**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE**

**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**APRIL 2017**

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3G | Third Generation (artificial grass pitch) |
| AGP | Artificial Grass Pitch |
| CC | Cricket Club |
| CSP | County Sports Partnership |
| ECB | England and Wales Cricket Board |
| EH | England Hockey |
| FA | Football Association |
| FC | Football Club |
| FE | Further Education |
| FPM | Facilities Planning Model |
| NWLC | North West Leicestershire Council |
| GIS | Geographical Information Systems |
| HC | Hockey Club |
| HE | Higher Education |
| JFC | Junior Football Club |
| KKP | Knight, Kavanagh and Page |
| LDF | Local Development Framework |
| LMS | Last Man Stands |
| LCCCT | Leicestershire County Cricket Club Community Team |
| LRCFA | Leicestershire & Rutland County Football Association |
| NGB | National Governing Body |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| ONS | Office of National Statistics |
| PQS | Performance Quality Standard |
| PF | Playing Field |
| RFU | Rugby Football Union |
| RFC | Rugby Football Club |
| S106 | Section 106 |
| TGR | Team Generation Rate |
| U | Under |
|  |  |

# PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for North West Leicestershire District Council (the Council).

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England’s Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

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

* Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
* 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-C are covered in this report.

**Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach**

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

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 73 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.

***Why the PPS is being developed***

North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) has commissioned the completion of a Playing Pitch Strategy which will assess current pitch provision in relation to quantity, quality and accessibility as well as to help identify future requirements in line with sports club development and population growth in North West Leicestershire.

The Playing Pitch Strategy will be used to support decisions being made within the programme of work focussing in part on the regeneration of Coalville and also to support the Infrastructure Delivery Plan as part of the Council’s Local Plan.

A Playing Pitch Strategy will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements. Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning, local policies and sport development criteria can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

The Playing Pitch Strategy will provide the following information and documents:

* Assessment of existing pitch supply and demand by sport and site
* Assessment of existing pitch quality and capacity by sport and site
* Assessment of the use of artificial grass pitches for match play and price sensitivity analysis to inform future developments
* Assessment of the current maintenance regimes for pitch sports and any financial implications effecting for future maintenance
* Assessment of lapsed and disused sites
* Assessment of future pitch supply and demand by sport and site
* Results of a range of “what if” scenarios
* Detailed Action Plan by sport, site and Analysis Area
* Review of the current management model for pitch sports including taking into account Local Authority policies e.g. community asset transfer
* Sports Development and Planning Policy recommendations
* Procedure for regularly monitoring and updating the baseline data, action plan and strategy

The Playing Pitch Strategy will be prepared by a partnership of sports organisations with the Council. The sports organisations and education establishments have a vested interest in ensuring existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced. Many of the objectives and actions will be delivered and implemented by sports organisations and education establishments in addition to the Council.

The protection of playing field land both for formal sport and recreational use as well as green spaces such as parks plays an integral part in ensuring facility resource is available, linking to and facilitating the delivery of other health and physical activity strategies. For example, the ‘Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation’ (Department of Media Culture and Sport, 2015) strategy aims to confirm the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. It is government’s ambition that all relevant departments work closer together to create a more physically active nation, where children and young people enjoy the best sporting opportunities available and people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the many benefits that sport and physical activity bring, at every stage in their lives.

A Playing Pitch Strategy will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements. Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning, local policies and sport development criteria can be implemented efficiently and effectively.

***Scope of the project***

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

* Football pitches
* Rugby union pitches
* Cricket pitches
* Artificial grass pitches

Though there are no athletics tracks in the District, consultation was undertaken to understand existing and potential demand for such.

***Management arrangements***

A Project Team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time.

A strong and effective Steering Group has and will continue to lead and drive this PPS forward during its development and also to ensure the delivery of its recommendations and actions.

The Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from North West Leicestershire District Council, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). Please see Appendix 2 for a list of Steering Group contacts.

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

* Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the 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.

***The extent of the study area***

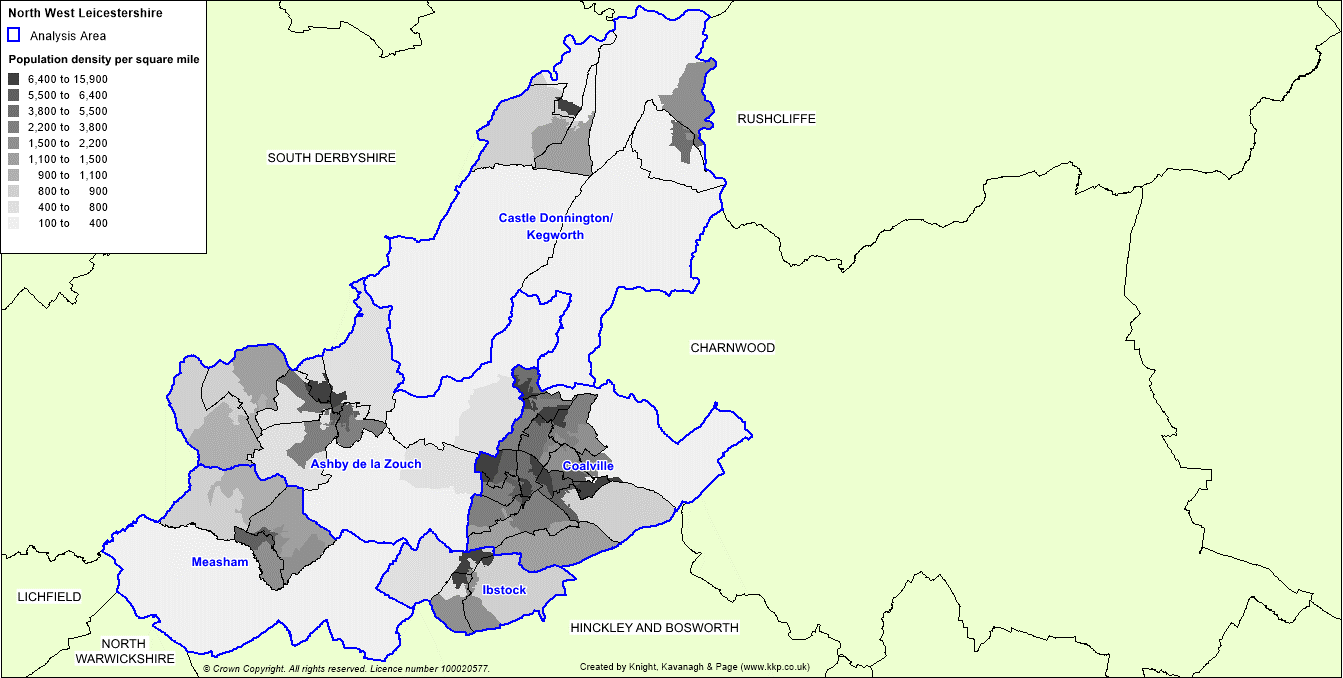
North West Leicestershire is a non-metropolitan or shire district where the local authority (LA) area comprises two more densely populated main towns (Coalville and Ashby-de-la-Zouch) with a number of rural and sparsely populated wards, together taking in 31 local Councils. The District has been split into five distinct areas for the purpose of this study and site by site action plans will be developed for each of the five Analysis Areas. They are (including current population[[1]](#footnote-1)):

* Ashby-de-la-Zouch (22,175)
* Castle Donington/Kegworth (18,420)
* Coalville (38,642)
* Ibstock (7,647)
* Measham (10,363)

The Analysis Areas used align with the Council’s new Infrastructure Development Plan and sports facilities strategy currently being developed in conjunction with the area County Sports Partnership (CSP) Leicestershire & Rutland Sport (LR Sport) to support the Council’s ambition to provide North West Leicestershire residents with access to high quality sport facilities at a neighbourhood level. The study area is aligned with police boundaries and the National Health Service, clinical commissioning groups in North West Leicestershire.

It is likely there is a level of imported demand and sports teams from outside the study area that use pitches within North West Leicestershire. In addition, it is likely that sports teams from inside North West Leicestershire use facilities outside of the District. This cross-boundary movement will be taken into consideration when producing this strategy. This will be completed by consulting with neighbouring authorities in relation to their findings from their respective PPSs. The study area will be the whole of North West Leicestershire District together with any areas close to the District boundary within 1km where significant sports facilities are present and import/export participation is occurring on a regular basis.

Hinckley and Bosworth, South Derbyshire, Charnwood and North Warwickshire are the adjoining districts with an appreciable scale of population which also run up to the North West Leicestershire boundary.

*****Figure 1.1: Map of the North West Leicestershire Study Area (including Analysis Areas)*

**What makes the study area different?**

North West Leicestershire neighbours Hinckley and Bosworth to the South, North Warwickshire to the Southwest, Charnwood to the East, South Derbyshire to the North and West, Lichfield to the West, Erewash to the North and Rushcliffe to the North East.

The District is home to [East Midlands Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Midlands_Airport) which provides access to domestic and international air travel for many midlands residents, whilst its main tourist attractions include [Donington Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donington_Park), a grand-prix circuit internationally renowned for motorsport and which a major venue for music festivals throughout the British summertime.

It was formed in 1974 by a merger of a number of Urban and Rural districts. It was traditionally known for mineral extraction, notably [coal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coal), brick clay, gravel and [granite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granite) however the collieries have since all closed.

Communities in most parts of the District are managed by one of the many local Councils within it. There are 31 local Councils in total, made up of two town Councils (Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Ashby Woulds), 23 Parish Councils and six Parish meetings. A number of local Councils managed sports facilities and pitches, consequently the hire, cost and maintenance is more localised and differs from area to area.

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

It is essential that a PPS is based on the best and most accurate and up-to-date information available about the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides detail about how this information has been gathered in North West Leicestershire.

***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 2010 ‘Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order’[[2]](#footnote-2).

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

This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes AGPs.

*Quantity*

All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England’s Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site the following detail is recorded in the project database. (It is 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
* A description and the quality of the ancillary facilities

*Accessibility*

Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of sports 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.
* ***Secured community use -*** 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.
* ***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 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

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.

***Disused/lapsed sites***

| **Site name** | **Sport(s)** | **Status** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bosworth Road Recreation Ground | Football | Lapsed | Playing field managed by Measham Parish Council. Has one set of goalposts now used only for recreational play but was previously marked and maintained as a formal pitch. Site also has skate park provision but no changing facilities. Measham Welfare Junior FC interested in using the site and taking on management. |
| Memorial Ground | Rugby union | Lapsed | Site is owned by a group of trustees and is located in Ashby. This site was historically used by Ashby RFC but has not hosted a dedicated pitch for over ten years. The site has more recently been accessed by the Manor House School for curriculum activities; however, it will be used by Ashby RFC 2017/18 season, mainly to provide additional capacity for training through use of mobile floodlighting. |
| Priory Park Road Playing Fields  (Bullen’s Field) | Cricket  (Non-turf pitch) | Lapsed | Site is owned by the Ashby Town Council and may be reinstated as sporting provision in the future. |

*Quality*

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

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

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

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

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

***Developing a picture of demand***

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 North West Leicestershire tends to fall within the following categories:

* Organised competitive play
* Organised training
* Informal play

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

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

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs 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 such consultation are as follows:

| **Sport** | **Total number** | **Number responding** | **Response rate** | **Methods of consultation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Football clubs | 41 | 26 | 63 | Face to face, electronic survey and telephone |
| Football teams | 172 | 149 | 86 |
| Cricket clubs | 10 | 9 | 90 | Face to face |
| Rugby union clubs | 3 | 2 | 66 | Face to face |
| Hockey clubs | 4 | 4 | 100 | Face to face and telephone |
| Secondary schools | 9 | 7 | 78 | Face to face |
| Colleges | 1 | 1 | 100 | Face to face |
| Primary/SEN schools | 44 | 38 | 86 | Electronic survey |
| Parish Councils | 30 | 20 | 67 | Electronic survey |

*Future demand*

Future demand is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the study area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure. Using population growth factors, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches in North West Leicestershire.

*Population growth*

The current resident population in North West Leicestershire is 97,247[[3]](#footnote-3). By 2031 the District’s population is projected to increase to 114,094[[4]](#footnote-4), an increase of 16,847 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 17.3%).

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area.

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

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

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

*Housing growth*

The North West Leicestershire Local Plan is currently under examination. The future impact of new developments and subsequent requirement for playing pitch provision is further explored as a scenario within the subsequent Strategy and Action Plan document, applied to residential developments of over 500 new homes. Of these, the Local Plan includes one allocation in Ashby-de-la-Zouch as well as existing planning permissions for three other sites[[5]](#footnote-5). They are as follows:

| **Site** | **Analysis Area** | **Status** | **Number of proposed new dwellings** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| South of Park Lane, Castle Donington | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | Permission granted | 895 |
| North of Grange Road, Hugglescote | Coalville | Permission granted | 800 |
| North and South of Grange Road, Hugglescote | Coalville | Permission granted | 2,700 |
| Money Hill, Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Allocation | 2,050 |

*High Speed 2*

High Speed 2 (HS2) is a new high-speed railway proposed by the Government to connect major cities in Britain. It will be built in phases.

Phase Two of HS2 will be from the West Midlands to Leeds and Manchester. Phase Two forms a ‘Y’ shape from the West Midlands up towards Manchester, passing through the South of North West Leicestershire District, towards the East of Measham and East of Ashby. It is anticipated that Phase Two of HS2 will begin operating trains around 2033 but current plans show no anticipated impact on playing field provision in the District.

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

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision. It focused on looking at how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

***Understand how a site is being used***

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 sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain. |  |
| 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 at 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.

***Scenario testing***

It may be useful to take some time at the beginning of this stage to explore the key findings and issues from the assessment work (Stage C) in order to develop the recommendations and actions. This will help to understand the potential impact of any recommendations and actions along with ensuring they are study area, sport and site specific. Looking at a number of relevant scenario questions will help to do this.

## Section D: Develop the strategy

By completing Stages A, B and C it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in North West Leicestershire. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Strategy (Stage D).

# PART 2: FOOTBALL

**2.1: Introduction**

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

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 5 captures supply and demand for artificial grass pitches (AGPs). In future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of AGPs for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

***Consultation***

In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all football clubs playing in North West Leicestershire with contact details having been provided by Leicestershire and Rutland FA. Consultation (either through a survey or face to face interview) represents a 63% club response rate and 86% team response rate. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report. The following clubs were met with face to face:

* Coalville Town Ravenettes FC
* Coalville Town Ravens FC
* Coalville Town FC
* Ashby Ivanhoe FC
* Measham Welfare Junior FC

**2.2: Supply**

The audit identifies a total of 125 grass football pitches in North West Leicestershire. Of these, 103 are known to be available, at some level, for community use. There is just one 3G pitch on which competitive football matches can be played, a full sized pitch at Newbridge High School Academy.

The map overleaf identifies all pitches within North West Leicestershire regardless of community use. See Table 2.8 for the key to the map.

*Table 2.1: Summary of grass pitches available for community use*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis Area** | **Pitch type** | | | | | **Total** |
| **Adult** | **Youth 11v11** | **Youth 9v9** | **Mini 7v7** | **Mini 5v5** |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 13 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | **25** |
| Castle Donington/  Kegworth | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | **13** |
| Coalville | 15 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | **35** |
| Ibstock | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | **20** |
| Measham | 4 | - | 2 | 3 | 1 | **10** |
| **Total** | **46** | **8** | **19** | **16** | **14** | **103** |

There are a large number of adult pitches identified in North West Leicestershire when compared to other pitch sizes, which reflects that the majority of teams use adult pitches. It should be noted, however, that nationally many youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, which may in part be due to a lack of dedicated youth 11v11 pitches rather than a preference for adult pitches. In North West Leicestershire, this does seem the case, presently there are 52 youth 11v11 teams, 56% of which, are playing on adult pitches.

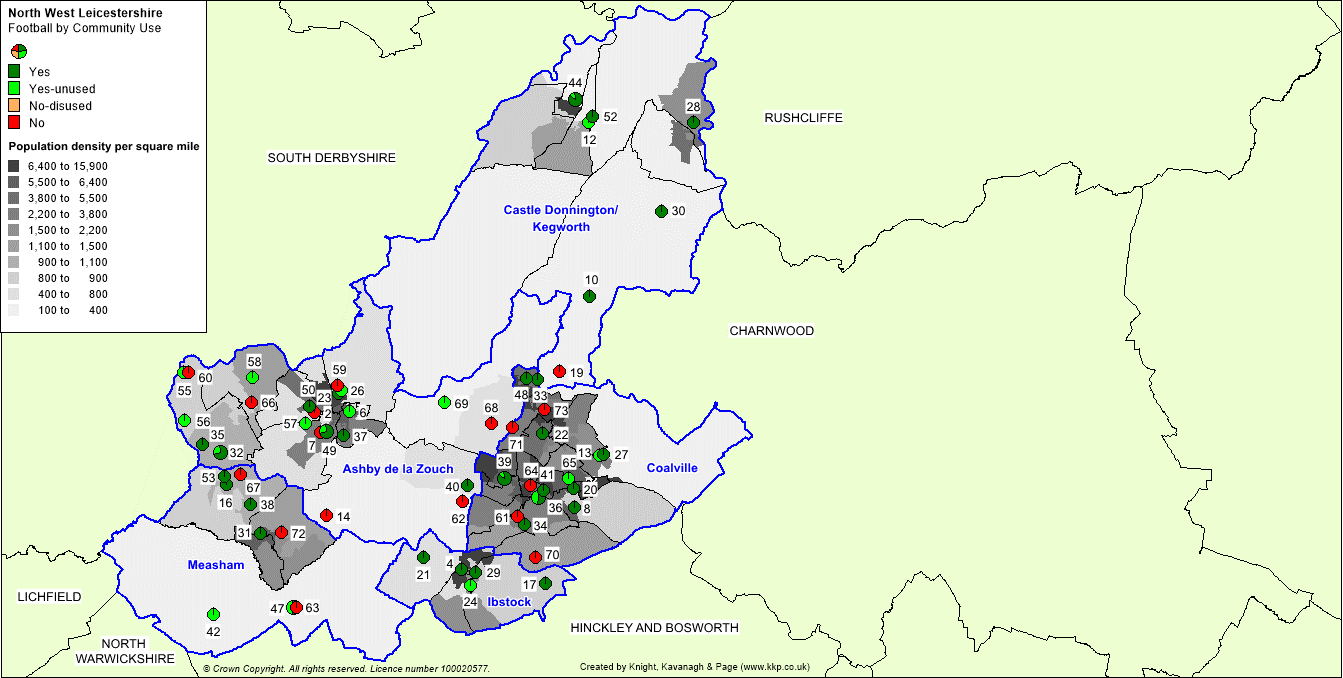
Adult pitches most used by both adult and youth 11v11 teams include:

* Western park
* Leicester Road
* Measham Road Recreation Ground
* NFU Sports Ground

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, u17s and u18s can play on adult pitches. The FA’s recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91x55 metres for u16s and u15s, 82x50 metres for u14s and u13s and 73x46 metres for u12s and u11s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches (u10s and u9s) is 55x37 metres and for 5v5 pitches (u8s and u7s) it is 37x27 metres. Please refer to the table below for more detail:

*Table 2.2: FA recommended grass / 3G pitch sizes*

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

*Figure 2.1: Location and capacity of football pitches in North West Leicestershire*

See Table 2.13 for key to the map.

***Pitch quality***

The quality of football pitches in North West Leicestershire have been assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments (as determined by The FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

* Good
* Standard
* Poor

Pitch quality is primarily influenced by the carrying capacity of the site; often pitches are over used and lack the drainage necessary to improve quality.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (< 50%). The table below summarises the quality of grass pitches that are available for community use.

*Table 2.3: Summary of football pitch quality (community use)*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pitch type** | **Good** | **Standard** | **Poor** |
| Adult | 4 | 28 | 14 |
| Youth 11v11 | - | 8 | 1 |
| Youth 9v9 | - | 13 | 6 |
| Mini 7v7 | - | 12 | 3 |
| Mini 5v5 | - | 9 | 5 |
| **Total** | **4** | **70** | **29** |

The pitch quality audit shows that the majority of pitches (68%) available for community use are standard quality, with 28% rated as poor and only 4% as good quality. Most adult (63%), youth (74%) and mini (73%) pitches are assessed as standard 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. Private site hire is often at full cost recovery. The maintenance and use of Council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

Specific comments relating to the pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table overleaf. The comments are a combination of club feedback and site assessment information.

*Table 2.4: Summary of pitch quality comments*

| **Site ID** | **Site** | **User comments** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 8 | Bardon Hill Sports Club | Issues with poor drainage and dog fouling. |
| 22 | Hermitage Recreation Ground | Large amounts of dog fouling and issues with the pitches being open access leading to unauthorised use. |
| 27 | King Edward VII Science and Sports College | Issues regarding the quality of the pitch. There is a large indent which pools with water and may cause injuries. |
| 28 | King George V Playing Fields | Limited pitch space available with cricket outfield encroaching onto the football pitch. Pitch quality has improved due to dedicated maintenance work by volunteers. |
| 31 | Measham Community and Recreation Centre | Over marking on the main pitch. |
| 37 | NFU Sports Ground | Good quality pitch due to high levels of dedicated maintenance. |
| 38 | Oakthorpe Recreation Ground | Volunteers protect the pitch and actively have improved the levels of maintenance to improve its quality. |
| 39 | Owen Street Sports Ground | Good quality pitches due to high levels of dedicated maintenance. |
| 41 | Scotlands Playing Fields | Issues with dog fouling. |
| 44 | Spital Park | Issues with dog fouling. |
| 49 | Western Park | Issues of poor drainage and dog fouling. |

One of the main reasons cited by clubs for a decline in pitch quality is related to reports of limited pitch maintenance or a lack of available funds to carry out appropriate maintenance. Other reasons cited for the decline in pitch quality include:

* Overmarked pitches
* Uneven and hard surfaces
* Overplay in bad weather
* Casual use
* Dog foul/litter
* Lack of investment and limited maintenance including infrequent grass cutting
* Lack of remedial work i.e. seeding

***Overmarked pitches***

Eight pitches in North West Leicestershire are marked onto larger pitches; often adult pitches with youth 9v9 being marked into the middle or mini 7v7 pitches marked widthways across each half. Pitches are regularly subject to youth and mini play on Saturday and Sunday mornings combined with adult and youth play on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. This sustained and intense use over short periods of time can impact on pitch quality and allows little time for the surface to rest and recover.

Use of smaller pitches marked within larger pitches typically causes focused and specific wear due to the high traffic on certain overlapping areas such as the middle third of adult pitches. Sites with over marked pitches are shown below:

* Measham Community and Recreation Centre (youth 9v9 and two 7v7s)
* The Connery (youth 9v9)
* Western Park (youth 9v9)

Notwithstanding this the Connery pitch only has youth 9v9 football played on it whereas the overmarked pitch at Western Park only has adult football demand.

There are also two sites which are marked onto or overlapping cricket outfields. This creates availability issues as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still on going and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. Generally, cricket is given priority at such sites, meaning football teams either have to finish their season early or have to relocate to another site. Sites with over marked pitches by cricket outfields are shown below:

* Moira Dale Recreation Ground (two adult pitches)
* King George V Playing Fields (one adult pitch)

***FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)***

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP). As part of the PIP, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG). Three sites in North West Leicestershire have received an assessment as part of the PIP process, which are:

* NFU Sports Ground (Ashby-De-La-Zouch)
* Bardon Hill Sports Club
* Ashby Road Recreation Ground

The assessments carried out at NFU Sports Ground (Ashby-De-La-Zouch) and Ashby Road Recreation Ground originally took place in 2015 and 2014 respectively, however, have both recently had follow up reports in 2016.

Both reports state that clear improvements had been made at both sites to the maintenance of the pitches including the increasing of top dressing, seeding, decompaction and fertilising which in turn has improved the pitches quality. Nevertheless, although there are improvements being made there is a need to sustain and increase current levels of pitch maintenance.

In regards to Bardon Hill Sports Club, the summary to the report is shown below:

*Bardon Hill Sports Club*

* Bare areas were noted in the high wear areas of centre circle and goalmouths. The quality of the ground cover was poor.
* High presence of worm casting in line with relatively mild winter.
* Groundcover is ok but would ideally be higher at this early stage of the season (80%) however; this is more than likely due to the lack of fixtures in the winter period.
* The current management practices are inadequate to attain the benchmarked minimum standards endorsed by the FA and published by IOG, however, current efforts from groundsman should be commended to get the pitch playable in poor winter conditions.
* In addition, limited maintenance is undertaken at present which has left the pitches in undesirable condition. It is important to stress that if the pitches are to improve then further sports turf practices need to be undertaken.
* An intensive maintenance schedule is required with the correct machinery and equipment managed by trained and motivated ground staff including decompaction, fertiliser application and seeding.

***Ancillary facilities***

The term ancillary facilities take into account clubhouse buildings, changing facilities and car parking, amongst other things but excluding the playing pitches. Clubs that responded to consultation assessed ancillary facilities, particularly changing facilities, with the majority (57%) stating the facilities they use to be of good quality with the remaining either poor (31%) or standard quality (24%).

In general, the issues were with the interior of the buildings rather than the exterior, with common references to changing rooms needing modernisation and refurbishment.

*Table 2.5: Clubs response to changing facility quality*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good** | **Standard** | **Poor** |
| 57% | 24% | 19% |

The following four clubs report poor quality changing room provision:

* Ashby Ivanhoe FC
* Bardon Hill Juniors FC
* Coalville Town Ravenettes FC
* Whitwick Juniors FC

Of the above, two play at Council sites with one playing at an Ashby Town Council managed site. Whitwick Juniors FC (Hermitage Recreation Ground), Coalville Town Ravenettes FC (Scotlands Street Playing Fields) and Ashby Ivanhoe FC (Western Park – Town Council) all deem the facilities to be poor quality due to the age and size of the buildings, with the latter two without enclosed shower provision.

The remaining club, Bardon Hill Juniors FC, is based at Bardon Hill Sports Club and states it needs to update the current changing room provision because of its dated interior; however, the Club is struggling to find a suitable revenue stream.

Additionally, six clubs mention they have had issues regarding vandalism within the previous year; Greenhill YC FC, Long Whatton FC, Measham Imperial FC, Ibstock United Juniors FC, Ravenstone Youth FC and Bardon Hill Juniors FC all report damage of equipment, storage containers or graffiti at their home venues.

***Security of tenure***

Teams playing at local authority or parish Council managed sites are considered to have secured tenure as part of the maintained sports and leisure provision offering.

There are five teams (shown below) which rent pitches at school sites and do not have confirmed future use for the next three years or beyond, subsequently tenure is considered to be unsecure.

*Table 2.6: Clubs accessing School sites*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club** | **Number of teams** | **Site ID** | **School venue** |
| Coalville Miners FC | One adult team | 36 | Newbridge High School Academy |
| Greenhill Sparrows FC | One adult team | 27 | King Edward VII Science and Sports College |
| New Forest Rovers FC | One adult team | 36 | Newbridge High School Academy |
| Progressive Skills Academy | One youth and one mini team. | 27 | King Edward VII Science and Sports College |

Tenure of sites in North West Leicestershire is generally secure i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years, with most sites ensuring community use is available.

Coalville Town FC leases Owen Street Sports Ground from the Council with 11 years remaining on a 12 year agreement. This site is used by the Club for the majority of its youth and all senior football demand. The Club’s mini section and surplus youth demand is accounted for at Scotlands Playing Fields. It reports that it currently rents pitch space at the site but wants to secure a long-term lease in order to develop ancillary facilities and improve pitch condition.

Ashby Ivanhoe FC accesses three sites: Hood Park Leisure Centre, Western Park and its home venue NFU Sports Ground. It has an annual licence for the use of Hood Park Leisure Centre and Western Park with the Council and has 11 years remaining on a 15 year lease from Manor House School for the use of NFU Sports Ground.

Measham Welfare Junior FC currently rents Measham Community and Recreation Centre; however, the Club reports an aspiration to obtain a lease for the use of Bosworth Road Recreation Ground in addition to this arrangement. The Club is increasing in size and therefore has demand for access to more pitches; especially considering its current site contains just one over marked pitch (an adult pitch over marked by a youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7s). Bosworth Road Recreation Ground is currently unused and does not contain any pitches, meaning investment may be required for the site to become useable. The Club has opened dialogue with Leicester and Rutland FA regarding this.

***Football pyramid facilities***

There are six clubs in North West Leicestershire that play within the non-league football pyramid.

*Table 2.7: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure*

| **Team** | **League** | **Level** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ashby Ivanhoe FC | East Midlands Counties League – Premier Division | Step 6 |
| Ashby Ivanhoe FC (Reserves) | Leicestershire Senior League – Premier Division | Step 7 |
| Bardon Hill Sports FC | Leicestershire Senior League – Premier Division | Step 7 |
| Coalville Town FC | Evo Stik Northern Premier League | Step 3 |
| Coalville Town FC (Development) | Leicestershire Senior League – Premier Division | Step 7 |
| Ellistown and Ibstock United FC | East Midlands Counties League – Premier Division | Step 6 |
| Heather St John’s FC | Midland Football League – Division One | Step 6 |
| Hinckley AFC | Midland Football League – Division One | Step 6 |

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/step above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading, as it is referred to, assesses grounds from A to H, with ‘A’ being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

**2.3: Demand**

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 172 teams are identified as playing matches on football pitches within North West Leicestershire. This consists of 40 men’s, three women’s, 75 youth boys’, six youth girls’ and 48 mini soccer teams.

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

| **Analysis Area** | **No. of teams playing** | | | | |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Adult** | **Youth 11v11** | **Youth 9v9** | **Mini 7v7** | **Mini 5v5** | **Total** |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 9 | 14 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 33 |
| Castle Donington/Kegworth | 7 | 7 | 3 | - | - | 17 |
| Coalville | 13 | 15 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 59 |
| Ibstock | 9 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 47 |
| Measham | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 16 |
| **Total** | **43** | **52** | **29** | **22** | **26** | **172** |

***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.

There are seven clubs in North West Leicestershire which state they have unmet demand, these are shown below:

* Greenhill YC FC
* Greenhill Sparrows FC
* Kegworth Imps JFC
* Whitwick Juniors FC
* Ravenstone Youth FC
* Oakthorpe Athletic FC
* Heather St Johns FC

Of these, three clubs quantify how many teams they could additionally field if pitch space was available. Greenhill Sparrows FC reports unmet of two adult and one youth (9v9) team whilst Whitwick Juniors FC report if it had a 5v5 pitch on site it would be able to have both U7s and U8s teams. Additionally, Heather St Johns FC indicate if it had more pitch space available it could field both an U21s and U18s (Youth 11v11) team.

***Displaced/exported demand***

Displaced demand refers to North West Leicestershire registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the Area for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply or in some cases quality issues.

Kegworth Imps JFC FC has one youth boys’ team and four mini teams playing at a central venue in nearby Leicester. The Club states that it is displaced as it cannot access sufficient pitch capacity within North West Leicestershire and in particular its home venue, King George V Playing Fields, and would like to return to play within the Kegworth area.

*Table 2.9: Summary of displaced demand*

| **Club** | **Analysis Area** | **Exported demand** | **Match equivalent sessions[[6]](#footnote-6)** | **Pitch type** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |
| Kegworth Imps FC | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s, U11s | 1 | Mini 5v5 |
| 1 | Mini 7v7 |
| 0.5 | Youth 9v9 |
| **Totals** | | | **-** | **Adult** |
| **2** | **Youth** |
| **0.5** | **Mini** |

There are three additional clubs, Ashby Ivanhoe FC, Castle Donington FC and Marlborough FC which each have several mini soccer teams playing outside of North West Leicestershire. This is mainly due to centralised mini soccer venues located in neighbouring Derby and Burton upon Trent. It is currently unknown if these clubs would rather play these fixtures within North West Leicestershire, therefore this potential exported demand has been discounted from the analysis.

If the aforementioned clubs wanted to play these fixtures within North West Leicestershire this would impact directly on the capacity of these pitches.

***Future demand***

*Population increases*

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth up to 2031.

*Table 2.10: Team generation rates (District Wide)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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** |
| Senior Men (16-45) | 16,957 | 55 | 1:308 | 19,187 | 62 | 7 |
| Senior Women (16-45) | 17,309 | 3 | 1:5770 | 19,557 | 3 | 0 |
| Youth Boys (12-15) | 2,198 | 36 | 1:61 | 2,615 | 42 | 6 |
| Youth Girls (12-15) | 2,107 | 4 | 1:527 | 2,404 | 4 | 0 |
| Youth Boys (10-11) | 1,161 | 24 | 1:48 | 1,340 | 27 | 3 |
| Youth Girls (10-11) | 1,110 | 2 | 1:555 | 1, 229 | 2 | 0 |
| Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9) | 2,278 | 20 | 1:114 | 2,599 | 22 | 2 |
| Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7) | 2, 318 | 28 | 1:83 | 2, 601 | 31 | 3 |

*Table 2.11: Team generation rates (by Analysis Area)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age group** | **Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)** | | | | | |
| **Ashby-de-la-Zouch** | **Castle Donington/Kegworth** | **Coalville** | **Ibstock** | **Measham** | **Total** |
| Senior Men (16-45) | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | **5** |
| Senior Women (16-45) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Youth Boys (12-15) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | **5** |
| Youth Girls (12-15) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Youth Boys (10-11) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | **2** |
| Youth Girls (10-11) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | **2** |
| Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | **2** |
| **Total** | **3** | **1** | **6** | **6** | **0** | **16** |

Population increases are likely to result 21 additional teams in North West Leicestershire; however, this is when TGRs are applied district wide. Once TGRs are applied to individual Analysis Areas a more detailed representation of where exactly the predicated growth will occur emerges. It is indicated that both the Coalville and Ibstock Analysis Areas will have the most growth with a projected increase six teams each. Furthermore, it shows that the youth boys (12-15) and senior men (16-45) age groups will have the largest potential increase, amounting to total of ten teams.

It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. Also, there has been a recent decrease nationally in participation at adult level and that the number of FA affiliated adult teams playing competitive football has dropped. Similarly, there has been a decline in the number of youth players making the transition from youth football to adult leagues.

*Participation increases*

A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the clubs which quantify their potential increase, there is a predicted growth of 17 teams equating to two adult, 2.5 youth and four mini match equivalent sessions.

Latent demand highlighted earlier in the report has been discounted from these calculations as it is presumed to be absorbed in future growth.

*Table 2.12: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs*

| **Club** | **Analysis Area** | **Future demand** | **Match equivalent sessions[[7]](#footnote-7)** | **Pitch type** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Greenhill Sparrows FC | Coalville | 2 x Adult  1 x Youth | 1  0.5 | Adult  Youth 11v11 |
| Measham Imperial FC | Measham | 1 x Adult | 0.5 | Adult |
| Measham Welfare Juniors FC | Measham | 3 x Mini | 1.5 | Mini 5v5 |
| Kegworth Imps FC | Castle Donington/Kegworth | 1 x Adult  4 x Youth | 0.5  0.5  1.5 | Adult  Youth 9v9  Youth 11v11 |
| Heather Juniors FC | Ibstock | 3 x Mini | 1.5 | Mini 5v5 |
| Bardon Hill Juniors FC | Coalville | 2 x Mini | 1 | Mini 5v5 |
| **Totals** | | | **2** | **Adult** |
| **2.5** | **Youth** |
| **4** | **Mini** |

Ashby Ivanhoe FC also report it has aspirations to increase the number of teams, especially its women’s and girls’ section, as it currently has no formal female team. Although it did state it wanted to increase female participation it did not quantify the amount of growth.

***Imported demand***

Heather St John’s FC currently leases the use of its home ground, Heather St John Football Club, to Hinckley AFC. This is imported demand from outside North West Leicestershire. This is due to the Hinckley AFC not being able to access a pitch that meets Step 7 requirements within Hinckley. The Club’s junior section and training demand is all based outside of North West Leicestershire with its single senior team being the only imported demand, however, neither Hinckley AFC nor Heather St John’s FC report any issues regarding the arrangement.

**2.4: Capacity analysis**

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

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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***

For the purposes of capacity analysis only education sites with regular known and recorded community use have been included. In many cases, where there is no identified community use at present there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Maintenance of school pitches is generally carried out to a basic standard and may not include much beyond grass cutting and line marking. This combined with the significant usage throughout the school week for curricular sport, extracurricular training sessions and fixtures often impacts on surface quality and far exceeds recommended capacity.

School pitches within Table 2.13 only show capacity and overplay based on recorded community use. Though some might exhibit potential spare capacity this has not been included within the capacity analysis where it is known that the pitches are used for curriculum and school team session’s midweek, as this is likely to account for any spare capacity shown.

Some schools do not allow community use in order to manage poor quality pitches for their own use throughout the week. Most school fixtures are played after school during the week until late October when visibility decreases, starting again in February when it improves.

*Table 2.13: Football pitch capacity analysis (recorded community use)*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **Type of tenure[[8]](#footnote-8)** | **Management** | **Pitch type** | **Pitch size** | **Quality rating** | **No. of pitches[[9]](#footnote-9)** | **Current play**  **(match sessions)** | **FA recommended site capacity (match sessions)** | **Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play** | **Capacity available in peak period (match sessions)** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4 | Ashby Road Recreation Ground | Ibstock | Secure | Sports Club | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| Mini | (5v5) | Standard | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| Mini | (7v7) | Standard | 1 | 2.5 | 4 | 1.5 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| Youth | (11v11) | Poor | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 0.5 | No actual spare capacity at peak time as pitch is currently played to capacity. |
| Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 1 | 3 | 1 | -2 | - | Overplayed pitch. No spare capacity. |
| 8 | Bardon Hill Sports Club | Coalville | Secure | Sports Club | Adult |  | Poor | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | -0.5 | - | Overplayed pitch. No spare capacity. |
| Mini | (5v5) | Poor | 1 | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | - | No actual spare capacity due to poor pitch quality, which should be improved through improved maintenance. |
| Mini | (7v7) | Poor | 1 | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | - | No actual spare capacity due to poor pitch quality, which should be improved through improved maintenance. |
| Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | -0.5 | - | Overplayed pitch. No spare capacity. |
| 10 | Belton Recreation Ground | Castle Donington/Kegworth | Secure | Community | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 16 | Donisthorpe Memorial Grounds | Measham | Secure | Parish Council | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | No actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 17 | Ellistown FC | Ibstock | Secure | Sports Club | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | - | No actual spare capacity during peak time. Pitch is used to accommodate first team training demand. |
| 20 | Greenhill Recreation Ground | Coalville | Secure | District Council | Adult |  | Poor | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **Type of tenure[[10]](#footnote-10)** | **Management** | **Pitch type** | **Pitch size** | **Quality rating** | **No. of pitches[[11]](#footnote-11)** | **Current play**  **(match sessions)** | **FA recommended site capacity (match sessions)** | **Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play** | **Capacity available in peak period (match sessions)** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 21 | Heather St John Football Club | Ibstock | Secure | Sports Club | Adult |  | Good | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | Fully floodlit main pitch. Used by two Step 6 teams at peak time, therefore no actual spare capacity available. |
| Adult |  | Standard | 2 | 9 | 4 | -5 | - | Partially floodlit pitches. Pitches overplayed due to significant floodlit training use. No spare capacity during peak time due to overplay. |
| Mini | (5v5) | Standard | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| Mini | (7v7) | Standard | 1 | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| Youth | (11v11) | Standard | 2 | 4 | 4 | - | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| Youth | (9v9) | Standard | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 22 | Hermitage Recreation Ground | Coalville | Secure | District Council | Adult |  | Poor | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | Peak time capacity to be retained to protect poor quality pitches. |
| Mini | (7v7) | Poor | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 | Peak time capacity to be retained to protect poor quality pitch. |
| Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Peak time capacity to be retained to protect poor quality pitch. |
| 23 | Hood Park Leisure Centre | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Town Council | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| Youth | (9v9) | Standard | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| 27 | King Edward VII Science and Sports College | Coalville | **Unsecure** | School | Adult |  | Poor | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Peak time capacity to be retained to protect poor quality pitch. |
| 28 | King George V Playing Field | Castle Donington/Kegworth | Secure | Trust | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 | Peak time capacity to be retained to protect pitch quality due to overmarking. |
| 29 | Leicester Road | Ibstock | Secure | Sports Club | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 3 | 2 | -1 | - | Overplayed pitch. No spare capacity. |
| 30 | Long Whatton Cricket Club | Castle Donington/Kegworth | Secure | Sports Club | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 31 | Measham Community and Recreation Centre | Measham | Secure | Parish Council | Adult  *(9v9)*  *(7v7)*  *(7v7)* |  | Standard | 1 | 1  *(0.5)*  *(0.5)*  *(0.5)* | 2 | -0.5 | 1 | Peak time capacity to be retained to protect pitch quality due to overmarking. |
| 32 | Measham Road Recreation Ground | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Sports Club | Adult |  | Standard | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 33 | Melrose Road Recreation Ground | Coalville | Secure | District Council | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 34 | Millfield Recreation Ground | Coalville | Secure | Parish Council | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 35 | Moira Miners Welfare | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Community | Adult |  | Poor | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Peak time capacity to be retained to protect poor quality pitches. |
| 36 | Newbridge High School Academy | Coalville | Secure | School | Adult |  | Standard | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | No actual spare capacity due to curriculum use. |
| 37 | NFU Sports Ground (Ashby-De-La-Zouch) | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Sports Club | Adult |  | Good | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 38 | Oakthorpe Recreation Ground | Measham | Secure | Parish Council | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| 39 | Owen Street Sports Ground | Coalville | Secure | Sports Club | Adult |  | Good | 2 | 1.5 | 6 | 4.5 | 2 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| Mini | (7v7) | Standard | 2 | 0.5 | 8 | 7.5 | 1.5 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| Youth | (11v11) | Standard | 1 | 3 | 2 | -1 | - | Overplayed pitch. No spare capacity. |
| 40 | Ravenslea | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Parish Council | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| Mini | (5v5) | Standard | 1 | 0.5 | 4 | 3.5 | 0.5 | Minimal peak time capacity to be retained to protect pitch. |
| Mini | (7v7) | Standard | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| Youth | (9v9) | Standard | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| 41 | Scotlands Playing Fields | Coalville | Secure | District Council | Mini | (5v5) | Standard | 2 | 3.5 | 8 | 4.5 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| Mini | (7v7) | Standard | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| Youth | (9v9) | Standard | 2 | 2.5 | 4 | 1.5 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| 44 | Spital Park | Castle Donington/Kegworth | Secure | Parish Council | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| Youth | (11v11) | Standard | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| Youth | (9v9) | Standard | 2 | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 47 | The Connery | Measham | Secure | Parish Council | Youth | (9v9) | Poor | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 0.5 | 1 | Peak time capacity to be retained to protect poor quality pitch. |
| 48 | Thringstone Miners Welfare Football Club | Coalville | Secure | Sports Club | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 49 | Western Park | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Parish Council | Adult |  | Poor | 2 | 4.5 | 2 | -2.5 | - | Overplayed pitch. No spare capacity. |
| 50 | Westfields Recreation Ground | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Town Council | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 52 | Moira Dale Recreation Ground | Castle Donington/Kegworth | Secure | Parish Council | Adult |  | Standard | 2 | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 1.5 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 53 | Donisthorpe Woodland Centre | Measham | Secure | Community | Mini | (7v7) | Poor | 1 | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Peak time capacity to be retained to protect poor quality pitch. |

*Table 2.14: Football pitch capacity (available but with no recorded community use)*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **Type of tenure[[12]](#footnote-12)** | **Management** | **Pitch type** | **Pitch size** | **Quality rating** | **No. of pitches** | **FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions)** | **Potential to accommodate additional play at peak time** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6 | Ashby School (Site 2) | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | School | Adult |  | Standard | 2 | 4 | - | No spare capacity due to unsecured tenure. |
| 12 | Castle Donington College | Castle Donington/Kegworth | **Unsecure** | School | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 2 | - | No spare capacity due to unsecured tenure. |
|  | Youth | 9v9 | Standard | 1 | 2 | - | No spare capacity due to unsecured tenure. |
| 13 | Castle Rock High School | Coalville | **Unsecure** | School | Adult |  | Poor | 1 | 1 | - | No spare capacity due to unsecured tenure. |
| 17 | Ellistown FC | Ibstock | Secure | Sports Club | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 24 | Ibstock Leisure Complex | Ibstock | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Poor | 4 | 8 | - | No spare capacity due to unsecured tenure. |
| 23 | Hood Park Leisure Centre | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | School | Adult |  | Poor | 1 | 1 | - | No spare capacity due to unsecured tenure. |
|  | Youth | 9v9 | Poor | 1 | 1 | - | No spare capacity due to unsecured tenure. |
| 32 | Measham Road Recreation Ground | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Parish Council | Mini | 7v7 | Standard | 1 | 4 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 36 | Newbridge High School Academy | Coalville | Secure | School | Youth | 11v11 | Standard | 1 | 2 | - | No actual spare capacity due to curriculum use. |
|  | Youth | 9v9 | Standard | 1 | 2 | - | No actual spare capacity due to curriculum use. |
| 39 | Owen Street Sports Ground | Coalville | Secure | Sports Club | Youth | 9v9 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 42 | Sir John Moore C of E School | Measham | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Standard | 1 | 4 | - | No spare capacity due to unsecured tenure. |
| 44 | Spital Park | Castle Donington/Kegworth | Secure | Parish Council | Mini | 7v7 | Standard | 1 | 4 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 47 | The Connery | Measham | Secure | Parish Council | Adult |  | Poor | 1 | 1 | - | No actual spare capacity due to poor pitch quality, which should be improved through improved maintenance. |
| 49 | Western Park | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Parish Council | Youth | 9v9 | Poor | 1 | 1 | - | No actual spare capacity due to poor pitch quality, which should be improved through improved maintenance. |
| 55 | Albert Village Recreation Ground | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Trust | Youth | 9v9 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 56 | Spring Cottage Recreation Ground | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Parish Council | Youth | 11v11 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 57 | Willesley Recreation Ground | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Town Council | Youth | 9v9 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 58 | Cow Close (Blackfordby) | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Town Council | Youth | 11v11 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | Actual spare capacity during peak time. |
| 65 | Broom Leys Primary School | Coalville | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Standard | 2 | 8 | - | No spare capacity due to unsecured tenure. |
| Mini | 7v7 | Standard | 1 | 4 | - | No spare capacity due to unsecured tenure. |
| 69 | Viscount Beaumonts C of E Primary School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Standard | 1 | 4 | - | No spare capacity due to unsecured tenure. |

*Table 2.15: Football pitch capacity (unavailable for community use)*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **Type of tenure[[13]](#footnote-13)** | **Management** | **Pitch type** | **Pitch size** | **Quality rating** | **No. of pitches** | **FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2 | Ashby Hill Top Primary School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 7v7 | Standard | 1 | 4 |
| 7 | Ashby Willesley County Primary School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 7v7 | Standard | 1 | 4 |
| 14 | Champneys Springs | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | Commercial | Adult |  | Standard | 1 | 2 |
| 19 | Grace Dieu Manor School | Castle Donington/Kegworth | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Good | 4 | 24 |
| Youth | 9v9 | Good | 1 | 4 |
| 59 | Woodcote Primary School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Standard | 1 | 4 |
| 60 | Albert Village Primary School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 7v7 | Standard | 1 | 4 |
| 61 | Hugglescote Primary School | Coalville | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Standard | 1 | 4 |
| 62 | Woodstone Primary School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 7v7 | Poor | 1 | 2 |
| 63 | Snarestone Church of England Primary School | Measham | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Standard | 1 | 4 |
| 64 | Belvoirdale Primary School | Coalville | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Standard | 2 | 8 |
| 66 | Moira Primary School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 7v7 | Poor | 1 | 2 |
| 67 | Donisthorpe Primary School | Measham | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 7v7 | Poor | 1 | 2 |
| 68 | Swannington C of E Primary School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Poor | 1 | 2 |
| 70 | Ellistown Community Primary School | Coalville | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 7v7 | Standard | 1 | 4 |
| 71 | New Swannington Primary School | Coalville | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Standard | 1 | 4 |
| 72 | St Charles R C Primary School | Measham | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Standard | 1 | 4 |
| 73 | Whitwick St John the Baptist C of E Primary School | Coalville | **Unsecure** | School | Mini | 5v5 | Standard | 1 | 4 |

**2.5: Supply and demand analysis**

***Spare capacity***

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

***Peak time***

The peak time for football in North West Leicestershire is Sunday mornings for all pitch types. Peak time for the use of adult pitches is not solely from adult teams, youth 11v11 teams are also a contributing factor.

*Table 2.16: Actual spare capacity summary (recorded community use)*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **Pitch type** | **No. of pitches** | **Potential spare capacity (match sessions)** | **Match equivalent sessions available in peak period** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | Belton Recreation Ground | Castle Donington  /Kegworth | Adult | 1 | 1.5 | 1 |
| 21 | Heather St John Football Club | Ibstock | Mini 5v5 | 1 | 3 | 0.5 |
|  | Mini 7v7 | 1 | 2.5 | 1 |
|  | Youth 9v9 | 1 | 1.5 | 1 |
| 23 | Hood Park Leisure Centre | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Adult | 1 | 1 | 0.5 |
| 30 | Long Whatton Cricket Club | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | Adult | 1 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| 32 | Measham Road Recreation Ground | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Adult | 2 | 2 | 0.5 |
| 33 | Melrose Road Recreation Ground | Coalville | Adult | 1 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| 34 | Millfield Recreation Ground | Coalville | Adult | 1 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| 37 | NFU Sports Ground (Ashby-De-La-Zouch) | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Adult | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 39 | Owen Street Sports Ground | Coalville | Adult | 2 | 4.5 | 2 |
| Mini 7v7 | 2 | 7.5 | 1.5 |
| 40 | Ravenslea | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Adult | 1 | 2 | 1 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **Pitch type** | **No. of pitches** | **Potential spare capacity (match sessions)** | **Match equivalent sessions available in peak period** |
| 44 | Spital Park | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | Adult | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Youth 9v9 | 2 | 2.5 | 0.5 |
| 48 | Thringstone Miners Welfare Football Club | Coalville | Adult | 1 | 1 | 0.5 |
| 50 | Westfields Recreation Ground | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Adult | 1 | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| 52 | Moira Dale Recreation Ground | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | Adult | 2 | 2.5 | 1.5 |
|  | | | | **Total** | **39.5** | **15.5** |

*Table 2.17: Total actual spare capacity (including unused pitches)*

| **Analysis Area** | **Total actual spare capacity**  **(match equivalent sessions per week)** | | | | | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Adult** | **Youth 11v11** | **Youth 9v9** | **Mini 7v7** | **Mini 5v5** |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 3.5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | **8.5** |
| Castle Donington/Kegworth | 4 | - | 0.5 | 1 | - | **5.5** |
| Coalville | 3.5 | - | 1 | 1.5 | - | **6** |
| Ibstock | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | **3.5** |
| Measham | - | - | - | - | - | **-** |
| **Total** | **12** | **2** | **4.5** | **4.5** | **0.5** | **23.5** |

Table 2.16 shows a total of 15.5 match sessions of actual spare capacity on pitches which are available for community use and currently used. There are eight extra match equivalent sessions available on secured pitches which are available for community use but are currently unused. In total, there are 23.5 match equivalent sessions available to accommodate additional play as shown in Table 2.17, most of which are on adult pitches.

Interestingly, there is no spare capacity of any sort located in the Measham Analysis Area with one of the main reasons due to over marking and unsecure tenure of pitches.

***Overplay***

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). In summary, 13 pitches are overplayed across seven sites, by a total of 14.5 match equivalent sessions. Only sites which are overplayed and have current community use have been included in the overplay summary, therefore school sites which are likely to be overplayed exclusively due to curriculum use and school fixtures have been omitted.

Measham Community and Recreation Centre adult pitch is overplayed as it has a 9v9 and two 7v7 pitches overmarking it. This could be alleviated by moving the mini and youth football off the adult pitch and onto independent pitches, however, this site is limited on space and this option may not be available. As such, the club using the site, Measham Welfare Juniors FC is actively looking for additional pitch space at other venues.

Heather St John Football Club has two partially floodlit pitches which are used to accommodate the Club’s senior and junior training demand. This equates to eight match sessions of demand across the two pitches as the Club reports training for three, four hour periods throughout the week. (Ninety minutes equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions).

*Table 2.18: Overplayed sites*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **Pitch type** | | **No. of pitches** | **Capacity rating** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4 | Ashby Road Recreation Ground | Ibstock | Youth 9v9 | | 1 | -2 |
| 8 | Bardon Hill Sports Club | Coalville | Youth 9v9 | | 1 | -0.5 |
| Adult | | 1 | -0.5 |
| 21 | Heather St John Football Club | Ibstock | Adult | | 2 | -5 |
| 29 | Leicester Road | Ibstock | Adult | | 1 | -1 |
| 31 | Measham Community and Recreation Centre | Measham | Adult | | 1 | -0.5 |
| Youth 9v9 | | 1 | -0.5 |
| Mini 7v7 | | 1 | -0.5 |
| Mini 7v7 | | 1 | -0.5 |
| 39 | Owen Street Sports Ground | Coalville | Youth 11v11 | | 1 | -1 |
| 49 | Western Park | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Adult | | 2 | -2.5 |
|  | | | | **Total** | **13** | **-14.5** |

*Table 2.19: Overplay summary*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Overplay (match sessions per week)** | | | | **Total** |
| **Adult** | **Youth 11v11** | **Youth 9v9** | **Mini 7v7** |  |
| -9.5 | -1 | -3 | -1 | **-14.5** |

**2.6: Conclusions**

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any latent/ displaced demand) in each of the Analysis Areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on team generation rates (broken down by Analysis Area) which are driven by population increases as well as club development plans to increase their number of teams.

*Table 2.20: Spare capacity/ overplay of adult pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis Area** | **Actual spare capacity[[14]](#footnote-14)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Unmet**  **demand** | **Displaced demand** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 3.5 | -2.5 | 1 | - | - | 1 | **-** |
| Castle Donington/ Kegworth | 4 | - | 4 | - | - | 0.5 | **3.5** |
| Coalville | 3.5 | -0.5 | 3 | 1 | - | 3 | **-1** |
| Ibstock | 1 | -6 | -5 | 0.5 | - | 0.5 | **-6** |
| Measham | - | -0.5 | -0.5 |  | - | 0.5 | **-1** |
| **Total** | **12** | **-9.5** | **2.5** | **1.5** | **-** | **5.5** | **-4.5** |

There are current shortfalls of six and 0.5 match equivalent sessions in the Ibstock and Measham Analysis Areas respectively. The District as a whole has minimal spare capacity on adult pitches equating to 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Factoring unmet, displaced and future demand there will be overall shortfall for adult pitches amounting to 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Only the Castle Donington/Kegworth Analysis Area evidences spare capacity, totalling 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Capacity will be balanced in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area will be at capacity with shortfalls in the remaining three Analysis Areas.

*Table 2.21: Spare capacity/ overplay of youth 11v11 pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis Area** | **Actual spare capacity[[15]](#footnote-15)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Unmet**  **demand** | **Displaced demand** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | 0.5 | **1.5** |
| Castle Donington/ Kegworth | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | **-2** |
| Coalville | - | -1 | -1 |  | - | 1 | **-2** |
| Ibstock | - | - | - | 0.5 | - | 1 | **-1.5** |
| Measham | - | - | - |  | - | - | **-** |
| **Total** | **2** | **-1** | **1** | **0.5** | **-** | **4.5** | **-4** |

The table above shows that for youth 11v11 pitches in North West Leicestershire there is a shortfall of one match equivalent session in the Coalville Analysis Area and spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area, which means pitches are current spare capacity on one match equivalent sessions throughout the District. Shortfalls arise in all but one Analysis Area (Ashby-de-la-Zouch) after factoring future demand leading to an overall potential shortfall of five match equivalent sessions.

In addition, please note that a further 26 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions (52 youth 11v11 teams) are recorded as taking place on adult pitches. As such, there is a clear need for an increase in youth 11v11 provision in order for this play to be transferred on to the correct pitch size without overplay being exacerbated. This in turn will also reduce shortfalls of adult pitches.

*Table 2.22: Spare capacity/ overplay of youth 9v9 pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis Area** | **Actual spare capacity[[16]](#footnote-16)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Unmet**  **demand** | **Displaced demand** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | **2** |
| Castle Donington/ Kegworth | 0.5 | - | 0.5 | - | 0.5 | 0.5 | **-0.5** |
| Coalville | 1 | -0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | - | 0.5 | **-0.5** |
| Ibstock | 1 | -2 | -1 | - | - | 0.5 | **-1.5** |
| Measham | - | -0.5 | -0.5 | - | - | - | **-0.5** |
| **Total** | **4.5** | **-3** | **1.5** | **0.5** | **0.5** | **1.5** | **-1** |

The current picture shows that there is an overall spare capacity of 9v9 pitches, District wide, amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions, with both Ibstock and Measham Analysis Areas slightly overplayed. When future demand is considered, there is an overall shortfall of one match equivalent session, with minor shortfalls evident in the Castle Donington/Kegworth, Coalville, Ibstock and Measham Analysis Areas. The Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area remains hosting two match equivalent sessions of spare capacity.

*Table 2.23: Spare capacity/ overplay of mini 7v7 pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis Area** | **Actual spare capacity[[17]](#footnote-17)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Unmet**  **demand** | **Displaced demand** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | **1** |
| Castle Donington/ Kegworth | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | **-** |
| Coalville | 1.5 | - | 1.5 | - | - | 0.5 | **1** |
| Ibstock | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 0.5 | **0.5** |
| Measham | - | -1 | -1 | - | - | - | **-1** |
| **Total** | **4.5** | **-1** | **3.5** | **-** | **1** | **1** | **1.5** |

There is current spare capacity overall on 7v7 pitches amounting to 3.5 match equivalent sessions. After accounting for future demand, spare capacity remains of 1.5 match equivalent sessions remains, however, there is a potential shortfall of one match equivalent session in the Measham Analysis Area.

*Table 2.24: Spare capacity/ overplay of mini 5v5 pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis Area** | **Actual spare capacity[[18]](#footnote-18)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Unmet**  **demand** | **Displaced demand** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch | - | - | - | - | - | - | **-** |
| Castle Donington/ Kegworth | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | **-1** |
| Coalville | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1.5 | **-2.5** |
| Ibstock | 0.5 | - | 0.5 | - | - | 2 | **-1.5** |
| Measham | - | - | - | - | - | 1.5 | **-1.5** |
| **Total** | **0.5** | **-** | **0.5** | **1** | **1** | **5** | **-6.5** |

There is current spare capacity overall on 7v7 pitches amounting to 0.5 match equivalent session, which can be attributed solely to the Ibstock Analysis Area. When accounting for future demand shortfalls arise in all Analysis Areas apart from Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Taking into account the above tables, the table overleaf summarises the level of spare capacity and shortfalls on each pitch type across North West Leicestershire as a whole.

*Table 2.25: Spare capacity/overplay summary in North West Leicestershire*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pitch type** | **Actual spare capacity[[19]](#footnote-19)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Unmet**  **demand** | **Displaced demand** | **Future demand** | **Total** |
| Adult | **12** | **-9.5** | **2.5** | **1.5** | **-** | **5.5** | **-4.5** |
| Youth 11v11 | **2** | **-1** | **1** | **0.5** | **-** | **4.5** | **-4** |
| Youth 9v9 | **4.5** | **-3** | **1.5** | **0.5** | **0.5** | **1.5** | **-1** |
| Mini 7v7 | **4.5** | **-1** | **3.5** | **-** | **1** | **1** | **1.5** |
| Mini 5v5 | **0.5** | **-** | **0.5** | **1** | **1** | **5** | **-6.5** |
| **Total** | **23.5** | **-14.5** | **9** | **3.5** | **2.5** | **17.5** | **-14.5** |

The table above shows that overall in North West Leicestershire there is spare capacity to accommodate all pitch types with a total of nine match equivalent sessions of spare capacity of at present.

Future demand indicates the need for a further 17.5 match sessions, whilst a further 2.5 sessions are required to accommodate displaced demand and 3.5 match sessions to accommodate unmet demand. When accommodating this potential increase in demand there is an overall shortfall of 14.5 match sessions. There will however be potential spare capacity on mini 7v7 pitches.

The current spare capacity suggested, particularly for adult pitches; however, does not actually represent an oversupply. All pitches with in North West Leicestershire are needed as they are geographical distributed throughout the Analysis Areas and thus absorb demand in the rural based demographics. Instead, this spare capacity could assist in the potential growth of the sport. Aforementioned, youth 11v11 pitches in the District are currently played to capacity with future demand potentially exacerbating this issue, therefore, improvements in condition in these pitches are crucial to limit overplay.

|  |
| --- |
| **Football – grass pitch summary**   * The audit identifies a total of 125 grass football pitches in North West Leicestershire. Of these, 103 are known to be available, at some level, for community use. There is just one 3G AGP on which competitive football matches can be played, a full sized pitch at Newbridge High School Academy. * The pitch quality audit shows that the majority of pitches (68%) available for community use are standard quality, with 28% rated as poor and only 4% as good quality. * Four clubs highlight issues with changing facilities, either with regards to the number or to accommodate girls’ football. Changing provision at Hermitage Recreation Ground, Scotlands Playing Fields and Western Park, in particular, need renovations as they are of poor quality. * Three sites NFU Sports Ground, Bardon Hill Sports Club and Ashby Road Recreation Ground have all recently had a FA Pitch Improvement Programme created after inspection. * Measham Welfare Junior FC is looking to obtain a lease for the use of Bosworth Road Recreation Ground as continued progression of the Club has meant it has outgrown its current venue Measham Community and Recreation Centre. It has made a formal approach to Leicestershire and Rutland FA regarding this possible move. * Coalville Town Ravenettes/ Ravens FC have aspirations to formalise a long term lease for the use of Scotlands Playing Fields. The Club is keen to explore potential options for asset transfer. * Through the audit and assessment, a total of 172 teams are identified as playing matches on football pitches within North West Leicestershire. This consists of 40 men’s, three women’s, 75 youth boys’, six youth girls’ and 48 mini soccer teams. * There are seven clubs in North West Leicestershire which state they have unmet demand with only Greenhill Sparrows, Whitwick Juniors and Heather St John football clubs quantifying the number of teams they could field. * Kegworth Imps JFC has one youth boys’ team and four mini teams playing at a central venue in nearby Leicester. The Club states that it is displaced as it cannot access sufficient pitch capacity within North West Leicestershire and in particular its home venue, King George V Playing Fields, and would like to return to play within the Kegworth area. * Population increases are likely to result in potentially 21 additional teams in North West Leicestershire; however, this is when TGRs are applied district wide. * Once TGRs are applied to individual Analysis Areas a more detailed representation of where exactly the predicated growth will occur emerges. It is indicated that both the Coalville and Ibstock Analysis Areas will have the most growth with a projected increase six teams each. * There is a total of 15.5 match sessions of actual spare capacity across the District, whilst there are a further eight match equivalent sessions available on pitches which currently have no recorded play. * There are 13 pitches overplayed across seven sites, by a total of 14.5 match equivalent sessions. * There is spare capacity to accommodate all pitch types with a total of nine match equivalent sessions of spare capacity of at present. * Future demand indicates the need for a further 17.5 match sessions, whilst a further 2.5 sessions are required to accommodate displaced demand and 3.5 match session to accommodate unmet demand. When accommodating this potential increase in demand there is an overall shortfall of 14.5 match sessions. This being said there will be potential spare capacity on mini 7v7 pitches. |

**part 3: THIRD GENERATION ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES (3G PITCHES)**

**3.1 Introduction**

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

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

World Rugby produced the ‘Performance Specification for Artificial Grass Pitches for Rugby’, more commonly known as ‘Regulation 22’ that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allow matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place. To be considered compliant, surfaces must be registered on the RFU World Rugby compliant 3G pitch register[[20]](#footnote-20) and re-tested when required to renew certification.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the RFL to meet its Performance Standard for Synthetic Turf Pitches. Pitches fall under two categories, with community club pitches requiring a retest every two years and elite stadia pitches requiring an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, consequently World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements and are deemed suitable for rugby league use subject to passing an additional exclusive RFL performance standard test.

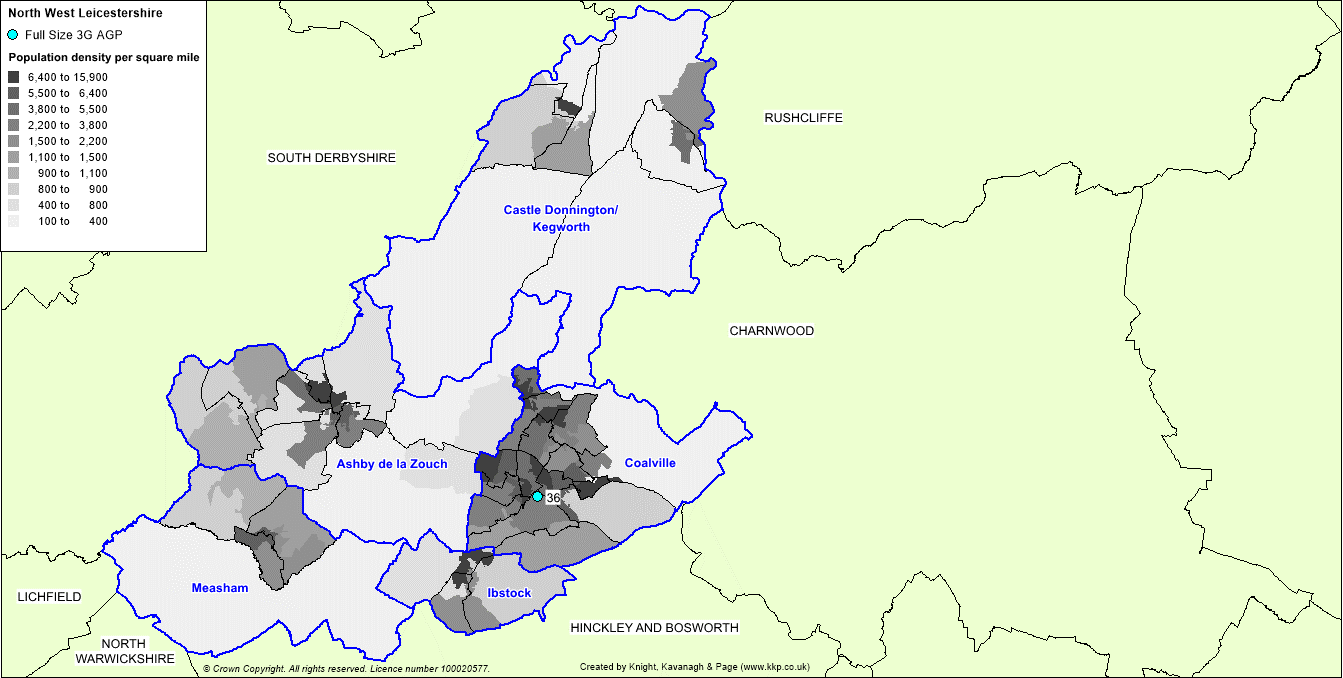
*Table 3.1: 3G surface type and sport suitability*

| **Surface** | **Category** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rubber crumb | Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad) | Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile. |
| Rubber crumb | Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm) | Preferred football surface for training and competitive football subject to performance standard testing. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play. |
| Rubber crumb | Short Pile 3G (40mm) | Acceptable surface for some competitive football subject to performance standard testing. |

**3.2 Supply**

There is one full sized 3G pitch in North West Leicestershire at Newbridge High School Academy, which is floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is FIFA certified which sanctions it to be used for competitive football play.

There are a further four small sized 3G pitches across three sites. There are no World Rugby certified 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire.

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

For key to the map see Table 3.2

*Table 3.2: Full sized 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire*

| **Site**  **ID** | **Site name** | **Management** | **Analysis Area** | **Pitch type** | **Certification** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 36 | Newbridge High School Academy | Education | Coalville | Medium Pile 3G | FIFA |

The only full sized 3G pitch in North West Leicestershire is located in the Coalville Analysis Area meaning there is no full sized provision in any of the four Analysis Areas. Nevertheless, there are two small sized 3G pitches in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area and one small sized 3G pitch located in each of the Measham and Coalville Analysis Areas. All four small sized 3G pitches are rated as standard quality. These pitches are not suitable for match play and are not FA tested but can be used to accommodate training demand, small sided commercial leagues and social use.

*Table 3.3: Small sized 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire*

| **Site**  **ID** | **Site name** | **Management** | **Analysis Area** | **Pitch type** | **Size**  **(metres)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 22 | Hermitage Recreation Ground | Local Authority | Coalville | Medium Pile 3G | 89 x 44 |
| 23 | Hood Park Leisure Centre | Local Authority | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Short Pile 3G | 36 x 18 |
| 23 | Hood Park Leisure Centre | Local Authority | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Short Pile 3G | 36 x 18 |
| 31 | Measham Community and Recreation Centre | Parish Council | Measham | Short Pile 3G | 36 x 35 |

The pitch at Hermitage Recreation Ground is the largest of the smaller pitches and falls just short of FA minimum dimensions (90x45m). As shown in Table 3.4, this pitch is suitable for up to youth U13/U14 football, however is not currently FA certified. The FA prioritises investment into full sized 3G provision able to accommodate all formats of football rather than small sized pitches and advises that any new full sized 3G pitches should be constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions where possible to ensure suitability and availability for all formats of football.

*Table 3.4: FA recommended grass / 3G pitch sizes*

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

***Future plans for provision***

Ashby Ivanhoe FC has recently contacted Leicestershire and Rutland FA regarding aspirations of building of a 9v9 sized 3G pitch located at its home venue at NFU Sports Ground. It reports that the 3G will be floodlit and encompass most of the clubs training demand with the pitch to be available for external use.

Coalville Town FC reports aspirations for a full size 3G pitch at Owen Street Sports Ground. It suggests there is a large demand from the Club itself and district wide for additional training provision with North West Leicestershire; however, the development of a pitch is a longer term goal for the Club to work towards.

Castle Donington Parish Council undertook a feasibility study in 2015 regarding potential creation of a new indoor and outdoor sporting facility, including a full sized 3G pitch, to be located at Moira Dale Recreation Ground/Castle Donington College as part of an extended community use offer across the two sites with a mix of grass pitch and 3G provision. The Parish Council has since prioritised investment into a new village hall and as such has not since progressed any further aspirations to explore opportunities surrounding the Moira Dale Recreation Ground and Castle Donington College sites. There remains an aspiration by the Parish Council to revisit the idea, however, any future development should take into consideration findings of Playing Pitch Strategies in local authorities which neighbour the Castle Donington area, including South Derbyshire and Charnwood, the latter currently undertaking a PPS.

It should be stated that Ashby Ivanhoe FC has submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to Leicestershire and Rutland FA regarding the proposed 3G pitch at NFU Sports Ground. An EOI is a formal process for identifying facility development opportunities. The EOI regarding Ashby Ivanhoe FC would need to be explored further until it is able to be identified for investment or development by LRCFA.

***Conversion from hockey suitable AGP surface types***

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

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

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

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

**3.3 Quality**

The only full sized 3G pitch in North West Leicestershire is rated as good quality. Further to this, the carpet of a 3G pitch usually lasts for approximately 10 years, though its lifespan can be prolonged in some cases where maintenance is of particularly high quality and rigor. Newbridge High School Academy’s pitch presently does not exceed this recommended lifespan. It is recommended that the quality and deterioration of the pitch should be monitored and resurfacing should be considered dependent on quality and continuing to meet FA performance test standards.

*Table 3.5: Summary of full sized 3G pitch quality*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Surface type** | **Year built (refurbished)** | **Floodlit?** | **Quality** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 36 | Newbridge High School Academy | Medium Pile 3G | 2013 | Yes | Good |

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FA or FIFA tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: [http://3g.thefa.me.uk/?countyfa=Leicestershire %26 Rutland](http://3g.thefa.me.uk/?countyfa=Leicestershire%20%26%20Rutland)

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

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

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

The FIFA approved 3G pitch located at Newbridge High School Academy does sporadically host football pyramid fixtures for Coalville Town FC. This only occurs when the pitch used by Coalville Town FC at Owen Street Sports Ground is unusable due to poor weather conditions. It is due to undergo retesting in the next 12 months.

***Availability***

The following table summarises the availability of full size 3G pitches for community use in North West Leicestershire. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

*Table 3.5: Summary of 3G availability and usage*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Surface type** | **Floodlit** | **Quality[[21]](#footnote-21)** | **Total number of hours available for community use during peak period** | **Football usage** | **Rugby usage** | **Other / Private sports club usage** | **Spare capacity** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 36 | Newbridge High School Academy | Medium Pile 3G | Yes | Standard | Weekdays: 18 hours  Weekends: 16 hours  Total: 34 hours | 85% | 3% | - | 12% |

Newbridge High School Academy reports that the 3G pitch onsite is used to capacity at peak times on a weekly basis. Bardon Hill Juniors FC, Coalville Town FC and Ibstock United Junior FC block book the 3G pitch to meet their training demand through midweek. The 3G pitch, as it is FIFA approved hosts ad hoc competitive matches at the weekend, which means it has limited spare capacity. The current spare capacity represented in the table 3.5 is often at undesirable times which do not club’s needs.

**3.4 Supply and demand analysis**

***The FA model***

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

The FA’s long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England with 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. In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week. Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match.

Full sized 3G pitches are usually divided into thirds or into quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers it is therefore estimated that 42 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training.

There are 172 teams currently playing in North West Leicestershire, meaning there is an approximate demand for four full sized 3G pitches when considered as a District wide figure. When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs) this figure does not increase.

However, when the model is applied on an Analysis Area level it is evident that in practice the current level of demand in the Coalville and Ibstock areas each requires access to one full sized 3G pitch to accommodate training needs for football. This requirement is presently met in the Coalville area but there is a current shortfall of one full sized 3G pitch required either within or within accessible distance to the Ibstock Area. Any proposed developments in the region within neighbouring districts such as Charnwood or Hinckley & Bosworth should also be considered, as sites in other Analysis Areas or outside of the District may be considered accessible to Ibstock residents.

Demand in the other three Areas is not deemed sufficient enough to require new full sized 3G pitch provision and demand is able to be accommodated on small sized 3G pitches and sand based AGPs (both full and small sized, further detailed in Part 6: Hockey). It is necessary to retain a proportion of football training demand on these pitches regardless to ensure the future sustainability of the AGPs currently in operation, whilst there may also be a case to support any future proposals which may arise to develop small sized 3G pitch provision able to serve this residual demand.

*Table 3.6: Current demand for 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire (42 teams per pitch)*

| **Analysis Area** | **Current number of teams** | **Full sized 3G requirement** | **Current supply of full size 3G pitches** | **Current shortfall** | **Future number of teams[[22]](#footnote-22)** | **Future shortfall** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 33 | 0.78 **- 0** | - | - | 36 | - |
| Castle Donington/ Kegworth | 17 | 0.4 **- 0** | - | - | 23 | - |
| Coalville | 59 | 1.4 **- 1** | 1 | - | 70 | - |
| Ibstock | 47 | 1.11 **- 1** | - | 1 | 56 | 1 |
| Measham | 16 | 0.38 **- 0** | - | - | 20 | - |
| **Total** | **172** | **2** | **1** | **1** | **205** | **1** |

*Moving match play to 3G pitches*

Improving pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs) alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches.

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FA/FIFA tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/?countyfa=Leicestershire%20%26%20Rutland>.

To stay on the FA register, pitches below the national league pyramid require FA testing every three years. In North West Leicestershire, the only 3G pitch (Newbridge High School Academy) has undergone testing and is FIFA certified.

***Key trends and changes in demand for pitches***

*Football*

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

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

It should be noted that of the clubs responding to consultation 65% reported an additional demand for training provision in North West Leicestershire.

*Rugby union*

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

The recent RFU strategy on investment in 3G pitches both at club and community based sites is indicative of the growing acceptance of 3G pitches amongst clubs nationally. There is demand for additional provision of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire and the RFU is keen to establish potential options and the feasibility of investing into the creation of a new World Rugby compliant 3G pitch to support demand for training facilities and use for match play.

Nationally clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

|  |
| --- |
| **3G pitch summary**   * There is one full sized 3G pitch in North West Leicestershire, which is floodlit, available for community use and is of good quality. * There are a further four small sized 3G pitches across three sites, all of which are reported to be available for community use. * The pitch located at Hermitage Recreation Ground is the largest of the smaller pitches and falls just short as being classified as full size. * The full sized 3G pitch at Newbridge High School Academy is FIFA certified and as such is sanctioned to be used for competitive football play. * Ashby Ivanoe FC has submitted at EOI for a small sized 3G pitch located at NFU Sports Ground. * The FA model estimates that there is a current need for one full sized 3G pitch in both each of the Coalville and Ibstock Areas to service football training needs in North West Leicestershire. This requirement is met in the Coalville Area; however, there is a shortfall of one full sized 3G pitch required within or within accessible distance to the Ibstock Area. * When considering future demand by Analysis Area (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there remains a shortfall for one full sized pitch in the Ibstock Area. * Access to affordable floodlit training facilities is a key issue for most clubs in North West Leicestershire, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. * It should be noted that of the clubs responding to consultation 65% reported an additional demand for training provision in North West Leicestershire. * There is no real demand expressed by rugby union clubs in North West Leicestershire to access 3G training provision. * When broken down by Analysis Areas there is a shortfall of one 3G pitch in the Ibstock Area. * Any future 3G provision, either full or smaller sized pitches, would need to meet strategic need for North West Leicestershire and possibly neighbouring authorities. |

**PART 3: CRICKET**

**3.1: Introduction**

Leicestershire County Cricket Club Community Team (LCCCCT) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including North West Leicestershire. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels, particularly among young people, through partnership and involvement of professional and recreational cricketing bodies, and other appropriate agencies, within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

In North West Leicestershire, the majority of junior cricket is played midweek, whilst senior cricket is typically played on Saturday afternoons. As such, there is little conflict regarding access to squares and any midweek matches are played on differing nights. There is no established league structure on Sundays for senior men’s teams though some play friendly matches, whilst some junior and women’s matches are also played on Sundays.

There are two main leagues which service teams in North West Leicestershire, they are:

* Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League (LRCL)
* Leicestershire Youth Cricket League (LRYC)

***Consultation***

In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all other cricket clubs playing in the District. Contact details were provided by LCCCCT and invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email. Including face to face consultation, a total of nine clubs responded representing a 90% club response rate, with only Castle Donington CC non-responsive. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report. The following clubs were met with face to face:

* Ashby Hastings CC
* Ibstock Town CC
* Kegworth Town CC
* Long Whatton CC

**3.1: Supply**

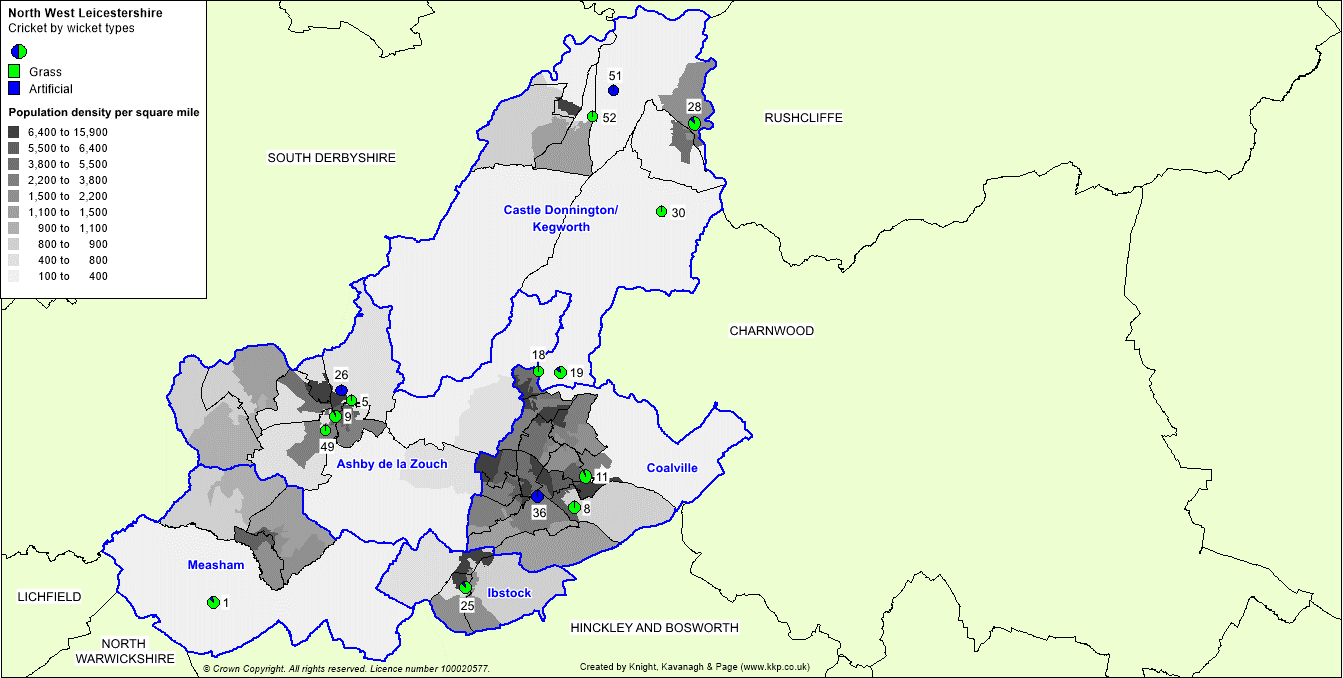
***Quantity***

In total, there are 12 natural turf cricket squares across 11 sites, all of which are considered to be available for community use and have been used by community clubs during the 2016 season. All squares available to the community have been used by clubs this season. Long Whatton Cricket Club is the only site with two squares, one of which is used exclusively for junior cricket and cannot be used for senior cricket.

***Disused and lapsed pitches***

There is one disused cricket square at Belton Recreation Ground and one lapsed cricket square at Owen Street Sports Ground, both of which are sites now primarily used for football. Owen Street Sports Ground was previously used by Snibston Grange Cricket Club which folded in 2011 and is now the home of Coalville Town FC which leases the site from the Council.

*Figure 3.1: Location of cricket squares in North West Leicestershire*

**

See Table 3.1 for key to the map.

***Non-turf pitches (NTPs)***

Competitive senior cricket is permitted by the ECB to take place on NTPs though it is acknowledged that they may not be appropriate for higher standards of play, yet most leagues do not sanction play to take place on NTPs. Use of NTPs typical extends to junior and school cricket and for training purposes with the aid of mobile nets.

There are seven NTPs located in North West Leicestershire, five of which accompany grass wickets:

*Table 3.1: Summary of NTPs and grass wickets in North West Leicestershire*

| **Site ID** | **Site** | **Analysis Area** | **No. of NTPs** | **No. Grass Wickets** | | **Position** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Appleby Magna Recreation Ground | Measham | 1 | | 7 | Square |
| 5 | Ashby School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 1 | | 6 | Square |
| 8 | Bardon Hill Sports Club | Coalville | - | | 15 | Square |
| 9 | Bath Grounds | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 1 | | 14 | Square |
| 11 | Broomleys Cricket Club | Coalville | 1 | | 16 | Square |
| 19 | Grace Dieu Manor School | Castle Donington/Kegworth | 1 | | - | Standalone |
| 18 | Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club |  | - | | 11 | Square |
| 25 | Ibstock Town Cricket Club | Ibstock | 1 | | 9 | Square |
| 26 | Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 1 | | - | Standalone |
| 28 | King George V Playing Field | Castle Donington/Kegworth | 1 | | 8 | Square |
| 30 | Long Whatton Cricket Club | Castle Donington/Kegworth | - | | 16 | 2 x Squares |
| 36 | Newbridge High School Academy | Coalville | 1 | | - | Standalone |
| 49 | Western Park | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | - | | 5 | Square |
| 51 | Hemmington Recreational Ground | Castle Donington/Kegworth | 1 | | - | Standalone |
| 52 | Moira Dale Recreation Ground | Castle Donington/Kegworth | - | | 8 | Square |

Castle Donington Town CC currently uses the NTP at Hemmington Recreational Ground for U11 matches. Likewise, Kegworth Town CC reports using the NTPs at King George V Playing Field for U10 and U11 matches.

The ECB’s TS6 Guidance on performance standards sets requirements for match squares that are NTPs. The ECB highlights that squares which follow this guidance are suitable for high level play. It should be noted that this is guidance for clubs and not standards.

NTPs are considered able to accommodate 60 matches per season, though this may include training sessions where mobile nets may be used as a practice facility.

***Security of tenure***

The nature of ownership and management of cricket sites in North West Leicestershire is varied, as is security of tenure. The majority of clubs (40%) play at Parish or Town Council owned sites either through leasehold or rental. Packington CC rents the pitch at Ashby School and is the only club based at a school site.

Both Long Whatton CC and Kegworth Town CC are considered to have unsecure tenure at their home sites. Long Whatton CC has a formal agreement with a private estate owner for use of the land but the Club highlights the lack of secured long term use as limiting potential to access grant funding opportunities. In theory, the Club can be removed from the land at any time, though in practice it is unlikely as it has played onsite for several decades and has a good relationship with the landowner.

Kegworth Town CC is one of three sports clubs that form the Playing Field Community (PFC), a King George V Playing Fields user group which also includes Kegworth FC and Kegworth Tennis Club. The PFC has an annually renewed tenancy agreement with the KegworthParish Council for use of the land.

Furthermore, aforementioned Packington CC (Ashby School) and Castle Donington CC (Moira Dale Recreation Ground) are both considered to have unsecure tenure as they currently rent the use of their home venues. Although these sites are realistically going to have cricket provision on them in the future a formalised lease should be created, at each site, to ensure the longevity of both clubs and provision.

*Table 3.2: Summary of tenure at cricket sites*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **Club users** | **Type of tenure** | **Nature of tenure** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Appleby Magna Recreation Ground | Measham | Appleby Magna CC | **Unsecure** | Rented from Appleby Magna Parish Council |
| 5 | Ashby School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Packington CC | **Unsecure** | Rented from Ashby School. |
| 8 | Bardon Hill Sports Club | Coalville | Bardon Hill CC | Secure | Leased from Bardon Quarry, four years remaining of the 25 year agreement. |
| 9 | Bath Ground | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Ashby Hastings CC | Secure | Subleased from Ashby-de-la-Zouch Town Council. Seven years remaining. |
| 11 | Broomleys Cricket Club | Coalville | Broomley CC | Secure | Club owned |
| 18 | Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club | Castle Donington/Kegworth | Grace Dieu Park CC | Secure | Club owned |
| 25 | Ibstock Town Cricket Club | Ibstock | Ibstock Town CC | Secure | Club owned |
| 28 | King George V Playing Fields | Castle Donington/Kegworth | Kegworth Town CC | Secure | Tenancy agreement between Parish Council and Playing Field Community. |
| 30 | Long Whatton Cricket Club | Castle Donington/Kegworth | Long Whatton CC | **Unsecure** | Formal agreement with private land owner. |
| 52 | Moira Dale Recreation Ground | Castle Donington/Kegworth | Castle Donington Town CC | **Unsecure** | Rented from Castle Donington Parish Council. |

***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 assessments carried out on grass cricket squares in North West Leicestershire found three squares to be of good quality and eight of standard quality, with one poor quality square at Western Park. Squares assessed as good quality were at Ibstock Town Cricket Club, King George V Playing Fields and Long Whatton Cricket Club.

*Table 3.3: Individual site quality scores*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Club using site** | **Non-technical rating quality score** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Appleby Magna Recreation Ground | Appleby Magna CC | Standard |
| 5 | Ashby School | Packington CC | Standard |
| 8 | Bardon Hill Sports Club | Bardon Hill CC | Standard |
| 9 | Bath Grounds | Ashby Hastings CC | Standard |
| 11 | Broomleys Cricket Club | Broomleys CC | Standard |
| 18 | Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club | Grace Dieu Park CC | Standard |
| 25 | Ibstock Town Cricket Club | Ibstock Town CC | Good |
| 28 | King George V Playing Field | Kegworth Town CC | Good |
| 30 | Long Whatton Cricket Club | Long Whatton CC | Good |
| Long Whatton CC (Junior section) | Standard |
| 49 | Western Park | - | Poor |
| 52 | Moira Dale Recreational Ground | Castle Donington Town CC | Standard |

Western Park is the only site to be rated as poor quality, used by Ashby Hastings CC 3rd team until late in the 2016 season. At the beginning of the season the Club maintained an eight wicket square onsite but throughout the season both it and the outfield diminished in quality due to poor weather, making it more difficult to maintain. This led the Club to reduce the number of wickets it prepared on the square to five. The Club states that the site is now in such poor condition that it is unsuitable for cricket use. Consequently, as from the start of the 2017 season the team will no longer play competitive Saturday cricket due to a lack of sufficient quality pitches and will instead play friendly matches on Sundays at the Bath Grounds, ceasing use of Western Park entirely. Ashby Town Council reports that it is unlikely it will be used for cricket in the future as it is difficult to maintain a wicket, however, it will remain available for cricket if a club wishes to use the site.

In support of the assessment findings, all responding clubs report their squares to be either good or standard quality. All clubs, believe their squares have either sustained or improved in quality since last season, with the exception of Bardon Hill Sports Club where the square is reported to have declined in quality, mainly due to the effects of its susceptibility to flooding.

Packington CC reports several issues with the outfield at Ashby School. The Club believes that the grass is not cut short enough for cricket by the school, leading the Club to invest both funds and time with limited maintenance equipment to ensure the outfield is in suitable condition for play. The outfield is also subject to dog fouling and surface damage in some areas. The Club is limited in the level of investment it can make towards maintenance which is not broadly responsible for, all while having unsecure tenure through rental.

Appleby Magna CC reports that the square at Appleby Magna Recreation Ground is in close proximity to residential housing and that the outfield is relatively small, leading to some issues with local residents.

Grace Dieu Park CC reports that it can only use the middle five wickets for senior matches of the 11 available on the square. The three wickets on either side of these are unusable for senior competitive play as they are located too close to the boundary. Subsequently, the middle five wickets receive the most use by senior teams.

Maintaining a high quality playing surface is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. To obtain a full technical assessment of wickets and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment to determine whether a cricket square meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. There are three categories of measurement that relate to the overall quality of the square: structural quality, presentational quality and playing quality. Once a square has been assessed it is given a quality rating as shown in the table below.

*Table 3.4: Performance Quality Standard Ratings*

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

Both Long Whatton CC and Ashby School have PQS assessments. Long Whatton CC was assessed in June 2015. The square scored above average (57%) and obtained an overall quality of Club (Standard). This is due to certain areas of the assessment (soil quality, length of grass sward and weeds) receiving an unsuitable rating and recommendations suggested that improvements were required in these areas. The PQS for Ashby School reported no specific issues with the square and the site as a whole was assessed as average, though Packington CC did not indicate an official quality rating.

***Ancillary facilities***

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

*Table 3.5: Summary of ancillary facilities quality*

| **Good** | **Acceptable** | **Poor** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bardon Hill Sports Club  Broomleys CC  Ibstock Town CC  King George V Playing Field | Moira Dale Recreational Ground  Grace Dieu Park CC  Long Whatton CC | Appleby Magna Recreation Ground  Bath Grounds  Ashby School |

The majority of clubs report the ancillary facilities they use to be good (40%) quality, with the remaining acceptable (30%) or poor (30%). The clubhouse at the Bath Grounds has been vandalised several times over the past three years. Ashby Hastings CC believes that an improvement in clubhouse quality would help increase both junior and senior participation.

Clubhouse facilities at Ashby School are also reported as poor by Packington CC. The pavilion used by the Club has been vandalised within the past year and requires improvement.

Kegworth Town CC is currently submitting plans to extend the pavilion at King George V Playing Field. It currently has two changing rooms with shared showering facilities but plans are for the creation of separate changing rooms with facilities suitable to accommodate male and female teams.

***Training facilities***

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. The following squares in North West Leicestershire are currently accompanied by fixed bay practice nets:

* Bath Grounds (Ashby Hastings CC)
* Broomleys Cricket Club (Broomleys CC)
* Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club (Grace Dieu Park CC)
* Ibstock Town Cricket Club (Ibstock Town CC)
* King George V Playing Field (Kegworth Town CC)
* Long Whatton Cricket Club (Long Whatton CC)

Training provision is well catered for with all of the clubs that responded to consultation reporting no need for any additional facilities. Kegworth Town CC, however, report that due to its location, it is unable to use the practice nets whilst a match is taking place. Broomleys CC and Grace Dieu Park CC report that even though they both have adequate training provision they do require additional non-turf practice nets.

**3.3: Demand**

In total, there are ten clubs playing competitive matches in North West Leicestershire generating 51 teams, made up of 23 senior men’s, one senior women's and 27 junior boys’ teams.

*Table 3.6: Summary of teams in North West Leicestershire*

| **Club name** | **No. of competitive teams** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Senior men** | **Senior women** | **Junior boys** | **Junior girls** |
| Appleby Magna CC | 3 | - | 3 | - |
| Ashby Hastings CC | 3 | - | 7 | - |
| Bardon Hill CC | 3 | - | - | - |
| Broomleys CC | 2 | - | - | - |
| Castle Donington Town CC | 2 | - | 2 | - |
| Grace Dieu Park CC | 2 | - | 4 | - |
| Ibstock Town CC | 2 | 1 | 2 | - |
| Kegworth Town CC | 2 | - | 4 | - |
| Long Whatton CC | 3 | - | 5 | - |
| Packington CC | 1 | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **23** | **1** | **27** | **0** |

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 in decline, although this is being offset by a rapid increase in non-traditional formats (such as Last Man Stands and T20 competitions), which are shorter, quicker formats of the game. This is also the case in North West Leicestershire with all clubs reporting senior participation as static or decreasing.

Junior cricket within the area is seen to be remaining the same or increasing, with Ibstock Town CC, Ashby Hastings CC and Kegworth Town CC all proactively working with local schools to improve junior participation levels at their clubs.

***Women’s and girls’ cricket***

Women’s and girls’ cricket is a national priority for the ECB and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority over the next five years. 8-10% of the Whole Sport Plan funding is focused around women and girls and talent identification.

Currently only Ibstock Town CC has a senior women’s team, although Long Whatton CC, Ashby Hastings CC and Kegworth Town CC all state that they are currently trying to increase female participation.

***Last Man Stands (LMS)***

Last Man Stands (LMS) is a social, eight-a-side T20 format played midweek, with matches lasting approximately two hours and generally played on NTPs. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and affiliates to the ECB, operating nationwide on a franchise basis.

At present, there is no LMS league servicing North West Leicestershire and it is not currently considered as a target area by either the ECB or LCCCCT. There is limited demand for senior midweek cricket in North West Leicestershire with the majority of play in this time period coming from either junior league or ad hoc senior cup competitions.

***Unmet demand***

None of the clubs report current unmet demand for cricket squares. That is, no clubs report that teams were unable to play due to a lack of provision.

***Displaced demand***

Exported or displaced demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because pitch requirements cannot be met. This is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. Similarly, teams may be displaced from neighbouring authorities for the same reasons, importing demand to access provision in North West Leicestershire.

Kegworth Town CC men’s third team exports demand to Derby Road Playing Fields (Charnwood), approximately 11 minutes (5.4 miles) from King George V Playing Field. Ideally, the Club would prefer to have all teams playing at the same site; however, this is not possible without the creation of a second pitch due to the need to accommodate three teams playing on Saturday afternoons. As of the 2017 season the Club’s third team will still be displaced but relocate to Sutton Bonington CC (Charnwood).

***Future demand***

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

*Table 3.7: Team generation rates (District Wide)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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** |
| Senior Men’s (18-55) | 23,255 | 23 | 1:1011 | 24,291 | 24 | 1 |
| Senior Women’s (18-55) | 23,612 | 1 | 1:23612 | 24,905 | 1 | 0 |
| Junior Boys (7-18) | 6,990 | 27 | 1:259 | 7,857 | 30 | 3 |
| Junior Girls (7-18) | 6,496 | 0 | 0 | 7,273 | 0 | 0 |

Population increases are likely to result in four additional teams in North West Leicestershire; however, this is when TGRs are applied district wide. Once applied to individual Analysis Areas there is predicted increase of one junior boys’ teams (7-18), which is located in the Castle Donington/Kegworth Analysis Area.

*Table 3.8: Team generation rates (by Analysis Area)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age group** | **Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)** | | | | | |
| **Ashby-de-la-Zouch** | **Castle Donington/Kegworth** | **Coalville** | **Ibstock** | **Measham** | **Total** |
| Senior Men’s (18-55) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Senior Women’s (18-55) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Junior Boys (7-18) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| Junior Girls (7-18) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |

It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, GCB are requesting ‘expressions of interest’ from clubs to be part of its new All Stars programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from 5 to 8. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

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

Additionally, five clubs report ambitions to grow the number of teams they operate. Appleby Magna CC would like to increase its junior section by three teams after recent decreases in junior participation. Similarly, Broomleys CC has also stated that it wishes to increase its junior section by three additional teams.

Ibstock Town CC is the most ambitious of the clubs with aspirations to increase the number of both senior and junior teams by one ladies senior team and two junior teams (1 boy and 1 girl).

The remaining clubs (Long Whatton CC and Ashby Hastings CC) wish to grow, both junior and senior, cricket at their clubs, however, do not indicate by how many teams as their growth is part of their written sports development plans and is expected to be gradual in the forthcoming years.

***Peak time demand***

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturday afternoon (20 teams - 83% of senior teams). For junior cricket, peak time demand is considered to be midweek, although some teams do play on a Sunday. Midweek cricket has the potential to be spread across numerous days between Monday and Friday and as a result squares have greater capacity to carry junior demand (providing they are not overplayed). This considered sufficient access should be retained for square preparation, repair and maintenance.

**3.4: Capacity analysis**

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

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

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

As mentioned earlier, the ECB also suggests that a non-turf pitch can accommodate 60 matches per season. As no NTPs are recorded as accommodating more than this in North West Leicestershire, they are all considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity as they are generally accessed during midweek by junior teams and as a result can be used on a variety of days. For this reason, non-turf pitch capacity has been discounted from the table overleaf.

*Table 3.9: Natural turf cricket square capacity*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Clubs users** | **Analysis Area** | **Type of tenure** | **Community use?** | **No. of squares** | **No. of wickets** | **Quality** | **Actual play (sessions per season)** | **Capacity (sessions per season)** | **Capacity rating (sessions per season)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Appleby Magna Recreation Ground | Appleby Magna CC | Measham | **Unsecure** | Yes | 1 | 7 | Standard | 32 | 35 | 3 |
| 5 | Ashby School | Packington CC | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | Yes | 1 | 6 | Standard | 12 | 30 | 18 |
| 8 | Bardon Hill Sports Club | Bardon Hill CC | Coalville | Secure | Yes | 1 | 15 | Standard | 26 | 75 | 49 |
| 9 | Bath Grounds | Ashby Hastings CC | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Yes | 1 | 14 | Standard | 52 | 70 | 18 |
| 11 | Broomleys Cricket Club | Broomleys CC | Coalville | Secure | Yes | 1 | 16 | Standard | 24 | 80 | 56 |
| 18 | Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club | Grace Dieu Park CC | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | Secure | Yes | 1 | 5 | Standard | 39 | 25 | -14 |
| 25 | Ibstock Town Cricket Club | Ibstock Town CC | Ibstock | Secure | Yes | 1 | 9 | Good | 37 | 45 | 8 |
| 28 | King George V Playing Field | Kegworth Town CC | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Yes | 1 | 8 | Good | 40 | 40 | - |
| 30 | Long Whatton Cricket Club | Long Whatton CC | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | **Unsecure** | Yes | 1 | 12 | Good | 46 | 60 | 14 |
| 49 | Western Park | - | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | **Unsecure** | Yes – Unused | 1 | 5 | Poor | 0 | 25 | 25 |
| 52 | Moira Dale Recreation Ground | Castle Donington Town CC | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | **Unsecure** | Yes | 1 | 8 | Standard | 30 | 40 | 10 |

In addition, the junior grass wicket square at Long Whatton Cricket Club has also not been included as it is not suitable for senior cricket. That being said, it is evident that the square is used to capacity for junior cricket and therefore no further play should take place beyond current demand.

Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club capacity is based upon five wickets, aforementioned, only five out of the 11 wickets in the square are used for competitive senior play. Some junior play, however, can still be accommodated on the wicket unsuitable for competitive senior matches.

**3.5: 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 ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

*Table 3.10: Actual square capacity on senior natural turf cricket squares in North West Leicestershire*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Spare capacity (match sessions)** | **Match sessions available**  **(Saturday PM)** | **Comments** |
| 1 | Appleby Magna Recreation Ground | 3 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| 5 | Ashby School | 18 | 0.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 8 | Bardon Hill Sports Club | 49 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| 9 | Bath Grounds | 18 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| 11 | Broomleys Cricket Club | 56 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| 25 | Ibstock Town Cricket Club | 8 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| 30 | Long Whatton Cricket Club | 14 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| 49 | Western Park | 13 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. |
| 52 | Moira Dale Recreation Ground | 10 | - | No actual spare capacity at peak time. |

In practice, no squares display potential spare capacity, even though two sites indicate they are available at peak time for senior cricket (Saturday afternoon). Ashby School currently has one team playing at peak time and can accommodate a further team but tenure is deemed as unsecure as it is located at a School site and is therefore discounted. The spare capacity at Western Park is also discounted due to the poor quality of the site, which led to Ashby Hastings CC relocating its demand. That being said, should quality improve in the future, there is capacity for two additional senior teams to play on the site in the peak period. The remaining community available sites are used to capacity during the peak period for cricket.

***Overplay***

Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club is currently shown as overplayed by 14 sessions a season, as demand is placed upon the five wickets usable for competitive play.

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 to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. As a large percentage of usage comes from junior cricket, the best solution would be to transfer some junior demand to sites with spare capacity, or to sites with non-turf wickets, providing the arrangement suits all parties involved. A non-turf wicket could also be provided on site in order to transfer senior play from the grass wickets. Furthermore, expanding the potential boundary limit could increase the number of wickets available for use and therefore help spread the current demand and limit overplay. The LCCCT reports that is believes this level of overplay is sustainable if the quality of the wickets is improved.

**3.6: Conclusions**

In North West Leicestershire, there is a sufficient supply of cricket squares to accommodate current senior demand; however, all suitable squares are used to capacity at peak time (Saturday PM) with the exception of Western Park, which has quality issues and is currently unused.

Any spare capacity that is suggested, however, does not actually represent an oversupply of cricket provision. All cricket squares in the District should be retained as there is a need to ensure provision to serve demand at a local level, due to the rural nature of many parts of the District and the need for access to facilities within close proximity. Spare capacity which exists at non-peak times such as Sundays or midweek should be utilised to develop participation and further play, for example short format cricket or aspirations to create a second women’s team at Ibstock CC.

Future demand from three clubs (Ashby Hastings CC, Ibstock Town CC and Long Whatton CC) wanting to grow their respective senior sections is presently aspirational. As this is unable to be quantified, future demand is presently considered able to be accommodated by existing provision. However, growth in demand and requirements to access additional peak time capacity should be reviewed over time. Western Park should be retained and improved to provide reserve capacity able to accommodate future growth, whilst additional new provision may be required, or disused provision reinstated.

With regards to junior cricket and future demand expressed by clubs, as previously mentioned, teams can play on NTPs and generally play midweek on a variety of days; consequently, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future. Each grass wicket square that is not overplayed is considered to have spare capacity for an increase in midweek demand, and no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed. That said, there is evidence to suggest that an increase in provision of NTPs would further help satisfy junior demand, as well as providing an increase in capacity for senior matches on grass wickets.

|  |
| --- |
| **Cricket summary**   * In total, there are 12 grass cricket squares in North West Leicestershire across 11 sites all of which are available for community use. There are also ten non-turf pitches. * Long Whatton Cricket Club is the only site to host two cricket squares as it hosts one senior and one junior square. * There is one disused pitch at Belton Recreation Ground and one lapsed site which is Owen Street Sports Ground. * The non-technical assessments carried out on cricket squares in North West Leicestershire found three squares to be of good quality, eight of standard quality, with one poor quality square located at Western Park. * Western Park is currently used by Ashby Hastings CC’s third team, however, due to its poor quality it is unlikely to be used in the 2017 season for cricket. Ashby Hastings CC will remove its third team and replace it with a Sunday friendly team. * Long Whatton CC and Kegworth Town CC do not have a secure lease on their sites. This affects the amount of funding they can obtain. * Furthermore, Packington CC (Ashby School) and Castle Donington CC (Moira Dale Recreation Ground) are both considered to have unsecure tenure as they currently rent the use of their home venues * The majority of ancillary facilities in North West Leicestershire are deemed to be good (40%) with the remaining being acceptable (30%) or poor (30%). The two ancillary facilities reported as poor are Ashby Schools and Bath Ground. The Bath Ground requires immediate attention. * Generally, training provision is well catered for with all of the clubs that responded to consultation. * Ashby Hastings CC, Appleby Magna CC, Broomleys CC, Ibstock Town CC and Long Whatton CC all wish to grow their teams, with the majority wanting to strengthen their junior sections. * Population increases are likely to result in no additional future demand in North West Leicestershire; however, this is when TGRs are applied district wide. Once applied to individual Analysis Areas there is predicted increase of five junior boys’ teams (7-18), which is divided to one team in each Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Castle Donington/Kegworth, Coalville, Ibstock and Measham. * There are 51 teams in North West Leicestershire; 24 senior men’s, one senior woman’s and 27 junior boys. * All sites are played at capacity during peak period (Saturday PM) with one site, Grace Dieu Park Cricket Club, overplayed by 14 match sessions. * Currently, there is sufficient supply of natural turf cricket squares in North West Leicestershire to meet both current and future demand. Current supply should be protected, including the retention of Western Park as the only site with peak time capacity to accommodate any future growth in demand. * With regards to junior cricket, teams can play on non-turf wickets and generally play midweek on a variety of days; consequently, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future. |

# PART 5: RUGBY UNION

**5.1: Introduction**

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into six areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. North West Leicestershire falls within Area Four, with a Rugby Development Officer (RDO) and two community rugby coaches (CRCs) that deliver core programmes in schools and clubs.

***Consultation***

There are three rugby union clubs in North West Leicestershire; Ashby RFC, Castle Donington RFC and Coalville RFC. Consultation with both Castle Donington RFC and Coalville RFC was undertaken face to face with Ashby RFC completing a telephone consultation, representing a 100% club response rate.

Both Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC affiliate to Leicestershire Rugby Union, whereas, Castle Donington RFC affiliates to Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire Rugby Football Union.

**5.2: Supply**

There are 22 rugby union pitches in North West Leicestershire, made up of 16 senior and six mini sized pitches, all located across eight sites. In total, there are 11 pitches available for community use and presently used; whilst eight pitches at school sites are reported to be available but unused.

Three pitches at Grace Dieu Manor School are unavailable for community use as they are reserved for private use by the School. It reports that the pitches are used heavily for curriculum and extra curriculum activity and quality needs to be retained for this purpose.

There was previously a second senior rugby union pitch at Spital Park. Castle Donington RFC has just one team and use of a floodlit area for training, as such the pitch was reconfigured for football due to insufficient demand for the use of two rugby union pitches.

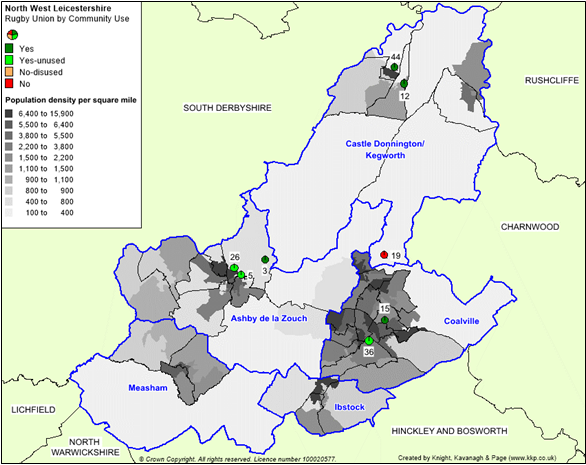
There are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in North West Leicestershire.

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

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | **Pitch type** | **Maximum Pitch Dimensions (Metres)** |
| U7 | Mini | 20x12 |
| U8 | Mini | 45x22 |
| U9 | Mini | 60x30 |
| U10 | Mini | 60x35 |
| U11 | Mini | 60x43 |
| U12 | Mini | 60x43 |
| U13 | Junior | 90x60 (Girls 60x43) |
| U14-U18 | Senior | 100x70 (94x68 minimum)  *Recommended run off area 5m each way.*  *Minimum in-goal length 6m.* |
| Senior | Senior |

*Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches in North West Leicestershire*

**

For a key to the map overleaf see Table 5.6.

***Future Supply***

The RFU reports Ashby RFC is currently developing a second site known as the Memorial Ground. This site has been accessed by the Club in the past and will be used as an overspill for weekends and midweek training. It has obtained a ten year lease from the Trust, which owns the site, reporting it will create a full size senior rugby pitch to primarily be used by its junior and mini teams.

***Ownership/management***

Rugby union in North West Leicestershire is heavily focused around two clubs (Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC) with 56% of all pitch provision located at these sites. Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC own their respective sites and therefore tenure is considered secure.

Castle Donington RFC uses Spital Park, a Parish Council managed site. The Club has a ten year licence with Castle Donington Parish Council for use of the rugby union pitch and training area; however, there is a need to secure tenure through formal agreement for the long term.

There are a number of unused senior pitches at school sites but these are only used for school fixtures, training and curricular activity. These eight pitches are located across four schools; Ashby School, Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre, Castle Donington College and Newbridge High School Academy.

***Pitch quality***

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated.

The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

*Table 5.2: 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 |

Of the available community pitches in North West Leicestershire, none are assessed as good quality, 11 are assessed as standard quality and eight are assessed as poor quality.

*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** |
| - | 8 | 8 | - | - | - | - | 3 | - |

Table 5.6 shows the quality ratings for each of the pitches in North West Leicestershire based on a combination of non-technical site assessments and user consultation.

*Table 5.6: Rugby union site quality ratings*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **Ownership/**  **Management** | **Community use** | **Pitch type** | **Non-technical assessment rating** | **Quality rating** | **Number of pitches** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Ashby RFC | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Sports Club | Yes | Senior | M1/D2 | Standard | 1 | One standard quality pitch which has recently been drained and with assistance from the RFU and Biffa had a secondary drainage system installed. |
| Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | 2 | Two standard quality senior pitches and one standard quality mini pitch. One of the senior pitches is floodlit. |
| Mini | M1/D1 | Standard | 1 |
| 5 | Ashby School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Education | Yes - unused | Senior | M0/D1 | Poor | 2 | Two poor quality senior pitches. All pitches are reported to drain poorly and receive basic levels of maintenance. The school reports no interest externally for the use of the pitches and the only use currently is for curriculum activity. The pitches are publicly accessible and suffer from dog fouling and unauthorised use. |
| 12 | Castle Donington College | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | Education | Yes - unused | Senior | M0/D1 | Poor | 1 | One poor quality senior pitch which receives minimal maintenance. The school reports no interest externally for the use of the pitch and the only use currently is for curriculum activity. |
| 15 | Coalville RFC | Coalville | Sports Club | Yes | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | 4 | Four senior pitches. Pitch one is fully floodlit with pitch two and three having partial training lights. Pitch four has some minor lighting across half of the pitch; however, this is the least used pitch. The three main pitches have pipe slit drainage installed but this is approximately 15 years old and in need of refurbishment or replacing as it is causing drainage issues. Coalville RFC is currently working with the RFU regarding this issue. |
| Mini | M1/D1 | Standard | 2 |
| 19 | Grace Dieu Manor School | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | Education | No | Mini | M1/D1 | Standard | 3 | Independent School with three mini pitches, all of which are maintained well. There is no community use of the pitches as the school wishes to protect quality for the high levels of curriculum activity. |
| 26 | Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Education | Yes - unused | Senior | M0/D0 | Poor | 3 | Three poor quality senior pitches. All pitches drain poorly and receive basic levels of maintenance. The school reports no interest externally for use of the pitches and the only use currently is for curriculum activity. |
| 36 | Newbridge High School Academy | Coalville | Education | Yes - unused | Senior | M0/D1 | Poor | 2 | Two poor quality senior pitches. Both pitches suffer from poor drainage and receive basic levels of maintenance. The school reports no interest externally for use of the pitches and the only use currently is for curriculum activity. |
| 44 | Spital Park | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | Parish Council | Yes | Senior | M1/D1 | Standard | 1 | One main pitch located outside of the pavilion. Pitch suffers from occasional drainage issues. Issues with dog fouling. |

***Ancillary facilities***

All clubs in North West Leicestershire have access to changing room provision for home games at their main sites. Though pitches are reported to be available at school sites, in practice they may not be desirable for use by clubs if there is no access to onsite changing facilities. These may be located within main school buildings and inaccessible at weekends due to a lack of staffing.

Castle Donington RFC rents use of the pavilion at Spital Park on a match by match basis. The pavilion is maintained by Castle Donington Parish Council and it is reported by the Club to be in acceptable condition with no real issues. Ancillary facilities at Coalville RFC are in good condition as the building they are situated in is only 15 years old.

Ashby RFC reports its current ancillary facilities to be of adequate quality; however, they do not meet RFU requirements. The Club is looking for revenue streams to extend its clubhouse to create additional changing rooms and social space to meet growing demand, especially from female participation as current changing rooms are not user friendly.

**5.3: Demand**

Demand for rugby union pitches in North West Leicestershire tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

***Competitive play***

Three rugby union clubs play in North West Leicestershire, providing a total of 34 teams. Coalville RFC is the largest of the three clubs with four senior, eight junior and six mini teams, closely followed by Ashby RFC which has two senior, seven junior and six mini teams. On the other hand, Castle Donington RFC fields a single senior team playing on a regular basis.

Included in the abovementioned team numbers are four junior girls’ teams and a single senior women’s team. Both Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC have an U15s and U13s girls’ team, with Coalville RFC also having a senior women’s and U18s junior team.

*Table 5.7: Summary of demand by Analysis Area*

| **Club** | **Analysis Area** | **Number of rugby union teams** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Men’s** | **Women’s** | **Boys’** | **Girls’** | **Mini** |
| Ashby RFC | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 2 | - | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Castle Donington RFC | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Coalville RFC | Coalville | 3[[23]](#footnote-23) | 1 | 6 | 2 | 6 |
| **Total** | | **6** | **1** | **11** | **4** | **12** |

***Training***

Training generally takes place on match pitches which have full or partial floodlighting, with some use of AGPs when pitches are unusable due to poor weather conditions. Coalville RFC occasionally accesses the 3G pitch located at Newbridge High School Academy during the week, whereas, Ashby RFC accesses the sand filled AGP at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre and a small floodlit training area at its home venue.

It should be stated that Ashby RFC reports a demand for additional floodlighting on its better quality senior pitch. The Club has aspiration to install floodlights to this pitch and use it for the entire Clubs training demand. This is identified by Leicestershire Rugby Union for priority investment.

All teams at Coalville RFC train onsite on parts of the two floodlit pitches where there is partial floodlighting. The first team pitch onsite has floodlights but is not used for training to help preserve its quality. Ashby RFC and Castle Donington RFC host training on floodlit training areas which are located next to the match pitches at their respective sites. Some of this demand encroaches onto the competitive pitches.

An 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 3G pitches 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.

Generally, senior men train biweekly on training pitches for 90 minutes, whilst the senior women train weekly for the same duration. Older junior teams (U17 and U18 age groups) also use the training pitch once weekly for a 90 minute session. Mini teams do not train during the week, instead training on the mini pitches on Sundays when there is no fixture. The nature of mini rugby programming means that demand onsite can often exceed the number of available mini pitches if there are no matches scheduled and most age groups are training, leading to some use of adult pitches where required.

***O2 Touch***

O2 Touch is a non-contact form of rugby played socially across club sites across the country. The aim of the sport is to provide a fun environment to socialise and improve fitness levels. O2 Touch is currently played at the Ashby RFC (Ashby RFC) throughout the year. This has proven to be successful for the Club as it hosts weekly sessions of approximately 30 people.

***Future demand***

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

*Table 5.8: Team generation rates (District wide)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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** |
| Senior Men’s (19-45) | 15,156 | 7 | 1:2,165 | 17,314 | 8 | 1 |
| Senior Women’s (19-45) | 15,657 | 1 | 1:15,657 | 17,786 | 1 | 0 |
| Junior Boys’ (13-18) | 3,455 | 11 | 1:314 | 3,826 | 12 | 1 |
| Junior Girls’ (13-18) | 3,206 | 5 | 1:641 | 3,567 | 5 | 0 |
| Mini rugby mixed (7-12) | 6,825 | 7 | 1:975 | 7,737 | 7 | 0 |

Table 5.8 initially suggests that when applied on a District wide level, TGRs are likely to result in the creation of two additional teams in North West Leicestershire. However, when applied at an individual Analysis Area level, there is not sufficient predicted growth in any one Area equivalent to create at least one full team at any age group. Subsequently, it is considered that growth will be club driven where resources and facilities are already established in place to do so and that new participants will join as part of existing squads.

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

*Participation increases*

Coalville RFC reports it is recently recovering from a small decline in participation levels and will try to increase team numbers once it again increases participation levels to be able to do so.

Castle Donington RFC is actively trying to increase numbers so that it can regularly field two senior teams. Currently it frequently hosts one full senior team, however can occasionally field a second senior team if it has enough players available to do so on some weeks. Through working with the local RFU development officer it has also tried to start a small junior section but has found it difficult to retain players to create a team.

Ashby RFC currently fields two senior men’s teams, however, the Club has growth plans to create a third senior team and additional mini teams with the next 18 months.

**5.4: Capacity analysis**

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

* All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
* All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
* From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch.
* Where mini pitches are not provided, mini (U7-12) teams play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch.
* For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
* For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played across half of one senior pitch, based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.
* All male adult club league rugby takes place on a Saturday afternoon.
* U13-18 rugby generally takes place on a Sunday morning.
* Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of team equivalents.
* Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

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

*Table 5.9: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments*

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

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

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

***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 North West Leicestershire is Saturday afternoons, although colts, junior and mini teams also access senior pitches on Sundays. Overall, peak time for use of senior rugby union pitches is considered to be Saturday afternoons.

Peak time for colts’ rugby is Saturday afternoons, whereas it is Sunday mornings for junior and mini rugby. For women’s and girls’ rugby, peak time is considered to be Sunday afternoons.

*Table 5.10: Rugby union provision and level of current community use (available and used)*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **Security of tenure** | **Pitch type** | **Quality rating** | **No. of pitches** | **Floodlighting** | **Match equivalent sessions**  **(per week)** | **Site capacity**  **(sessions per week)** | **Capacity rating** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Ashby RFC | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Secure | Senior | M1/D2  (Standard) | 1 | No | 1 | 2.5 | 1.5 | Senior pitch used by Ashby RFC with potential spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session per week. Drainage system is superior to the other two senior pitches onsite. |
| Senior | M1/D1  (Standard) | 2 | No | 5 | 4 | -1 | Two senior pitches used by Ashby RFC for O2 touch sessions and competitive match play. Overplayed by one match equivalent sessions per week. |
| Senior | M1/D1  (Standard) |
| Mini | M1/D1  (Standard) | 1 | No | 3 | 2 | -1 | Mini pitch used by Ashby RFC, overplayed by one match equivalent session per week. |
| 15 | Coalville RFC | Coalville | Secure | Senior | M1/D1  (Standard) | 1 | Yes | 1 | 2 | 1 | Senior pitch used by Coalville RFC with potential spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. |
| Senior | M1/D1  (Standard) | 2 | Yes (partial) | 5.75 | 4 | -1.75 | Two senior pitches used by Coalville RFC and overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week. These accommodate both match play and club training demand. |
| Senior | M1/D1  (Standard) | 1 | No | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | Senior pitch used by Coalville RFC with potential spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. |
| Mini | M1/D1  (Standard) | 1 | No | 1 | 2 | 1 | Mini pitch used by Coalville RFC with potential spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. |
| Mini | M1/D1  (Standard) | 1 | No | 1 | 2 | 1 | Mini pitch used by Coalville RFC with potential spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. |
| 44 | Spital Park | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | **Unsecure** | Senior | M1/D1  (Standard) | 1 | No | 1 | 2 | 1 | Senior pitch used by Castle Donington RFC for competitive match play and minor training demand with spare capacity of one match equivalent sessions per week. |

*Table 5.11: Rugby union provision at sites which are unused or are unavailable for community use*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **Availability for community use** | **Security of tenure** | **Pitch type** | **Quality rating** | **No. of pitches** | **Site capacity**  **(sessions per week)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5 | Ashby School | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Yes - unused | **Unsecure** | Senior | M0/D1  (Poor) | 2 | 3 |
| 12 | Castle Donington College | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | Yes - unused | **Unsecure** | Senior | M0/D1  (Poor) | 1 | 1.5 |
| 19 | Grace Dieu Manor School | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | No | **Unsecure** | Mini | M1/D1  (Standard) | 3 | 6 |
| 26 | Ivanhoe Specialist Technology Academy | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Yes - unused | **Unsecure** | Senior | M0/D0  (Poor) | 3 | 1.5 |
| 36 | Newbridge High School Academy | Coalville | Yes - unused | **Unsecure** | Senior | M0/D1  (Poor) | 2 | 3 |

**5.5: Supply and demand analysis**

***Spare capacity***

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

*Table 5.12: Summary of actual spare capacity on senior pitches*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **No. of senior pitches** | **Potential capacity** | **Actual capacity** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Ashby RFC | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 1 | 1.5 | - | No capacity at peak time. |
| 15 | Coalville RFC | Coalville | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | Currently used by just one senior team at peak time but the Club retains capacity to protect quality. |
| 1 | 1.5 | 1 | Currently unused at senior peak time. Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session exists. |
| 44 | Spital Park | Castle Donington/  Kegworth | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | Currently used by just one senior team. Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions discounted due to unsecure tenure. |

The programming of junior and mini rugby union matches can be unclear in regards to ascertaining actual spare capacity, especially at peak time as the number of matches played varies from week to week. Teams 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 four senior pitches across two sites that are overplayed by a combined 2.75 match equivalent sessions.

*Table 5.13: Overplay summary of senior pitches*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Analysis Area** | **No. of senior pitches** | **Overplay**  **(match equivalent sessions per week)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3 | Ashby RFC | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 2 | -1 |
| 15 | Coalville RFC | Coalville | 2 | -1.75 |
| **Total** | | | **4** | **-2.75** |

There are four pitches in North West Leicestershire which are overplayed, two at Coalville RFC and two at Ashby RFC. All of these pitches are overplayed as they accommodate both training demand and match play.

One dedicated mini pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session. This is not to say the remaining mini pitches all have capacity for an increase in demand. As aforementioned, due to the nature of mini and junior rugby, it is unlikely that those pitches already accommodating such demand have actual spare capacity for a significant increase in demand.

**5.6: 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 North West Leicestershire as a whole for senior rugby union based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on club development plans, where quantified, and includes future demand for mini, junior and colt’s teams as it is presumed that these will access senior pitches.

*Table 5.14: Supply and demand balance of senior rugby union pitches*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Analysis Area** | **Actual spare capacity[[24]](#footnote-24)** | **Demand (match equivalent sessions)** | | | |
| **Overplay** | **Current total** | **Future demand[[25]](#footnote-25)** | **Future total** |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch | - | -1.25[[26]](#footnote-26) | -1.25 | 0.5 | **-1.75** |
| Castle Donington/Kegworth | - | - | - | 0.5 | **-0.5** |
| Coalville | 1 | -1.75 | -0.75 | - | **-0.75** |
| Ibstock | - | - | - | - | **-** |
| Measham | - | - | - | - | **-** |
| **Total** | **1** | **-3** | **-2** | **1** | **-3** |

Overall, senior pitches in North West Leicestershire are overplayed; particularly those in the Coalville and Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Areas. When considering future demand, there is a need for an additional three match equivalent sessions per week. There is availability at peak time to accommodate future demand from Castle Donington RFC at Spital Park; however, there is a need to secure continued tenure for the Club as capacity is presently discounted on this basis, producing a future shortfall in the Castle Donington/Kegworth Analysis Area.

As shortfalls are located at two club based sites (Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC) alleviating overplay must cater to the particular issues at each site. The overplay located at Coalville RFC can be reduced through the improvement of drainage on the two pitches which are heavily used for match play and training demand, with the Club already in dialogue with the RFU regarding this matter.

With regards to alleviating overplay at Ashby RFC, the Club should be supported in the development of the Memorial Ground which will allow some training demand to be removed from current pitches at Ashby RFC. Additionally, improving drainage on the remaining two pitches at Ashby RFC will increase the pitches capacity, which will be needed if the Club continues to grow. The Club should also be supported with the creation of a training pitch. If the Club can obtain funding for the installation of floodlights on its better quality senior pitch it will reduce its expenditure on floodlit AGPs.

|  |
| --- |
| **Rugby union summary**   * In total, there are 22 rugby union pitches in North West Leicestershire, consisting of 16 senior and six mini rugby union pitches located across eight sites. Eleven pitches are available for community use and presently used, whilst eight pitches at school sites are reported to be available but unused. * Rugby union in North West Leicestershire is heavily focused around two large club sites (Ashby RFC and Coalville RFC) with one other single team club, Castle Donington RFC. * Castle Donington RFC is the only club which reports plans to increase the number of teams, by one additional senior team. * Training generally takes place on match pitches which have full or partial floodlighting, with some use of AGPs when pitches are unusable due to poor weather conditions. Coalville RFC occasionally accesses the 3G pitch at Newbridge High School Academy during the week, whereas Ashby RFC accesses the sand filled AGP at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre. * Three rugby union clubs play in North West Leicestershire, providing a total of 34 teams. There are six senior teams, of which, there is just one women’s team. There are eleven junior boys’ teams, four junior girls’ teams and 12 mini age groups. * Ashby RFC has aspirations to expand its ancillary facilities and create a floodlit training pitch. * Although there is some availability at school sites, pitch quality is poor and in practice school pitches may not be desirable for use by clubs if there is no access to onsite changing facilities, whilst additional cost of hiring offsite facilities may also influence the lack of club use. * Of the community available pitches in North West Leicestershire, none are assessed as good quality, 11 are assessed as standard quality and eight are assessed as poor quality. * There are four senior pitches across two sites that are overplayed by a combined 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week. * Overplay is generally due to training use of pitches, sustained weekly junior use and limited capacity on pitches due to poor quality. * Overall, there is current spare capacity of one match equivalent sessions per week identified on senior rugby union pitches, with only the Coalville Analysis Area deemed to have spare capacity. * However, there is a shortfall of 0.75 match sessions per week in the Coalville Analysis Area and 1.25 match sessions in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area. * When considering future demand reported by Castle Donington RFC and Ashby RFC there is a future need for an additional three match sessions per week District wide (including overplay on mini pitches). |

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# PART 6: HOCKEY

**6.1 Introduction**

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

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

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

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

For senior teams, a full sized pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91 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. England Hockey preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

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

***Club consultation***

There are currently four hockey clubs in North West Leicestershire, all of which were consulted with to inform the PPS. Face to face consultation was undertaken with Ashby HC whilst telephone consultation was undertaken with Coalville Town HC, Ashby Mixed HC and Rangers HC, representing a 100% club response rate.

**6.2: Supply**

There are two full sized hockey suitable AGPs in North West Leicestershire, both of which are floodlit and available for community use.

*Table 6.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs in North West Leicestershire*

| **Site ID** | **Site** | **Analysis Area** | **Floodlit** | **Size (metres)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 26 | Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Yes | 91 x 56 |
| 27 | King Edward VII Science and Sports College | Coalville | Yes | 92 x 56 |

In addition, there are also five small sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, as seen in the table below. Although too small to host competitive matches and senior training, they may be able to accommodate some junior or school training or curriculum use. Of the five pitches, two are located at Castle Donington College and all five are available for community use.

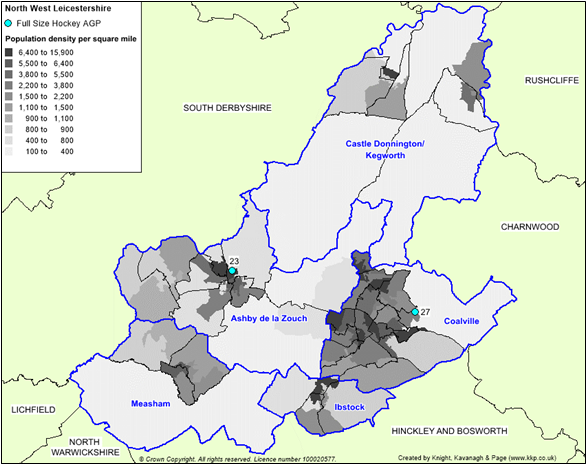
*Table 6.3: Summary of smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs*

| **Site ID** | **Site** | **Analysis Area** | **Community use** | **AGPs** | **Floodlit** | **Size (metres)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 12 | Castle Donington College | Castle Donington/ Kegworth | Yes | 2 | Yes | 38 x 36 |
| 24 | Ibstock Leisure Complex | Ibstock | Yes | 1 | Yes | 36 x 35 |
| 29 | Leicester Road | Ibstock | Yes | 1 | Yes | 40 x 30 |
| 38 | Oakthorpe Recreation Ground | Measham | Yes | 1 | Yes | 40 x 20 |

A number of these smaller sized AGPs are accessed by a variety of clubs for training demand, a list of which can be found below;

* Castle Donington College – Castle Donington RFC, Castle Donington FC
* Ibstock Leisure Complex – Ibstock United Juniors FC, Sporting Dynamo FC
* Leicester Road - Ibstock United Juniors FC

*Figure 6.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in North West Leicestershire*

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See Table 6.2 for key to the map.

***Quality***

There are variations in quality between the two hockey suitable AGPs in North West Leicestershire. The pitch at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre is rated as standard quality, though Ivanhoe College which uses it throughout the day, as well as feedback from a number of local football clubs using it for training, indicates perceptions amongst users that quality improvements are required. Issues highlighted include poor grip underfoot, poor line markings and moss growth. This considered, the Council reports that the pitch is maintained to schedule as required and that periodic quality reports from the subcontracted maintenance provider indicate that pitch quality is in line with what is to be expected given the age of the surface. The pitch is accessible to students throughout the school day which increases littering and potential for surface wear. Pitch quality should be monitored and reviewed and resurfacing should be considered in the short term to ensure that quality does not deteriorate over time to a point where it becomes unusable for club training and match play.

Although the pitch at King Edward VII Science and Sports College was built at the same time as the surface at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre, it is of comparably better quality. Coalville Town HC uses the pitch and reports it to be worn but still in a reasonable condition.

*Table 6.4: Summary of hockey suitable AGP quality*

| **Site ID** | **Site name** | **Surface type** | **Quality** | **Year built (refurbished)** | **Floodlit?** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 26 | Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre | Sand filled | Standard | 2005 | Yes |
| 27 | King Edward VII Science and Sports College | Sand dressed | Standard | 2005 | Yes |

It is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately 10 years (depending on levels of use), though its lifespan can be prolonged in some cases where maintenance is of particularly high quality and rigor. As shown in Table 6.3, both AGPs are in excess of the recommended ten year lifespan and should be considered for surface replacement dependent on performance. Neither of the pitches are reported to planned for refurbishment in the near future. Clubs which access the pitches indicate that any future refurbishment should be scheduled outside of the hockey season as there are no additional hockey suitable pitches for them to access for competitive matches within North West Leicestershire.

***Conversion to 3G surfaces***

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

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

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

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

***Management and security of tenure***

One of the two AGPs is located at King Edward VII Science and Sports College and is managed internally by the School. This is accessed by two hockey clubs, Coalville Town HC and Rangers Mixed HC, both of which rent use of the facility.

The AGP at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre is a joint venture by the Leisure Centre, neighbouring school Ivanhoe College, Hood Park Leisure Centre and Ashby Hockey Club. The site operates as a dual use facility, allowing the pitch to be used by the School during the week (9am - 5pm) before then being managed by the Leisure Centre for community access. As part of this arrangement there is a community use agreement in place which secures hockey use of the pitch for Ashby HC. An additional hockey club, Ashby Mixed HC, rents use of the pitch.

***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, all full size AGPs in North West Leicestershire are readily available to the community, with both pitches available for a minimum of 32 hours.

Both AGPs in North West Leicestershire are reserved for school use during the week. This does not impact the amount of availability at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre as it is can be accessed for the full 34 hour peak period, however, the AGP located at King Edward VII Science and Sports College can only be accessed at 17:30 (Monday to Thursday) which means it is only available for a total of 32 hours. This considered, the level of community use at both sites is good and there are no other restrictions limiting access.

*Table 6.5: Availability and usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs*

| **Site ID** | **Site** | **Analysis Area** | **Floodlit** | **Community use hours in the peak period (per AGP)** | **Clubs/groups using the pitch (teams)** | **Hockey use in peak period** | **Football / Rugby use in peak period** | **Spare capacity in peak period** | **Training capacity** | **Match capacity** | **Additional usage** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 26 | Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | Yes | Weekdays: 18 hours  Weekend: 16 hours  Total: 34 hours | Ashby HC | 13.5  (40%) | 9.5  (28%) | 9  (30%) | Ashby HC accesses half of the pitch for an hour every Monday and Tuesday for training. It also uses the full AGP for two hours on a Thursday evening. | Ashby HC uses the AGP all day Saturday (10- 17:30) for league matches and occasionally Sunday morning for ad-hoc games. Consequently, there is no spare capacity for additional use at peak time and the Club already has to travel outside North West Leicestershire as an overspill when required. | Pitch is used by football teams across the week for training (Ashby Ivanhoe FC, Marlborough Rovers FC and Ashby RFC).  Limited spare capacity exists on the pitch with only unfavorable time slots available during the week. There are six hours available on a Sunday 11:00-17:00 occasionally used for ad hoc bookings. |
| Ashby Mixed HC | 2  (2%) | Ashby Mixed HC uses the AGP for one match session per week to accommodate midweek training. | Ashby Mixed HC uses the AGP for one match session per week on a Saturday. |
| 27 | King Edward VII Science and Sports College | Coalville | Yes | Weekdays: 16 hours  Weekend: 16 hours  Total: 32 hours | Coalville Town HC | 15.5  (48%) | 10  (32%) | 4.5  (14%) | Coalville Town HC has three training slots on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for a total of nine hours.  Occasionally Sunday morning capacity is utilized by the Club for junior section training. | In addition, Coalville Town HC uses the AGP all day Saturday for league matches. Consequently, there is no spare capacity for additional use at peak time on a Saturday and the Club already has to travel outside of North West Leicestershire to access another AGP when required. | Pitch is used by football teams across the week for training.  Limited spare capacity exists on the pitch with only unfavorable time slots available. |
| Rangers Mixed HC | 2  (6%) | Rangers Mixed HC accesses the pitch for one hour on Mondays for training. | Rangers Mixed HC uses the AGP for one match session on a Saturday |

***Usage***

As seen in Table 6.5, both pitches are primarily used for hockey. Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre is used for a total a total of 15.5 hours in peak period for hockey by the two clubs Ashby HC and Ashby Mixed HC. Comparably, King Edward VII Science and Sports College is accessed for hockey for 17.5 hours in the peak period by both Coalville Town HC and Rangers Mixed HC.

***Ancillary provision***

Both full size AGPs within North West Leicestershire are serviced by changing provision that vary in condition. The ancillary facilities located at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre are reported to be in average condition with no real issues regarding access, as both Ashby Mixed HC and Ashby HC use the facilities at the same time on Saturdays.

Conversely, the two clubs which access the changing facilities at King Edward VII Science and Sports College (Coalville Town HC and Rangers Mixed HC) both indicate the facilities are poor. Coalville Town HC reports that two changing rooms do not meet its needs as it has multiple teams using them on a Saturday. Rangers Mixed HC also reports the changing rooms to be poor and reports that the changing rooms are sometimes inaccessible as they have not been unlocked by staff. Coalville HC has aspirations to create its own clubhouse in the future, however developing a clubhouse facility with ability to serve alcohol on school grounds is not likely to be permitted and it may be that the Club has to look elsewhere to be able to do so.

**6.3: Demand**

There are currently four clubs in North West Leicestershire fielding a total of 31 teams with all demand based in the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Coalville areas.

Ashby HC is the largest club out of the four with a total of 16 teams, also taking in Ashby Mixed HC which has one senior mixed teams. Coalville Town HC has a total of nine teams whilst Rangers HC fields a single mixed team.

The majority of teams in North West Leicestershire are senior male or junior teams (10 teams each) with only three senior female teams; however, there are four senior mixed teams.

Membership between the clubs varies with the two larger clubs made up of 270 members. Ashby HC has 150 members (45 male, 45 female and 60 juniors) and Coalville HC has 120 (100 seniors and 20 juniors). The two single team clubs, Rangers Mixed HC and Ashby Mixed HC have 18 and 20 members respectively.

*Table 6.6: Summary of teams currently playing in North West Leicestershire*

| **Teams** | **Analysis Area** | **No. of teams** | | | | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Senior Male** | **Senior Female** | **Junior** | **Mixed** |
| Ashby HC | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 4 | 3 | 9 | - | **17** |
| Ashby Mixed HC | Ashby-de-la-Zouch | - | - | - | 1 |
| Coalville Town HC | Coalville | 6 | - | 1 | 2 | **10** |
| Rangers Mixed HC | Coalville | - | - | - | 1 |
| **Total** | | **10** | **3** | **10** | **4** | **27** |

***Participation trends***

Within the last three years membership at Coalville Town HC has grown, given it merged with two clubs (Harlequins HC and Hermitage HC), both of which had a solitary mixed team. Ashby HC and Ashby Mixed HC participation levels in comparison have remained relatively static. The only club to report a decrease in membership is Rangers Mixed HC, which has until recently fielded two teams.

Since 2012, hockey has experienced a 65% increase of juniors taking up hockey nationally within a club environment. This increase is expected to continue across all age groups in the future, especially given the success of Great Britain’s women’s team in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

***Exported demand***

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

Two clubs have stated having to occasionally access provision outside North West Leicestershire. This is principally due to scheduling of home matches at the sites used by the clubs. Coalville Town HC reports having to access provision in Market Bosworth (Hinckley & Bosworth) when required as an overspill pitch when there are too many home fixtures scheduled at King Edward VII Science and Sports College. Similarly, Ashby HC accesses the AGP at The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground (Hinckley and Bosworth) as an overspill pitch.

***Future demand***

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

*Table 6.7: Team generation rates (District Wide)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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** |
| Senior Men’s (16-55) | 24,479 | 14[[27]](#footnote-27) | 1749 | 25,527 | 14.6 | 0.6 |
| Senior Women (16-55) | 24,717 | 3 | 8239 | 26,075 | 3.2 | 0.2 |
| Junior Boys (12-15) | 2,796 | 6 | 466 | 3,283 | 7.0 | 1 |
| Junior Girls (12-15) | 2,673 | 3 | 891 | 3,017 | 3.4 | 0.4 |

Team generation rates indicate that population increases are not sufficient enough to result in the likely creation of additional teams at either senior of junior level. An increase in participants is projected at the junior girls’ age (0.3 additional teams) and junior boys’ age group (0.6 additional teams) but it is probable that new players will join current clubs to become part of existing squads.

*Table 6.8: Team generation rates (by Analysis Area)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age group** | **Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)** | | | | | |
| **Ashby-de-la-Zouch** | **Castle Donington/**  **Kegworth** | **Coalville** | **Ibstock** | **Measham** | **Total** |
| Senior Men (16-45) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Senior Women (16-45) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Youth Boys (12-15) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |
| Youth Girls (12-15) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |

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

Two clubs, Ashby HC and Coalville Town HC, expressed plans to increase the number of teams. Ashby HC reports that it hopes to add to the number of senior teams in coming years through junior progression into senior hockey. The Club also stated that is was cautious about increasing too rapidly as any extra teams could potentially struggle for pitch time.

Coalville Town HC reports that it hopes to increase membership, especially its ladies and girls section but did not indicate by how many.

***Peak time demand***

All senior teams within North West Leicestershire play matches on a Saturday, whereas the majority of junior teams play on a Sunday, although some play does take place on a Saturday when capacity exists.

**6.4: Supply and demand analysis**

There are two AGPs accessed by hockey clubs in North West Leicestershire on Saturdays, the peak time for senior match play. Currently there are 15 senior teams which require a pitch on fortnightly basis throughout the season playing league hockey, with a further four teams playing friendlies, albeit reportedly on a fairly regular basis. Based on a floodlit AGP being able accommodate a maximum of eight teams (four matches per week), there would be a need for at least three with floodlighting and full availability to accommodate all 19 teams within the peak period on Saturdays and for training midweek.

However, given that the regular weekly peak time requirement is for 15 teams, existing supply of two pitches is considered sufficient to accommodate existing demand. Occasional displaced demand to accommodate occasional fixtures from Ashby HC and Coalville HC is presently considered sustainable by both England Hockey and the Clubs providing the AGPs outside of the District are retained as hockey suitable surfaces.

For junior hockey, 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 a pitch, meaning two matches can be played side by side at the same time, with matches also lasting for less time.

**6.5: Conclusion**

In conclusion, the current supply of two hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand both at peak time and for midweek training. The current level of exported demand when required by teams not playing in a traditional league structure is presently considered sustainable and at this point neither Ashby HC or Coalville HC reports a critical wish for this play to be accommodated within the District.

Of more pertinent requirement for hockey is a need to improve pitch quality at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre to ensure suitability and safety for use as loss of access to this pitch (even if only for the short term) would greatly impact on hockey in the District. Resurfacing of this pitch should be considered to improve quality, whilst surface quality at King Edward VII Science and Sports College should be monitored and rigorous maintenance undertaken to ensure it continues to meet performance needs. Existing supply of hockey suitable pitches should be protected, whilst the level of future participation growth should be reviewed as to whether the level of exported use becomes unsustainable and whether there is a consequent genuine future need for additional capacity and pitch provision in North West Leicestershire.

|  |
| --- |
| **Hockey summary**   * There are two full sized hockey suitable AGPs in North West Leicestershire, both of which are floodlit and are available for community use. In addition, there are also five smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use. * Both AGPs are rated as standard quality though feedback from school and club users suggests that the pitch at Ivanhoe College /Hood Park Leisure Centre is suffers from some qualitative issues including poor grip underfoot, poor line markings and moss growth. * Both AGPs are in excess of the recommended ten year lifespan and should be considered for surface replacement. Neither of the pitches are planned to undergo refurbishment in the near future. * Clubs which access the pitches indicate that any future refurbishment should be scheduled outside of the hockey season as there are no additional hockey suitable pitches for them to access for competitive matches within North West Leicestershire. * Both full sized AGPs are available for community use and level of availability within the peak period is good. * There are currently four clubs fielding teams in North West Leicestershire that contribute a total of ten senior men’s teams, three senior women’s teams and eight junior teams and six mixed teams. * Both Ashby HC and Coalville Town HC export demand into Hinckley & Bosworth some weeks due to a lack of capacity in North West Leicestershire when fixture scheduling requires use of another facility. * The ancillary facilities at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre are reported to be in average condition with no real issues regarding access, as both Ashby Mixed HC and Ashby HC use the facilities at the same time on Saturdays. * The two clubs which access the changing facilities at King Edward VII Science and Sports College both indicate the facilities are poor, mentioning that the changing rooms are sometimes inaccessible as they have not been unlocked by security. Given that the pitch will be due for resurfacing in the short term, consideration should be given to potential for simultaneous improvements to changing provision as part of combined investment into improving the community use offer. * Ashby HC and Coalville Town HC express aspirations to increase the number of teams but do not quantify this in team numbers. * There are 15 senior teams which require a pitch on fortnightly basis throughout the season playing league hockey, with a further four teams playing friendlies, albeit reportedly on a fairly regular basis. * In conclusion, the current supply of two hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current level of hockey demand both at peak time and for midweek training. * The current level of exported demand when required by teams not playing in a traditional league structure is presently considered sustainable and at this point neither Ashby HC or Coalville HC reports a critical wish for this play to be accommodated within the District. * Of more pertinent requirement for hockey is a need to improve pitch quality at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre to ensure suitability and safety for use as loss of access to this pitch (even if only for the short term) would greatly impact on hockey in the District. |

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# PART 7: ATHLETICS

**7.1: Introduction**

UK Athletics is the governing body 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***

Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club is the only affiliated athletics club in the District. The Club was consulted by both an initial survey and by telephone.

**7.2 Supply**

At present, there is no athletics track in North West Leicestershire, however, Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club reports that it is currently working in partnership with the Council and Newbridge High School Academy regarding the potential development of a track at the School. The Club currently rents other facilities from the School.

Guidance from Sport England and England Athletics advises that for an athletics track to be sustainable it would need to be used by a club or collection of clubs or groups with a combined membership of at least 200.

**7.3 Demand**

***Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club***

There is one athletics club in North West Leicestershire, Ivanhoe Robins Juniors Athletics Club which is the junior section of Ivanhoe Runners Club which has a wider running remit and is based at Ivanhoe College/Hood Park Leisure Centre.

As there are no athletics tracks within North West Leicestershire the Club uses Newbridge High School Academy as its home base. The Club reports accessing the School’s four court sports hall, multi-use games area and multiple grass pitches to meet is current demand.

Annual membership costs £12 plus £1 per session (aged up to 18). The Club currently has around 130 members split between 70 females and 60 males. The Club has increased in membership over recent years and also expresses high levels of future demand planning to increase active members by 25 this year. It also reports that it has a waiting list of approximately 70 people to join the Club. It has also established satellite club Young Forest Runners also based at Newbridge High School Academy following on from involvement as part of a previous Sport England initiative.

Nonetheless, the Club feels it is restricted for future growth due to the fact it does not have local access to a dedicated athletics track. It regularly has to travel 16.3 miles (30 minutes) outside the District to access facilities based in Leicester with the most used being Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium. The Club reports that due to the restrictions on suitable provision many active members have moved to other clubs outside of North West Leicestershire to access track provision.

***Park Run***

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

In North West Leicestershire, there is one Park Run event which takes place at Conkers Park, Bath Yard every Saturday morning at 9am. There are currently no junior Park Run events.

***RunTogether***

RunTogether is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. The role of RunTogether includes:

* Enabling people to join registered RunTogether groups.
* Supporting affiliated clubs and other partners in the provision of running groups for an increasing range of people.
* Training more people to qualify as running group leaders through the Leadership in Running Fitness qualification.
* Signposting people to their local Run England 3-2-1 routes that have been created by local providers.

There is currently one RunTogether project operating in North West Leicestershire. This is weekly event starting at Newbridge High School Academy at 7:pm Thursday evenings and is suitable for runners of all levels.

***3-2-1 routes***

3-2-1 is a RunTogether project which aims to provide a range of marked out running or jogging routes across the country that anyone can have a go at. It is considered a way of providing a meaningful challenge to help more people to get running when it best suits them. Local providers (working in partnership with athletics clubs and RunTogether groups) can mark out routes that are 3, 2 and 1 miles, kilometres or laps. There are currently no 3-2-1 routes in North West Leicestershire.

### 7.4 Supply and demand analysis

Consultation with Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club indicates that there may be sufficient demand to justify the creation of an athletics track in North West Leicestershire, subject to accommodating the reported level of unmet demand at the Club. There may be potential for use of such proposed track by other local running groups, for example the adult Ivanhoe runners Club, Hermitage Harriers Running Club which has over 100 members, Coalville Triathlon Club or even disability or adapted cycling groups should the track be a suitable synthetic surface.

However, England Athletics Facilities Strategy (2017-2021) does not identify need for the creation of new athletics tracks and subsequent likelihood of England Athletics endorsing such proposed new facilities is limited if at all. Working closely with Sport England, UK Athletics and England Athletics have developed the concept of a compact athletics facility that can take a number of forms but essentially provides a suitable strip of synthetic track plus some capacity for jumps and throws. It is based on creative thinking about ways that the essential features of full sized facilities can be scaled down to work at sites where space is limited, made to fit almost any venue or budget and enable core athletic skills to be taught, enjoyed and developed. Moving forward it is proposed that priority be given to developing commercially driven adaptations at locations where there is demand, a base of athletics participation and a partnership that enables the facility to be maintained, managed and financially secure.

Newbridge High School Academy could potentially serve as a suitable site for a compact facility where additional athletics provision would complement existing outdoor sport and pitch provision, particularly the existing grass surface track marked onto the school playing field for running throughout the summer term.

*7.5: Conclusion*

In conclusion, consultation indicates that there is likely to be insufficient demand from Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club alone to warrant and sustain a new athletics track in North West Leicestershire. Further consultation is required to establish potential for community use by other groups to strengthen the financial case for investment in a track facility, although it is unlikely that England Athletics would support such a development to potential funding investors for a new track given its current strategy. Additional work is required to fully understand the likely extent of school and community club use, programming and possible casual use to determine whether proposals are financially feasible.

Regardless, it is likely that any such proposal would need to be self-funded, however consideration should be given to potential for development of a compact facility and whether this could meet both club and school requirements. England Athletics identifies the development of innovations or non-traditional athletics provision as a priority and the Club in conjunction with the Academy and England Athletics should establish whether the site might be a suitable place to develop such a facility.

|  |
| --- |
| **Athletics summary**   * There are no athletics tracks in North West Leicestershire, with the nearest located in Leicester. * Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club is the only athletics club in the District, which has around 130 members, though there are a variety of other running groups. * The Club is in discussions with Newbridge High School Academy and North West Leicestershire District Council to develop a track at the School. The Club reports accessing the School’s four court sports hall, multi use games area and multiple grass pitches to meet current demand. * The Club has increased its membership over recent years and also expresses future demand, planning to increase active members by 25 this year. It also reports having a waiting list of approximately 70 people to join the Club. * Nonetheless, the Club is restricted for future growth due to the fact it does not have regular access to a dedicated athletics track. It regularly has to travel 16.3 miles (30 minutes) outside the District to access facilities in Leicester. * The Club reports that due to the restrictions on suitable provision many active members move to other clubs outside of North West Leicestershire to access track provision. * There is one Park Run event which takes place at Conkers Park, Bath Yard every Saturday morning at 9am * There is currently one RunTogether project operating in North West Leicestershire. This is weekly event starting at Newbridge High School Academy on 7:00pm Thursday evenings and is suitable for runners of all levels. * In conclusion, consultation indicates that there is likely to be insufficient demand from Ivanhoe Robins Junior Athletics Club alone to warrant and sustain a new athletics track in North West Leicestershire. * Further consultation is required to establish potential for community use by other groups to strengthen the financial case for investment in a track facility, although it is unlikely that funding would be available from England Athletics for a new track given its current strategy. * England Athletics identifies the development of innovations or non-traditional athletics provision as a priority and consideration should be given to whether a compact athletics facility might be able to suitably meet requirements of both the school and club rather than a full track. |

**APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT**

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

**National context**

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

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

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

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

***Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)***

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy ‘Towards an Active Nation’. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government’s Sporting Future strategy.

* Physical Wellbeing
* Mental Wellbeing
* Individual Development
* Social & Community Development
* Economic Development

***National Planning Policy Framework***

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

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

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

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

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

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 Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)***

The Football Association’s (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

* Sustain and Increase Participation.
* Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
* Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite.
* Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
* Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
* Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
* Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms.
* Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
* Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

**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*
* **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
  + *Integrity*
  + *Community programmes*
  + *Our environments*
  + *One plan*
* **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
  + *People*
  + *Revenue and reach*
  + *Insight*
  + *Operations*

***The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)***

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

* Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
* Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary, the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the

previous period remain valid:

* Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
* Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
* Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

* Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
* Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
* Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

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

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.

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

***England Hockey Strategy***

**Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

**Mission:**  More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

We currently have over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) We need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

1. **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively).**

The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

1. **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

The research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

***England Athletics: Whole Sport Plan 2013-2017***

The England Athletics plan outlines a strategy to attract and retain 3 million athletics participants by 2017, from a current base of 1.9 million as measured by Active People, whilst cementing athletics as the most popular individual sporting activity in England.

*“The ambition is to make England an athletic nation. Traditional athletics for some, running for many, fitness for all”.*

In order to achieve this, the goals of the strategic plan are:

* To grow and sustain participation levels in the sport.
* To improve the experiences of every participant in the sport.
* To improve performance levels and to grow the next generation of senior athletic champions.

The plan also reflects a total commitment to delivering an inclusive sport, setting specific disability targets that are woven into the core measures for growth and retention of participation. Key personnel within the England Athletics staffing structure will now lead this area of work, focusing on:

* Delivering inclusive formats of the sport.
* National policy and programme development.
* Coaching and teaching resources.

***UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)***

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and our 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA’s Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future “running” facilities.

The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

**UKA's 2014-19 Facilities Strategy key outcomes:**

* Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
* Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
* Increased talent pool
* Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
* Securing the long term future of existing facilities
* More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
* Improving the athletics experience for all participants
* Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators

**APPENDIX 2: STEERING GROUP CONTACTS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **Contact** | **Designation** |
| Sport England | Steve Beard | Planning Manager |
| North West Leicestershire District Council | Gail Rushton | Sports Development and Alliance Co-ordinator |
| North West Leicestershire District Council | John Richardson | Head of Community Services |
| North West Leicestershire District Council | Jason Knight | Leisure Services Team Manager |
| North West Leicestershire District Council | Steve Bambrick | Director of Services |
| North West Leicestershire District Council | Alison Gibson | Senior Planning Officer |
| North West Leicestershire District Council | Emma Trilk | Senior Planning Officer |
| North West Leicestershire School Sports Partnership | Stuart Johnson | Director of Sport & Community Development |
| Leicestershire & Rutland Sport | Harry Venning | Sports Facility Development Officer |
| The FA | Matt Bartle | FA Facilities and Investment Manager |
| Leicestershire & Rutland County FA | Keith Murdoch | Chief Executive Officer |
| England and Wales Cricket Board | Sue Redfern | East Midlands Club and Facilities Manager |
| Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Board | Martyn Dobson | Head of Community Development |
| England Hockey | Simon Dowdy | Relationship Manager |
| Rugby Football Union | Pete Shaw | Area Facilities Manager |
| England Athletics | Matt Foad | Area Manager |

1. Data Source: ONS Mid-2015 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Data Source: ONS Mid-2015 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Data Source: NWLDC population projections [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. There are also a number of smaller sites included with capacity of less than 500 new homes. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis. Therefore 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis. Therefore 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in LA, town and parish council and sports club ownership is secure. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Where pitches are overmarked, recommended capacity is based on the larger pitch size, whilst type and usage of smaller pitch sizes marked within are shown in italics. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in LA, town and parish council and sports club ownership is secure. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Where pitches are overmarked, recommended capacity is based on the larger pitch size, whilst type and usage of smaller pitch sizes marked within are shown in italics. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in LA, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

    \*Denotes capacity as per usage from recorded North West Leicestershire teams. This may not reflect true capacity subject to additional unrecorded use from teams outside of North West Leicestershire. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in LA, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

    \*Denotes capacity as per usage from recorded North West Leicestershire teams. This may not reflect true capacity subject to additional unrecorded use from teams outside of North West Leicestershire. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. In match equivalent sessions per week [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. In match equivalent sessions per week [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. In match equivalent sessions per week [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. In match equivalent sessions per week [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. In match equivalent sessions per week [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. In match equivalent sessions per week [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. <http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Taking into account increases projected from Team Generation Rates and club growth aspirations. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Coalville RFC Vets is an irregular team which only plays occasionally and has not been included in Table 5.7. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. In match equivalent sessions per week [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. As identified from club consultation [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Additional overplay added from mini pitches converted to senior pitch equivalent [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Include the four mixed teams for the purposes of TGR age group categories which do not include senior mixed hockey [↑](#footnote-ref-27)