readily available to the community, with six of the eight pitches available for at least 30 hours during the peak period and four of these available throughout (34 hours). The exceptions are Solihull School, where one of the pitches is completely unavailable, with the other pitch available on weekday evenings but not during weekends, and St Martin's School, where availability is limited on Sundays.

Please note that the Table overleaf identifies the potential availability of each full size pitch; it does not identify current usage levels or remaining capacity levels. This is instead highlighted within the demand part of this section.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 7.4: Availability of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Hockey club users
248	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	34	Available to the community every day from 08:00 until 23:00.	Hampton-in-Arden HC
264	Lode Heath School	30	Reserved for private use during the week until 18:00. Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 on Mondays, from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesdays to Friday and from 09:00 until 20:00 Saturday to Sunday.	Solihull Blossomfield HC
274	North Solihull Sports Centre	34	Available to the community from 07:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 08:00 until 20:30 Saturday to Sunday.	-
279	Saint Martin's School	24.5	Reserved for private use during the week until 18:00. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:30 Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 17:00 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 12:30 on Sundays.	Solihull Blossomfield HC
282	Silhillians Sports Club	34	Available to the community from 08:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday, from 09:00 until 21:30 on Saturdays and from 09:00 until 20:00 on Sundays.	Old Silhillians HC
287	Solihull School	18	One of the pitches is unavailable for community use as all capacity is reserved for students, whilst the other pitch is available from 17:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday. It is not available at weekends.	-
298	West Warwickshire Sports Club	34	Available to the community every day from 09:00 until 22:00.	Olton & West Warwickshire HC

Three of the smaller sized pitches are available for community use, although none are currently accessed for community hockey purposes. Availability is also limited at one of these due to a lack of floodlighting (Arden Academy Trust).

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Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that many providers did not financially plan to replace the surface when first installed. Generally, carpets have a lifespan of ten years, although this can vary depending on usage levels and the standard and regularity of maintenance.

The following table indicates when each full size pitch was installed or last resurfaced within Solihull, together with an agreed quality rating. This follows non-technical assessments and user consultation carried out in 2016/2017; however, alterations have been made where quality is known to have changed.

Table 7.5: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
264	Lode Heath School	Central	2005	Poor
279	St Martin's School	Central	2005	Poor
287	Solihull School	Central	2008	Standard
			2017	Good
298	West Warwickshire Sports Club	Central	2010	Standard
248	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	North	2009	Standard
274	North Solihull Sports Centre	North	1995	Poor
282	Silhillians Sports Club	Rural	2007	Standard

As evidenced above, there is a clear need for a number of AGPs to be resurfaced. The following are assessed as poor quality and have exceeded their recommended lifespan:

- ✦ Lode Heath School
- ✦ St Martin's School
- ✦ North Solihull Sports Centre

In addition, the surface at Silhillians Sports Club has also exceeded its lifespan as well as the surface on one of the pitches at Solihull School. Despite these pitches being assessed as standard quality, primarily due to being regularly maintained, it is recommended that refurbishment takes place soon to avoid quality deterioration. The same can also be said of the pitches at West Warwickshire Sports Club and Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club, both of which are close to being ten years old.

The only pitch without any quality issues is the newest pitch at Solihull School. This was installed in 2017 and is considered to be good quality.

All of the smaller sized AGPs are also over ten years old. Whilst resurfacing is still required to sustain usage levels, this is less of a priority due to none of them currently accommodating any hockey activity.

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Ancillary provision

No significant issues are identified relating to the changing rooms servicing the stock of AGPs within Solihull, with site assessments and clubs reporting the provision to be of good or standard quality.

In addition to using the facilities at AGP sites, Solihull Blossomfield HC also utilises ancillary provision at Blossomfield Sports & Social Club. This is the site that the Club considers to be its home base, despite it not providing a hockey suitable pitch. It travels to the site after fixtures for post-match refreshments, with no such service offered at either of its home venues; Lode Heath School and Saint Martin's School.

Old Silhillians, Hampton-in-Arden and Olton & West Warwickshire hockey clubs all have their club bases as part of the sites that they use for matches, with all three forming part of the wider sports clubs that manage the facilities.

7.3: Demand

There are four clubs currently fielding teams in Solihull, all of which are large clubs with several senior and junior teams for both males and females. Combined, the clubs contribute a membership of 320 senior men, 192 senior women and 706 juniors and consist of 23 senior men's teams, 16 senior women's teams and 18 junior teams (2018/2019 affiliation data).

Table 7.6: Summary of teams playing in Solihull

Name of club	No. of teams			No. of members		
	Men's	Women's	Junior	Men's	Women's	Junior
Hampton-in-Arden HC	6	3	5	89	47	213
Old Silhillians HC	6	3	5	94	36	329
Olton & West Warwickshire HC	6	6	6	88	66	140
Solihull Blossomfield HC	5	4	2	49	43	24
Total	23	16	18	320	192	706

Old Silhillians HC is the largest club in terms of its number of members (459), although Olton & West Warwickshire HC fields more teams (18). The smallest club is Sutton Blossomfield HC (11 teams and 116 members).

The majority of teams within each format of play are fielded in the Central Analysis Area, which is home to both Olton & West Warwickshire HC and Sutton Blossomfield HC. The Central Analysis Area also has the highest number of senior members for both men and women; however, the majority of junior members are located in the Rural Analysis Area due to the large section provided by Old Silhillians HC.

Table 7.7: Summary of teams and members by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of teams			No. of members		
	Men's	Women's	Junior	Men's	Women's	Junior
Central	11	10	8	137	109	164
North	6	3	5	89	47	213
Rural	6	3	6	94	36	329

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Participation trends

The number of senior teams playing in Solihull has remained static since the 2016/2017 season, the affiliation data for which was used to inform the original PPS, whilst the number of junior teams has grown by five. There are also more senior and junior members attached to the clubs now compared to three seasons ago. This overall growth is especially pertinent considering that two less clubs now play in Solihull following the collapse of Birmingham Wasps HC and the relocation of teams from Berkswell & Balsall Common HC to outside of the study area. Birmingham Wasps HC fielded one senior women's team in 2016/2017, whilst Berkswell & Balsall Common HC fielded one senior men's and one senior women's team (the rest of the Club's teams already played outside of Solihull).

Exported demand

Berkswell & Balsall Common HC is a Solihull based club, using Berkswell & Balsall Common Sports Association as its base. It therefore expresses exported demand, with all match play and training demand currently taking place in Coventry. It uses Bablake Playing Fields for its matches whilst splitting training demand across this site and the University of Warwick. It previously used the latter for matches but had to relocate after the University relayed its pitch and served the Club with a notice as it wanted to replace its demand in order to instead host an "elite" club. The Club cannot play within Solihull due to a lack of capacity on the existing pitch stock, with any available pitches located further away than the provision in Coventry.

Exported demand from Solihull is also expressed by Olton & West Warwickshire HC as, in addition to using its own pitch, the Club also accesses a secondary venue in Stratford-on-Avon at Warwickshire College. The Club reports that this is due to it using West Warwickshire Sports Club to capacity on Saturdays, generally resulting in two teams transferring to the alternative venue each week as overspill. It travels approximately 11 miles to do this (20 minutes by car).

Imported demand

Birmingham Wasps HC previously imported its demand into Solihull from, as its name suggests, Birmingham. Activity took place at North Solihull Sports Centre; however, as referenced previously, the Club has now folded. This means there is no current imported demand.

Latent demand

During consultation in 2016, clubs were asked whether more AGPs would result in more teams being fielded. Both Old Silhillians HC and Olton & West Warwickshire HC answered yes.

Old Silhillians HC reported an ambition to develop an additional pitch to accommodate its latent demand. The Club noted that any potential development will also allow increased spare capacity on its existing pitch to be let out to other clubs as an income generator. The Club has not increased its number of teams since, so it is believed that such aspirations are still held.

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Olton & West Warwickshire HC stated aspirations to develop three new senior teams but reported a lack of capacity to be able to do so. As the Club has since increased its number of senior teams by four, this latent demand is considered to have been realised.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's strategic plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, working with regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, EH has an aim to double participation over the next ten years.

During consultation in 2016, both Old Silhillians HC and Olton & West Warwickshire HC identified plans to increase participation. Whilst some of this has since been realised, some remains. This is identified in the Table below.

Table 7.8: Remaining future demand expressed by clubs

Name of club	Future demand		
	Men's	Women's	Junior
Old Silhillians HC	2	2	4
Olton & West Warwickshire HC	1	-	-

Usage

The table below shows all available sites with full size hockey suitable AGP provision and a summary of use at each site against the peak period (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). As shown, very little spare capacity exists for either training demand or match play demand across the four pitches in use by clubs. More capacity exists on the remaining pitches, although this is still limited due to the presence of football activity.

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Table 7.9: Summary of usage

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Hockey club users	Other usage	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)
248	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	34	Hampton-in-Arden HC	Football	Limited capacity exists during midweek, the majority of which is on Mondays and Fridays. Hampton-in-Arden HC has priority bookings.	Used by Hampton-in-Arden HC to capacity on Saturdays, with only minimal capacity remaining on Sundays.
264	Lode Heath School	30	Solihull Blossomfield HC	Football	Primary site used by Solihull Blossomfield HC. Current club activity, together with football training demand, means no capacity exists for additional midweek usage.	Used to capacity on Saturdays by Solihull Blossomfield HC. Spare capacity exists after noon on Sundays.
274	North Solihull Sports Centre	34	-	Football	Currently unused for hockey. Capacity close to being maximised by football teams for training and recreational purposes.	Very few bookings during weekends means ample spare capacity exists.
279	Saint Martin's School	24.5	Solihull Blossomfield HC	Football	Generally, not used for hockey training. Football training demand takes up the majority of capacity, with only six hours left available.	Used as a secondary venue by Solihull Blossomfield HC. Some spare capacity exists on both Saturdays and Sundays, although this is limited on Sundays as the pitch is only available until 12:30.
282	Silhillians Sports Club	34	Old Silhillians HC	Football	Used to capacity, predominately by Old Silhillians HC although some football activity is also recorded.	Used to capacity on Saturdays and very close to capacity on Sundays by Silhillians HC.
287	Solihull School	18	-	School hockey; football	Both pitches are well used during midweek by the School itself. One of the pitches is unavailable to the community because of this, whilst the other pitch is available albeit currently only used by football teams. Some spare capacity remains.	Both pitches are used by the School; with any spare capacity not made available to the community.
298	West Warwickshire Sports Club	34	Olton & West Warwickshire HC	-	Used to capacity by Olton & West Warwickshire HC.	Used to capacity on Saturdays and very close to capacity on Sundays by West Warwickshire Sports Club.

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7.4: Supply and demand analysis

Match play

There are currently 39 senior teams requiring an AGP at peak time (Saturday) in Solihull which, when including future demand, increases to 44 teams. Using this figure, there is a requirement for five (rounded up from 4.9) full size, floodlit, hockey suitable AGPs. This is based on teams playing alternate home and away fixtures and based on a floodlit pitch being able to accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (meaning one pitch can accommodate eight teams). Discounting both pitches at Solihull School, on account of neither being available for weekend usage, six pitches are currently provided, suggesting supply is sufficient to meet demand.

Despite spare capacity being shown overall, it is not realistic to aggregate this into an oversupply of hockey pitches. The landscape of the sport in Solihull means it is not necessarily viable for a club to transfer demand from a site at capacity to sites showing potential spare capacity. Further to this, the often large distances between pitches can make it difficult for clubs to relocate play.

For junior matches, there is often less need for access to pitches as there are less teams and matches are most commonly played on Sundays. Some of the younger aged teams also only require half of a pitch, meaning multiple matches or training sessions can occur at the same time.

Training

There is a need for increased access to pitches for training purposes, with Old Silhillians, Olton & West Warwickshire and Hampton-in-Arden hockey clubs nearly maximising capacity at their own sites. A solution is therefore required, particularly for Old Silhillians HC as it aspires to develop a second pitch to counteract limited availability.

Capacity is also limited at school sites for Solihull Blossomfield HC due not only to the Club's activity but also because of high levels of football demand. However, this does not necessarily mean an increase in AGPs is required; instead, an increase in 3G pitches may provide a resolution as more football teams will be able to transfer their training away from the sand-based pitches.

Another potential solution is to better utilise the stock of smaller sized AGPs given that all four are over 50% the size of a full size pitch. If logistically possible, these could provide adequate secondary training venues for all of the clubs, as could Solihull School if greater community use was allowed.

7.5: Conclusion

The priority should be to protect or mitigate the five pitches currently in use by hockey clubs. These are:

- ◀ Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club
- ◀ Lode Heath School
- ◀ Old Silhillians Sports Club
- ◀ Saint Martin's School
- ◀ West Warwickshire Sports Club

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In order to ensure the above stock is sustained, quality improvements are required at Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club, Lode Heath School and West Warwickshire Sports Club due to the age of the surfaces. It is also important that a sinking fund is in place at all five venues to ensure future refurbishments can take place if and when required.

Further to this, a solution is also required to accommodate future and latent demand expressed by Old Silhillians HC and Olton & West Warwickshire HC. Both would struggle to field additional teams at the sites they currently use, both in terms of match play and training, and transferring demand to other available sites may not be logistically possible.

Further dialogue is also required with Berkswell & Balsall Common HC to fully understand its needs and to discover if it wants to return its demand to Solihull.

Hockey summary – Solihull

- ◀ There are currently eight hockey suitable AGPs in Solihull, all of which are floodlit, with seven available to the community.
- ◀ There are also four smaller sized AGPs, which, although not big enough to accommodate matches, can be used for training demand.
- ◀ A full size AGP at North Solihull Sports Centre and the smaller sized pitches at Grace Academy and Smith's Wood Sports College are identified in the Solihull LFFP for potential 3G conversion.
- ◀ Of the full size AGPs, one is assessed as good quality, four as standard quality and three as poor quality (Lode Heath School, St Martin's School and North Solihull Sports Centre).
- ◀ There are four affiliated clubs in Solihull consisting of 23 senior men's, 16 senior women's and 18 junior teams.
- ◀ Participation has increased at both senior and junior level since the original PPS was concluded in 2017.
- ◀ Displaced demand is expressed by Berkswell & Balsall Common HC and Olton & West Warwickshire HC.
- ◀ Birmingham Wasps HC previously imported demand into Solihull from Birmingham; however, the Club folded following the 2017/2018 season.
- ◀ Old Silhillians HC expresses latent demand in that it could increase their number of teams if more pitches were available.
- ◀ Old Silhillians HC and Olton & West Warwickshire HC both express future demand equating to three senior men's, two senior women's and four junior teams.
- ◀ Five of the full size AGPs are in current use by hockey clubs and all are at or close to capacity, in part due to additional football demand.
- ◀ Calculations suggest that there is a need for at least five full size, floodlit hockey suitable AGPs for match play purposes, suggesting the supply is sufficient to meet demand.
- ◀ There is a need for increased access to pitches for training purposes, with all four clubs facing existing capacity issues; an increase in 3G provision may alleviate this as it will enable the transfer of football demand from sand-based pitches.
- ◀ The key issues are to protect or mitigate the five AGPs currently in use by hockey clubs and to find a solution to accommodate remaining expressed exported, latent and future demand.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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PART 8: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS

Please note that this section originally also included Ultimate frisbee, Australian rules football, American football and kabaddi, however, these have been removed for the update as no supply or demand exists within Solihull. They were initially included due to recorded play in Birmingham.

8.1: Baseball and softball

Baseball and softball are both governed by Baseball and Softball UK (BSUK), which is currently aiming to build the number of teams playing regularly throughout the country. Baseball is played between two teams of nine players, which take turns batting and fielding across nine innings. Softball has two varieties: slow-pitch softball and fast-pitch softball.

Birmingham Bandits is the only community baseball club in Solihull. It operates from Martson Green Recreation Ground where there is a purpose built diamond on site which is of good quality and is used for all match and training demand. The Club rents the site from Bickenhall and Martson Green Parish Council.

Two teams are fielded; one playing in the second tier of British Baseball (AAA) and a development team known as the Outlaws which plays in the BBF Single A South League. The Club is actively trying to recruit new members so that it can grow organically.

No softball activity is recorded.

8.2: Gaelic football

There are two Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) clubs in Solihull; John Mitchel's GAA and St Brendan's GAA. Both of these field a senior men's team and numerous junior boys' teams, whilst John Mitchel's GAA also provides teams for female participants.

Solihull is also home to Páirc na hÉireann, which is deemed to be the principal Gaelic sports facility in the West Midlands. The site hosts three dedicated GAA pitches that are serviced by eight changing rooms, a social area and a large car park. Numerous Warwickshire Gaelic football and hurling matches are played at the site, as well as the British University Gaelic football Championships. Most recently, with the entry of Warwickshire's hurling team into the Lory Meagher Cup and the Leinster Junior Shield, it also regularly hosts demand from Ireland.

The future of Páirc na hÉireann could be in doubt due to the creation of a new dual carriage way as part of the M42 J6 development.

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PART 9: TENNIS

9.1: Introduction

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

9.2: Supply

Quantity

In Solihull, 137 tennis courts are identified across 27 sites. Of the courts, 97 are categorised as being available for community use 21 sites. Those not available for community use are generally located within educational sites.

Table 10.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Courts available for community use	Courts unavailable for community use
Central	54	16
North	25	11
Rural	18	13
Solihull	97	40

The majority of community available courts are located in the Central Analysis Area (54 courts). The Rural Analysis Area (18 courts) contains the lowest number.

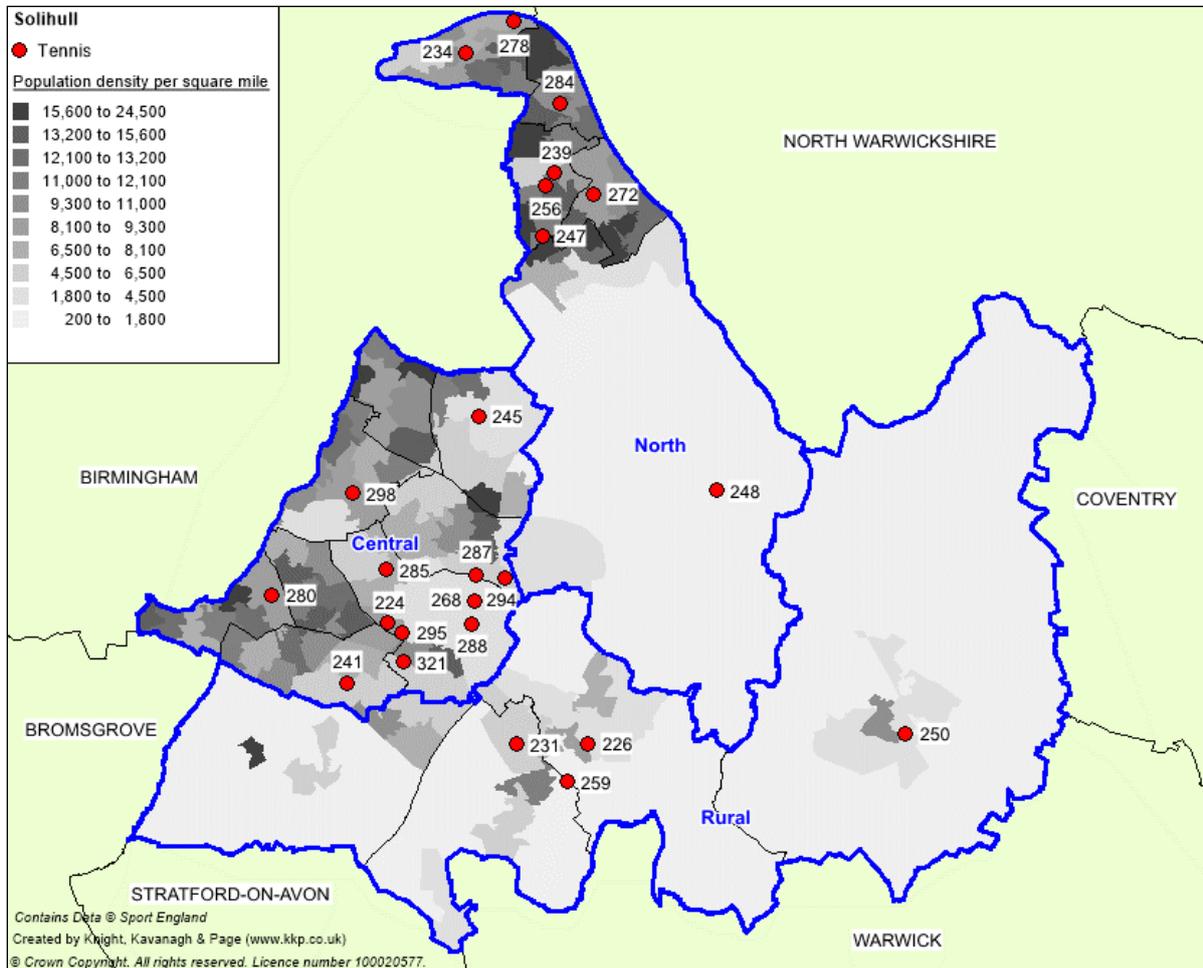
Additional supply

Three indoor tennis courts are available for hire at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre. Although indoor courts are not included within this report, it is acknowledged that such provision caters for a certain level of demand, especially during winter months, albeit generally at a higher cost.

Figure 9.1 overleaf shows the location of all outdoor courts servicing Solihull, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 9.2.

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Figure 9.2: Location of tennis courts in Solihull



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Table 9.2: Tennis courts in Solihull

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Quality
224	Alderbrook School	B91 1SN	Central	School	Yes	5	No	Macadam	Poor
241	David Lloyd Club (Solihull Cranmore)	B90 4AL	Central	Private	Yes	2	No	Artificial turf	Standard
245	Elmdon Park	B92 2EY	Central	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Poor
268	Malvern Park	B91 3DW	Central	Council	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Good
280	Shirley Park	B90 2DH	Central	Council	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Good
287	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Central	School	No	8	No	Artificial turf	Standard
						4	No	Macadam	Good
288	Solihull Sixth Form College	B91 3WR	Central	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Good
294	Tippetts Field	B91 2PF	Central	Club	Yes	6	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
295	Tudor Grange Academy	B91 3PD	Central	School	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Standard
298	West Warwickshire Sports Club	B91 1DA	Central	Club	Yes	7	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
321	Blossomfield Sports Club	B91 3JY	Central	Club	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Standard
						2	Yes	Clay	Good
						2	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
329	Sharman's Cross	B91 1RG	Central	Club	Yes	13	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
234	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	B39 9PB	North	Parish Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
239	CTC Kinghurst Academy	B37 6NU	North	School	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
247	Grace Academy	B37 5JS	North	School	No	4	No	Macadam	Poor
248	Hampton In Arden Sports Club	B92 0DQ	North	Club	Yes	5	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
256	John Henry Newman Catholic College	B37 5GA	North	School	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Poor
272	Meriden Park	B37 5SD	North	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Poor
278	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	North	School	No	3	No	Macadam	Good
						4	No	Macadam	Poor
284	Smith's Wood Sports College	B36 0UE	North	School	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
408	Marston Green Lawn Tennis	B37 7BS	North	Club	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Quality
	Club					2	Yes	Artificial turf	Standard
226	Arden Academy Trust	B93 0PT	Rural	School	No	6	No	Macadam	Poor
231	Bentley Heath Recreation Ground	B93 9AN	Rural	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
250	Heart of England School	CV7 7FW	Rural	School	No	7	No	Macadam	Poor
259	Knowle and Dorridge Racquets Club	B93 0PJ	Rural	Club	Yes	8	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
306	Berkswell and Balsall Common Sports Association	CV7 7GE	Rural	Club	Yes	4	Yes	Artificial turf	Good
						2		Clay	Good
412	Knowle Park	B93 9HT	Rural	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good

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Future developments

Sharman's Cross, the home of Solihull Arden TC, has been allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review. However, it is recognised that any development would need to retain or relocate the Club and its facilities due to the amount demand catered for.

Management

The majority of courts in Solihull are managed by clubs. This is in part due to the large number of clubs serviced and due to club sites generally providing more courts than council, school and private sites.

Table 9.3: Summary of court management

Analysis area	Council	Club	Education	Private
Central	10	33	9	2
North	4	10	11	-
Rural	4	14	-	-
Solihull	18	57	20	2

Court type

The majority of community available courts have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance regimes. 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 ongoing maintenance costs).

In addition to the macadam courts, there are 49 artificial turf and four clay courts within Solihull. The large majority of these courts are found at club sites. Such provision generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

Table 9.4: Summary of court surface

Analysis area	Macadam	Grass	Artificial turf	Clay
Central	22	-	30	2
North	18	-	7	-
Rural	4	-	12	2
Solihull	44	0	49	4

Floodlighting

There are a comparatively high number of courts serviced by floodlighting, with 55 courts are floodlit across ten sites. Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and is identified by the LTA as being particularly key for club development as floodlit courts have greater capacity than non-floodlit courts.

The majority of floodlit courts are located at club and private/commercial sites, although some school sites are also serviced. No council sites in Solihull provide floodlighting, which does not help the game recreationally.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Quality

Of tennis courts that are available for community use in Solihull, 67 are assessed as good quality, 14 are assessed as standard quality and 16 are assessed as poor quality. These are derived from non-technical assessments in 2016 but amends have been made where quality is known to have changed following consultation with the LTA.

Table 9.5: Summary of court quality

Good	Standard	Poor
67	14	16

The majority of good quality courts in Solihull are identified at club sites such as Knowle and Dorridge Racquets Club, Blossomfield Sports Club and Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club, although Castle Bromwich Playing Fields and CTC Kinghurst Academy are also considered to contain good quality courts.

In contrast, the following sites contain poor quality courts:

- ◀ Alderbrook School
- ◀ Elmdon Park
- ◀ John Henry Newman Catholic College
- ◀ Meridan Park
- ◀ Smith's Wood Sports College

Issues surrounding these courts include poor grip underfoot, worn line markings and loose gravel, as well as poor drainage that is prevalent at Alderbrook School.

In addition, please note that many courts unavailable for community use are also assessed as poor quality and in many instances it is the quality of these courts that prevents the provider from taking lettings, particularly at school sites. This applies to 29 courts across five unavailable sites.

For a full breakdown of quality ratings, please refer to Table 9.2.

Over markings

Nationally, many tennis courts outside of club sites are over marked, normally by netball courts but also occasionally by basketball courts and informal football courts. Such over markings can affect quality through excess use and also limit availability for tennis purposes, especially if they are used formally for netball which is often the case at school sites. The following are overmarked in Solihull:

- ◀ Alderbrook School
- ◀ Bentley Heath Recreation Ground
- ◀ CTC Kinghurst Academy
- ◀ John Henry Newman Catholic College
- ◀ Meriden Park
- ◀ Tudor Grange Academy

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Mini tennis

Mini tennis is aimed at children between three and ten years old, offering a gateway into the sport with smaller courts, nets and racquets and lower bouncing balls. There are four stages of mini tennis: Tots, Red, Orange and Green, each with their own court size and type of ball.

This tailored approach enables players to develop vital skills and techniques at an early age. In Solihull, mini tennis courts are located at Bentley Heath Recreation Ground.

9.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There are nine tennis clubs identified in Solihull:

- ◀ Berkswell & Balsall Common TC
- ◀ Blossomfield TC
- ◀ Hampton-in-Arden RC
- ◀ Knowle & Dorridge Raquets TC
- ◀ Marston Green TC
- ◀ Solihull Arden TC
- ◀ Solihull TC
- ◀ Ullenhall TC
- ◀ West Warwickshire Sports TC

Most of these clubs' field teams in the following leagues:

- ◀ Birmingham Area Tennis League
- ◀ Metropolitan Summer Tennis League
- ◀ The Spring Tennis League
- ◀ Warwickshire Tennis League

Consultation with the Metropolitan Summer League discovered that it consists of 13 divisions and 110 teams, all of which are fielded by Birmingham and Solihull based clubs with the exception of one (which is a Walsall based team). The divisions are separated into three categories: men's, women's and mixed. The Spring League is run by the same organisation and consists of three mixed leagues.

The Birmingham Area Tennis League consists of nine divisions for men and eight divisions for women. Last season, there were 81 men's teams and 67 women's teams competing, the majority of which are from Birmingham and Solihull based clubs although some Walsall and Coventry demand is also catered for.

The Warwickshire Tennis League runs four separate competitions; a veteran's men's league, a veteran's women's league, a winter league and a players championship. Around 50% of participation in these leagues comes from Birmingham and Solihull based clubs with the remainder coming from local authorities within Warwickshire.

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Local Tennis League

These are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by Local Tennis Leagues which affiliates to the LTA and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

A Local Tennis League has been established in Solihull. This was not in existence when the original PPS was carried out. During the last round, it catered for 12 players, which is expected to increase in future iterations.

Players are free to choose any mutually agreed venue they like for each fixture. Courts at Malvern Park, Meriden Park and Shirley Park are commonly used and are put forward by the League operators as preferred sites.

Tennis for Kids¹⁸

Tennis for Kids is a six-week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing. To date nearly 25,000 kids have participated in the Tennis for Kids programme this year.

In Solihull the Tennis for Kids programme operates at Solihull TC.

Tennis for Free¹⁹

Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that work in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low income areas. Tennis For Free offer a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support.

Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', to unlock the large number of two court community venues that could benefit from the offer. Through its offer it aims to:

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

No Tennis for Free sessions are identified in Solihull.

¹⁸ <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids>

¹⁹ <https://www.tennisforfree.com/index.php>

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Informal tennis

It is considered that all courts in Solihull 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 at every site due to many being open access. It is generally considered that courts are at their busiest during summer months, with little activity taking place outside of this.

'Tennis in Solihull' are proud to be working in partnership with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Park Leisure, CTC Kingshurst Academy and the LTA to provide more opportunities across the area for everyone to be able to play tennis in Solihull. The recently refurbished courts at Bentley Heath, Knowle, Malvern and Shirley parks as well as the courts at Elmdon Park can all be booked online via the LTA's Clubspark programme.

LTA Clubspark Programme

LTA insight has identified unclear, lengthy or analogue booking journeys to be a significant barrier to people getting on court more often. As a result, it has recently developed a venue management system called Clubspark in order to improve the customer journey for people wanting to get on court at club, community and education sites.

Instead of providing open access, an online booking system (Clubspark) allows members and pay and play users access through the use of a fob or access code system via electronic gates. Not only does this deter misuse use of courts but it also allows genuine tennis participation to be more effectively tracked and monitored, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed and used. This online booking system sends an automated email as evidence as part of a self-policing system for managing court bookings.

Should the system be effective at the courts it is already enabled at in Solihull, the programme could be explored at a greater number of education and park sites.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit court can accommodate 60 members. Any club that is exceeding such membership figures may therefore require access to additional courts or additional floodlighting. To best ensure supply can meet demand, it is imperative that clubs are serviced by good quality provision and floodlit provision where it is possible.

All non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity as usage levels are likely to be lower than demand attracted to club courts. The emphasis should therefore be on increasing participation. Using the Clubspark system that is in place at selected sites, usage levels should be monitored to better understand demand and existing trends in order to help grow the recreational game.

Given the above, the focus should be on improving quality, both in terms of courts and accompanying ancillary facilities, as well as providing a smoother booking system for potential users. Initiatives such as Tennis for Kids and Tennis for Free can also be used to encourage the increase of tennis participation.

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Tennis summary – Solihull

- ◀ A total of 137 tennis courts are identified across 26 sites, with 97 courts available for community use across 20 sites.
- ◀ In addition to outdoor courts, indoor courts are also provided at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Sharman’s Cross, the home of Solihull Arden TC, has been allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review; however, it is recognised that any development would need to retain or relocate the Club and its facilities.
- ◀ The majority of courts are managed by clubs, in part due to the large number of clubs serviced and due to club sites generally providing more courts than council, school and private sites.
- ◀ In addition to macadam courts, there are 49 artificial turf and four clay courts.
- ◀ There are 55 courts serviced by floodlighting, which is a comparatively high number compared to most other local authorities.
- ◀ Of courts that are available for community use, 67 are assessed as good quality, 14 are assessed as standard quality and 16 are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ There are nine clubs identified, the majority of which field teams in the Birmingham Area Tennis League, the Metropolitan Summer League the Spring Tennis League and the Warwickshire Tennis League.
- ◀ The Solihull Parks Tennis League also caters for demand albeit individuals enter rather than clubs/teams.
- ◀ The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit court can accommodate 60 members; any club that is exceeding such membership figures may require access to additional courts or additional floodlighting.
- ◀ As non-club courts are considered to have spare capacity, emphasis should be on growing the recreational game.

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PART 10: ATHLETICS

Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of the sport, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials and permitting and licensing. Locally it is governed through England Athletics via a team consisting of an area manager and coach/club support officers.

Consultation

There is one athletics club in Solihull; Solihull & Small Heath Athletic Club. The Club responded to consultation requests via an online survey in 2017 and information was also derived from track providers as well as UK Athletics.

Supply

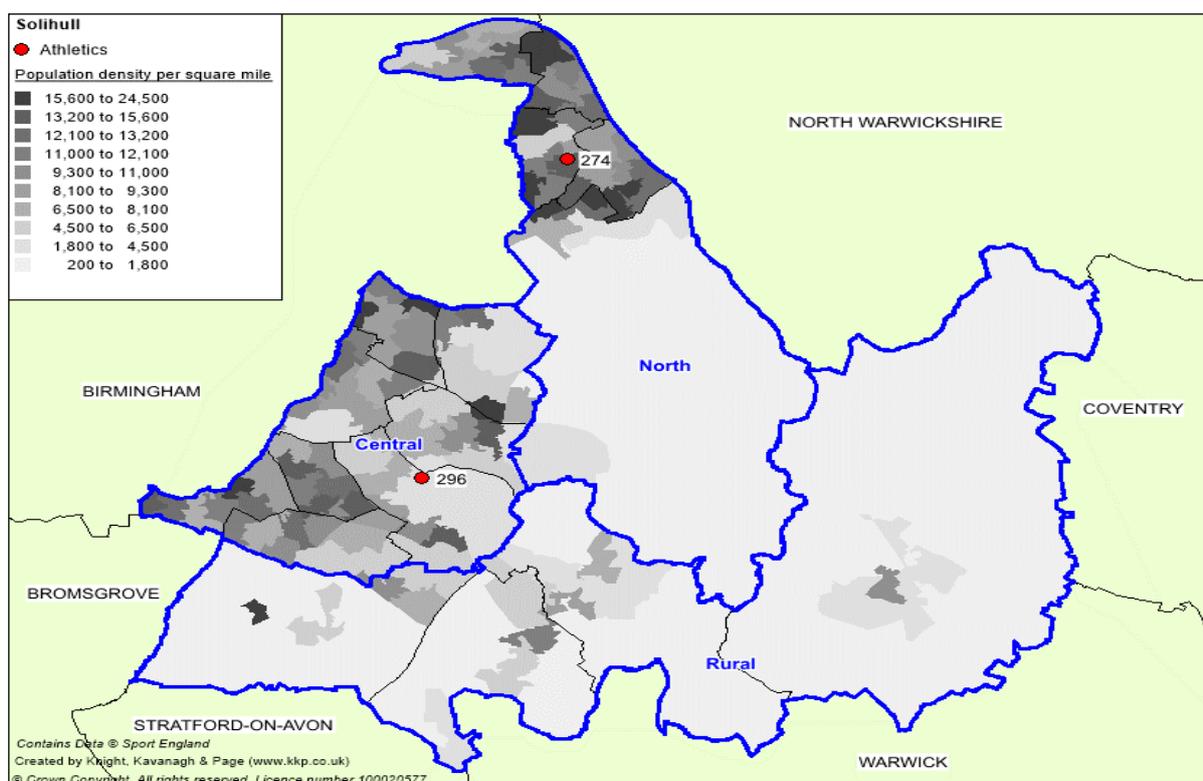
There are two athletics tracks in Solihull, one at North Solihull Sports Centre (Site ID: 274) and one at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre (Site ID: 296).

North Solihull Sports Centre provides a 400-metre synthetic track that has six lanes in addition to two sand pits for jumping events. The track surrounds a floodlit sand-based AGP, meaning throwing events are not possible.

Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is also a 400-metre synthetic track, but it provides eight lanes, has its own floodlighting and is accompanied by a covered stand that can accommodate 576 people. The track surrounds a grass playing field (containing an adult football pitch) that is used for throwing events and is serviced by a throwing cage as well as sand pits for jumping events. The facility is fully certified to host high level competition.

As can be seen overleaf in figure 1, both athletics tracks are situated in the most densely populated areas of Solihull and are therefore considered to be easily accessible to accommodate local demand.

Figure 1: Location of athletics tracks in Solihull



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Management

Both North Solihull Sports Centre and Tudor Grange Leisure Centre are operated by Parkwood Leisure, on behalf of the Council.

Quality

The estimated lifespan of a synthetic track is ten years depending on usage and maintenance levels.

The track located at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is fully certified by UK Athletics to host high level competition and offers a full range of athletics facilities, meaning quality is considered to be good. Although the track as a whole has not been refurbished since 2001, ongoing repairs have taken place and this includes resurfacing of the home straight and first bend in 2011 as well as the long-jump, high-jump and throwing areas.

Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club confirms the good quality and also states that it has improved recently. This is reportedly because the Club instigated regular liaison meetings with the site manager to ensure that the facilities meet requirements ahead of the new season. The only issue highlighted by the Club is in relation to the shot-putt circle, although it is noted that refurbishment of this area is planned in the near future.

In contrast, North Solihull Sports Centre is assessed as being poor quality as a consequence of its faded line markings and damage to the surface. There has been no refurbishment since 1995 and, as such, the track has considerably exceeded its lifespan.

In addition, although some lighting is received from the *in situ* AGP, the track itself is not adequately lit, resulting in limited use during winter months. Furthermore, the facility does not offer a throwing cage or an alternative throwing area, meaning the site is limited in its ability to accommodate potential club users.

Ancillary provision

Clubhouse facilities including changing rooms, toilet and showers are both available at North Solihull Sports Centre and Tudor Grange Leisure Centre and are accessible for all track users. No issues were highlighted through consultation and as such it is assumed that ancillary facilities are deemed to be adequate for current needs.

Demand

There is one athletics club in Solihull; Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club. In addition, there is a Park Run event as well as several running clubs operating in the area.

Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club²⁰

Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club accesses Tudor Grange Leisure Centre on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for midweek training. In addition, the Club competes in a range of competitions and leagues meaning it also has requirements to utilise the facility on weekends. It does not access North Solihull Sports Centre.

²⁰ 2017 data

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The Club caters for men, women, boys and girls of all ages within amateur athletics and currently has a membership totalling 582 people, which as a breakdown consists of 156 senior men, 165 senior women and 261 juniors. Members compete in track and field leagues such as the Heart of England League, the Midland Track and Field League and the UK Youth Development League. In addition, various cross-country and road running leagues are accessed as well as county, area and national championships.

To join the Club, it costs £28 per annum for juniors (under 17), £38 per annum for seniors (17-65) and £28 per annum for veterans (over 65). This is in addition to a £13 England Athletics affiliation fee which applies to all ages.

The Club reports future growth aspirations in terms of senior members but does not quantify its potential increase.

West Midlands Schools Athletic Association

Formed in 1974, the West Midlands Schools Athletic Association is an athletics organisation covering the whole of the West Midlands, including Solihull. The organisation aims to promote the athletic talent from educational establishments within the area and produce talented athletes who are able to compete at high level competition. It is deemed that the Association enables a performance pathway for talented athletes based in the area to progress in a focused athletic environment.

Park Run

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK. They are open to all, free and are safe and easy to take part in. For those aged between 4 and 14, junior Park Run events are also available. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode that provides access to all Park Run events.

In Solihull, there is one Park Run event that takes place every Saturday from 9am at Brueton Park. Since its inception in August 2010, 9,066 different runners have participated in the race and an average of 231 runners participate weekly, with the highest attendance recorded at 501 people.

There are no junior Park Run events in Solihull, with the nearest one held at Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham.

Running Clubs

In addition to the pre-discussed athletics club operating in Solihull, there are also several running clubs. These predominantly utilise roads and local running routes and therefore do not have a requirement to access athletic tracks. Listed below are all clubs identified as operating in Solihull:

- ◀ Centurion Running Club
- ◀ Balsall Common Run Club
- ◀ Elmdon Running Group

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- ◀ Knowle and Dorridge Running Club
- ◀ Mums on the Run

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

England Athletics guidance states that for a running track to be sustainable it should be hosting at least 200 members. As Tudor Grange Leisure Centre accommodates significantly more than this via Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club (582 members) it should be retained and protected, with priority focused on ensuring that quality is sustained to continue accommodating the demand.

North Solihull Sports Centre is not accessed by any clubs and is instead used predominately by local schools to host internal sports days in addition to wider school competitions. As such, it is not considered to be sustainable through England Athletics guidance and the space could therefore be better utilised to accommodate other sporting provision.

In addition, precedence should be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the Park Run event as well as supporting the various running clubs and disability groups that are providing for the population of Solihull.

Athletics summary

- ◀ There are two synthetic athletic tracks in Solihull, situated at North Solihull Sports Centre and Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
- ◀ The athletics track situated at North Solihull Sports Centre is poor quality whilst the track at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is good quality.
- ◀ There is one athletics club in Solihull; Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club, which caters for 582 members.
- ◀ In addition, there is a Park Run event as well as various running groups.
- ◀ Priority should be focused on ensuring the quality at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is sustained and the synthetic track improved when opportunities are available too.
- ◀ North Solihull Centre is not considered to be sustainable through England Athletics guidance and the space could therefore be better utilised to accommodate other sporting provision.
- ◀ Precedence should also be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the Park Run event as well as supporting the various running clubs.

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APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

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

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National Planning Policy Framework (2018)

The NPPF sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite, the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-2028)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

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£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

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 Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7’s offering

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)²¹

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England’s investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

“The vision is for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England’s senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few”

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

²¹ Although now outdated, this strategy has not been updated since the period 2013-2017

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Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium-term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities.

‘The right pitches in the right places’²²

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90’s. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately placed to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment.
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

England Hockey Strategy

EH’s new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- 1 Having great leadership
- 2 Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- 3 Inspired and Effective People
- 4 Different Ways to Play
- 5 Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections

²²

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

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7 Stretching and developing those who want it *2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy*

The LTA is currently in the process of developing its new Strategy. However, this strategy is presented in a concise one page framework that includes key strategies relating to three participation "focus" areas, six participation "drivers" and three participation "enablers". To achieve success, the 12 strategy areas will need to work interdependently to stem the decline and unlock sustainable growth.

The three participation "focus" areas are where tennis is consumed:

- ◀ Deliver great service to clubs
- ◀ Build partnerships in the community, led by parks
- ◀ Enhance the tennis offer in education

The six participation "drivers" are the areas that will make the biggest difference where tennis is consumed. They must all be successful on a standalone and interconnected basis and include:

- ◀ Becoming more relevant to coaches
- ◀ Refocusing on recreational competition
- ◀ Providing results orientated facility investment
- ◀ Applying best in class marketing and promotion
- ◀ Jump starting the peak summer season
- ◀ Establishing a "no compromise" high performance programme with focus

The final layer is comprised of three participation "enablers" that underpin our ability to be successful. These enablers are rooted in how the LTA will get better; how the entire network of partners must be harnessed to work together and the need to raise more financial resources to fund our sport's turnaround. They include:

- ◀ Becoming a more effective and efficient LTA
- ◀ Harnessing the full resource network
- ◀ Generating new revenue

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

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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
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes

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