



BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BC	Bury Council
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
CFA	County Football Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EN	England Netball
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FE	Further Education
FIT	Fields in Trust
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HE	Higher Education
IWIYW	I Will if You Will
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFA	Lancashire County Football Association
MFA	Manchester Football Association
LCF	Lancashire Cricket Foundation
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy
PfE	Places for Everyone
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby union football club
S106	Section 106
SE	Sport England
TGR	Team generation rate
WR	World Rugby
RT&NM	Ramsbottom, Tottington & North Manor

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Bury Council (BC) and its partners. It replaces the previous Bury PPOSS from 2018.

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

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

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Prepare and tailor the approach

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

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

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g., growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.

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

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Why the PPOSS is being developed

The previous Bury PPOSS (2018) is now considered to be out of date. It requires a full update of both supply and demand data in order to comply with Sport England PPS guidance.

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

Corporate and strategic:

- It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. The PPOSS will act as a tool for Bury Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for pitch sports in the future.
- It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities a playing pitch strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants.
- The site-specific action plan that will form an integral part of this PPOSS will identify and prioritise sites that require improvements and where the funding should be secured from.

Planning:

- The PPOSS will provide important evidence to support the Bury Local Plan and Places for Everyone Joint Plan.
- It will support strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports and recreational facilities and health and well-being.
- It will provide a basis for updating the process to secure developer contributions.

Operational:

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

Sports development:

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

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Aims and objectives

Similar to the previous study in 2018, the key drivers for developing the PPOSS include:

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

The objectives of the project will be to:

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

Bury Council highlights that capital available for investment into sport and recreation provision is limited and that this plays a huge part in influencing potential for facility development across the Borough. Consequently, access to external partnership funding and Section 106 contributions is critical to facilitate development; therefore, it is key that strategic recommendations and actions are based on strategic need evidenced through the PPOSS.

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Local context

Places for Everyone

Places for Everyone is a joint development plan for nine districts across Greater Manchester. This meets the statutory requirement for local authorities to have an up-to-date development plan in place that identifies enough land to accommodate new homes and jobs for growing population.

Nine Greater Manchester districts of Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan created a joint plan for jobs, new homes and sustainable growth across their boroughs, known as 'Places for Everyone' (PfE).

PfE will establish a planning framework to provide the right homes, in the right places, for people across Greater Manchester, including Bury. It's also about creating jobs and improving infrastructure to ensure the future prosperity of Greater Manchester.

Whilst one of the key purposes of PfE is to make provision for the homes and jobs needed across the plan area in a co-ordinated and managed way, it is also about establishing a framework for reducing inequalities, improving the lives of our residents, and transforming Greater Manchester.

PfE is a high level, strategic plan and does not cover everything that a district Local Plan would. Bury Council will still need to produce a Local Plan.

Bury Local Plan

Bury Council is currently in the process of preparing a new Local Plan that will guide future development in the Borough. Together with the Places for everyone (PfE) joint development plan, the Local Plan will form a key part of Bury's overall development plan and once adopted, these documents will both be used as the basis for determining future proposals for the next 20 years.

Whereas the PfE will deal with strategic planning matters that are of significance across the Joint Plan area (such as identifying future levels of housing and employment growth), Bury's Local Plan will contain a range of locally specific planning policies and identify local sites where development should be built as well as areas where developments should be restricted or controlled.

Bury Wellness Strategy

Bury Council has identified that a whole new approach is required to transform (or pivot) its traditional leisure services through a completely new strategy and approach to the provision of Wellness services in Bury and a five-year development plan.

It is a strategy and a movement that will put individual wellness and improved health outcomes at the centre, focuses on every township, with accelerated pace in Radcliffe and East Bury.

It will focus primarily on the contribution of Leisure, Sport, Physical Activity and Wellness supported by aligning the strategy to Bury's existing Wellness offer to deliver ambitious local outcomes, followed up in early 2023 by an investment strategy for Bury's built facilities such as Leisure Centres in the first instance. It builds on learning from the three-year Sport England Pilot 'I Will If You Will' which ended in 2020. It requires a Team Bury approach with active ownership by the Council and its Team Bury partners as well as the

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voluntary sector and Sports Clubs, building on successful models such as the Goshen Campus and Rossendale Community Leisure Trust.

The Council acknowledges the Wellness Service and its wider partners will need to reach out to communities within its six Townships where people live and enable lifestyle changes. These will support improved physical and mental health outcomes, reduce health inequalities and reduce demand and spend in other sectors, particularly the NHS and Adult Social Care.

This business case heralds the opportunity for the Council to pivot and initiate a community led 'movement for movement' within Bury with an emerging vision of:

'Using physical activity and culture to support and enable all aspects of wellness and reduce health inequalities in Bury'.

There is a close cross-correlation between the outcomes of the Bury Wellness Strategy and this PPOSS; providing a business case for investment for how sport can contribute towards improved physical and mental health and wellbeing.

National context

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

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

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

(a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;

(b) take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;

(c) guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;

(d) ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and

(e) ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

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

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

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

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

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

Management arrangements

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

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

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

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

Agreed scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities have been agreed for inclusion in the Assessment Report and Strategy and for are consistent with the previous Bury PPOSS.

Pitch sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Third generation artificial grass (3G) pitches
- ◀ Hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

Pitch sports will be assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (2014).

Outdoor sports:

- ◀ Outdoor bowling greens
- ◀ Outdoor tennis courts
- ◀ Athletics
- ◀ Outdoor netball courts
- ◀ Golf courses
- ◀ Other sports i.e., croquet and rounders

Study area

Bury is located in the North West of Greater Manchester, of which it is one of ten constituent Local Authorities. It is bordered by six neighbouring Local Authorities; to the West by Bolton, South and South West by Salford, Manchester to the South East, Rochdale to the East, Blackburn with Darwen to the North West and Rossendale to the North and North East.

The assessment covers the Borough boundary area of Bury; however, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller analysis areas. There are also a number of sports teams from outside the specified area that use pitches within Bury and sports teams from inside Bury that use facilities outside of the Borough. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when producing this assessment report.

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For the purpose of this analysis, Bury has been broken down into six analysis areas which align with the six townships used by the Council for strategic planning.

- ◀ Bury East
- ◀ Bury West
- ◀ Prestwich
- ◀ Radcliffe
- ◀ Ramsbottom, Tottington & North Manor (RT&NM)
- ◀ Whitefield & Unsworth

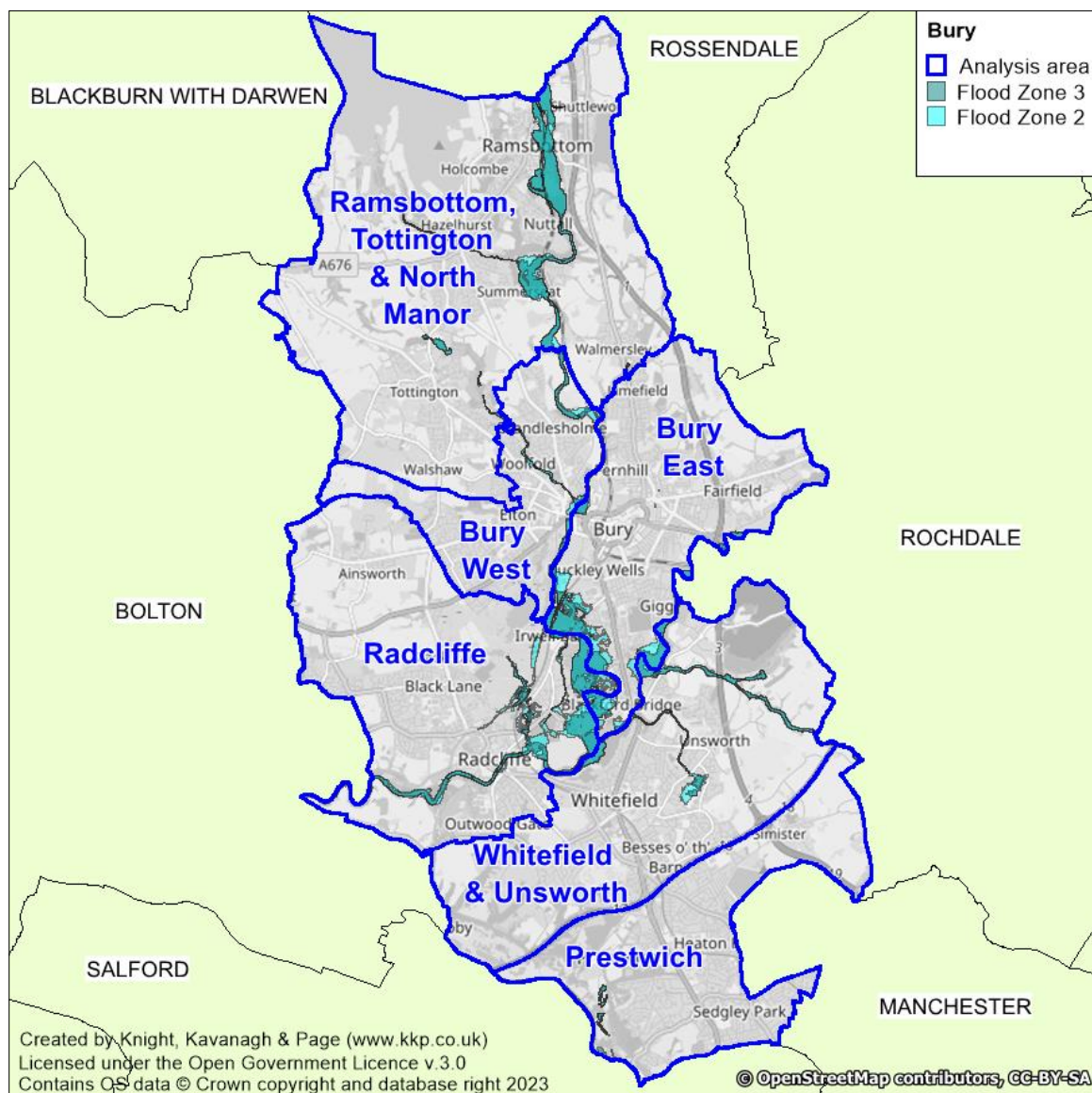
For reference these analysis areas are the same as the previous study (2018).

The topography of Bury has a significant impact on the development of outdoor sports facilities across the Borough. Many playing field sites are vulnerable and subject to flooding due to their location on floodplains adjacent to the River Irwell. Not only does this have a significant impact on pitch quality and availability for use, often rendering pitches unplayable for months over the winter period when flooding is worst, but it limits potential for conventional development of built facilities such as artificial turf pitches as a solution to the problem, therefore compounding the effect.

This has impacted on key sites such as Goshen Sports Centre (Bury East Analysis Area) and Close Park (Radcliffe Analysis Area), with the latter especially prone to flooding. Close Park has lost two adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch due to recent (*circa* 2020) flood defence works which have been carried out. The Council is currently in negotiations with the Environment Agency regarding the site and seeking to secure a resolution.

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Figure 1.1: Map of Bury with analysis areas and flood zones



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

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in the Borough is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This is achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2021 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order'.

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

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, this PPOSS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

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

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data.

For each site, the following details were recorded in the accompanying project database:

- ▶ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ▶ Ownership and management type
- ▶ Security of tenure
- ▶ Community availability
- ▶ Total number, type and quality of provision
- ▶ Usage levels

Accessibility

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of also influences their actual availability for community use.

Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ▶ **Community use** – facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams/members/individuals (depending on the sport).
- ▶ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used externally; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire or particularly poor quality.
- ▶ **No community use** - facilities which are, as a matter of policy or practice, unavailable for external hire. This includes professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team of the host club.

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- ◀ **Disused playing field** – any sites where outdoor sports facilities were once provided but are no longer in place, yet they remain undeveloped and could therefore be brought back into use.

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

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use is put against each site.

Quality

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

The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of a PPOSS, regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each. These ratings are then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, the site assessments for sports played in the winter are conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer have assessments carried out between July and September.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this (thus establishing an "agreed quality rating").

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

Gather demand information and views

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

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

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

In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering growth.

Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams/users that could be fielded if access to sufficient provision (and ancillary provision) was available, whereas exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

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

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

As key providers and users of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities, educational establishments have also been consulted. This involves online/telephone meetings with secondary, independent schools and colleges and surveys being sent to primary and special schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for the relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication as to how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). This ratio is then applied to predicted population growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future. Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

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

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All future demand projections across the PPOSS for Bury cover the period over the next 20 years (2043), in line with the Council's Local Plan and to enable the provision of robust evidence base.

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

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

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions provision could accommodate.

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.	

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and the rugby codes, per day for hockey and per season for cricket.

Table 1.1: Capacity of playing pitches in match equivalent sessions

Sport	Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
Rugby union	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
Rugby union	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
Rugby union	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Rugby league	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For 3G pitches midweek capacity is assessed through programming information which is received from providers through consultation.

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For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-sports lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a Borough-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e. the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity on provision or whether there is a shortfall.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity), or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Once current capacity has been determined, future capacity can also be calculated via incorporating the future demand that has been identified as well as unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing the above steps, it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Bury. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to developing the Strategy.

The following sections summarise the local administration of the included playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. Information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and the governing body of each sport is also provided as are any key issues.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Lancashire FA and Manchester FA both oversee the development of football in Bury. Both are responsible for growing participation, promoting diversity and regulating the sport for everyone to enjoy. Majority of clubs in Bury affiliate to Lancashire FA, however, there are a number of teams which affiliate to Manchester FA based on their location. All teams are considered within the assessment regardless of which County Football Association (CFA) they affiliate to.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55
Youth 11v11	U13s-U14s	82 x 50
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27

Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation artificial turf pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football. There is a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, in addition to training needs, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which has now been completed. As part of this, a LFFP has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)) and is delivered through the Football Foundation to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

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

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The LFFP for Bury was produced in 2019. As it is a 'live' document it should be updated following the completion of this study as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. An LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

Consultation

In total there are 454 teams across 48 clubs identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Bury during the 2022/23 season. Of these, 13 clubs affiliate to Manchester FA consisting to 62 teams and the remaining 35 clubs and 392 teams to Lancashire FA.

In total 25 clubs responded to consultation requests with support from Lancashire FA and Manchester FA, which equates to a club response rate of 52% and a team response rate of 74%. Furthermore, the groups surrounding the Gigg Lane merger were also consulted with. There are four clubs which provide over ten teams which are still unresponsive to consultation requests as listed below.

- ✦ Bury FC Foundation
- ✦ Prestwich Marauders
- ✦ Manchester Maccabi
- ✦ Cheetham Hill Juniors FC

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 154 grass football pitches across 59 sites in Bury, however, 126 pitches across 41 sites are identified as being available for community use at some level for community use (although not necessarily used).

Table 2.2: Summary of grass pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Bury East	16	5	6	4	3	34
Bury West	2	1	2	1	2	8
Prestwich	7	4	2	6	3	22
Radcliffe	10	3	4	5	5	27
RT&NM	6	5	2	2	2	17
Whitefield & Unsworth	10	1	2	4	1	18
Total	51	19	18	22	16	126

Most community available pitches can be found in the Bury East Analysis Area with 34 pitches provided (27%). The Bury West Analysis Area provides the least number of community available pitches with just eight (6%).

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There are more adult pitches (51) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which suggest high demand for adult football. However, it should be noted that youth 11v11 demand is higher, despite there being less youth 11v11 pitches. This is common nationally, with many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, although this can be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.

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 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s, 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s and 73 x 46 metres for u12s and u11s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches (u10s and u9s) is 55 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches (u8s and u7s) it is 37 x 27 metres.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Since the previous study in 2018 there has been an overall decrease in community available grass football pitches across Bury. In total it has reduced by 23% (164 to 126) with notable changes in the Bury East (youth 11v11 and youth 9v9), Bury West (mini 7v7), Radcliffe (adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5) and RT&NM analysis areas (mini 7v7).

Since the previous study, pitches at Close Park (Radcliffe Analysis Area) used by Radcliffe Borough JFC (21 teams in total), has lost two adult and one mini 7v7 due to recent (*circa* 2020) flood defence works.

This abovementioned works included the creation of a bund around the playing field, which has led to the creation of a steep slope, so much that a concrete block of double-sided steps had to be created. These works have been unsuccessful with the site still suffering from waterlogging, anecdotal evidence suggest the pitches still in situ are becoming saturated with water more due to the works exacerbated the waterlogging issues and have made them worse. The Council is currently in negotiations with the Environment Agency regarding the site and seeking to secure a resolution.

These decreases in provision are primarily linked to either pitch reconfiguration, education sites no longer marking provision (mostly at primary schools) or schools simply no longer allowing community use since the Covid-19 Pandemic. All 18 sites which are unavailable for community use are located at school sites, this is high compared to the previous study with nine being unavailable for community use.

The table below shows which sites have decreased the number of pitches provided or lost pitches due to either pitch reconfiguration or no longer mark the pitch out.

Table 2.3: Sites which have lost grass pitches

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches (2018)	Number of pitches (2023)	Comments
98	Elton Primary School	2	-	Previously had one mini 7v7 and one youth 9v9.
8	Hazlewood High School (<i>Formally Broad Oak Sports College</i>)	2	1	Previously had two youth 11v11 pitches. The Site now only has one youth 11v11 pitch.

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Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches (2018)	Number of pitches (2023)	Comments
25	Drinkwater Park	8	5	Previously had four adult, two mini 5v5, one mini 7v7 and one youth 11v11 pitch. The site now has two adult, one youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch.
57	Park View Primary School	1	-	Previously had one adult pitch.
22	Close Park	11	8	Two adult pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch has been lost.
24	Dobbies Sports and Social Club	3	2	Previously had two adult and one youth 9v9 pitch. The site now has two adult pitches.
48	King George V Playing Field (Radcliffe)	7	5	Previously had three adult, one mini 5v5, one mini 7v7, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9. The site now has three adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch.
72	St Marys RC Primary School	3	-	Previously had one mini 7v7 and two youth 9v9 pitches
53	Old Doctors Recreational Ground	1	-	Previously had one adult pitch
64	Ripson Hall Avenue Recreation Land	4	2	Previously had two mini 7v7 pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches. The site now has one 7v7 and one 9v9 pitch.
85	Town Meadow	2	1	Previously had two mini 7v7 pitches. The site now has one youth 11v11 pitch.
19	Unsworth Academy (Formerly Castlebrook High School)	3	1	Previously had three youth 11v11 pitches. The site now only has one adult pitch.
59	Philips High School	4	2	Previously had two adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch. The site now only has two adult pitches.
80	The Derby High School	5	4	Previously had five youth 11v11 pitches. The site now has one adult, two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch.
93	Whitehead Park	3	2	Previously had two adult and one youth 11v11 pitch. The site now has two adult pitches.

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Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches (2018)	Number of pitches (2023)	Comments
84	Tottington St Johns	1	-	Previously had one mini 7v7 pitch.

Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Bury, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 2.13.

Figure 2.1: Map of sites with football pitch provision within Bury



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Disused site / provision

There are a number of sites which are considered to be completely disused, with no formal sports pitches on the site, or, have previously accommodated football pitches but accommodate some other form of sports pitches. These are summarised in the table below.

Table 2.4: Summary of disused sites/provision within Bury

Site ID	APP ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Comments
3	6006753	Barlow Recreation Ground	BL9 9TG	Bury East	Disused site - Previously had one youth football pitch (78x50m) marked. Self-management agreement surrendered in 2015. Storage container and play area onsite.
4	6006805	Bessess Playing Field	M45 6AE	Whitefield & Unsworth	Disused provision - Self-management agreement surrendered in 2012. Also has MUGA and play area. Now retained as park.
7	1208800	Broad Oak Lane Fields	BL9 7SQ	Bury East	Disused site - Self-management agreement with Phoenix FC however LFA reports the Club no longer affiliates since 2015/16 season and is assumed to have folded. Sufficient size to accommodate two youth 11v11 pitches, served by container changing.
47	6011168	Hoyles Park	BL9 6JD	Bury East	Disused provision – Previously held on self-management agreement and marked with several football pitches, sufficient size to accommodate one adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 or equivalent. Also has playground, MUGA and bowling green provision.
53	6011117	Old Doctors Recreation Ground	BL8 3ND	RT&NM	Disused site – One adult pitch which has not been used since <i>circa</i> 2019.
84	6010934	Tottington St Johns	BL8 3NF	RT&NM	Disused site – One mini 7v7 pitch which has not been used since <i>circa</i> 2019.
101	30007859	Warth Fold Playing Field	M26 2XW	Radcliffe	Disused provision – No longer used for any form of football however actively used for rounders.

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Site ID	APP ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Comments
133	1002544	Radcliffe Leisure Centre (former Riverside School)	M26 2SZ	Radcliffe	Disused site - Former school playing fields now lie disused behind the retained building now functioning as a Pupil Learning Centre and Council operated leisure centre (indoor facilities).
134	1003908	Ramsbottom Baths Playing Fields	BL0 0PT	RT&NM	Disused site - Self-management agreement surrendered in 2014. Also has play area and skatepark which have recently been closed due to quality and sustainability costs. Now retained as public open space.
135	-	Boz Park	M45 8RB	Whitefield & Unsworth	Disused provision - Public open space off Tonge Close which presently accommodates a MUGA. Reported to be boggy and wet across the site. Local group of residents have recently begun to rejuvenate the site and have aspirations to maintain in future. The site has been identified as potential to be lost as part of the Northern Gateway NG1C proposals. A recent change has been to look at creating an access road into the site from Tonge Close which would possibly result in loss of a small part of the park which may or may not affect the pitches on it. Any provision lost is to be replaced within the site.
136	-	Hawkshaw Playing Fields	BL8 4JR	RT&NM	Disused provision - Playing field now unmarked for formal sport but has onsite play area. Previously had a football pitch circa 83m long, last shown on historical aerial imagery in 2005.

Tottington St Johns has previously accommodated one mini 7v7 pitch in 2019. According to 2022/23 affiliation data there is no club accessing the site and there are no formal pitches marked out according to non-technical site assessments.

Warth Fold Playing Fields was previously accessed by a non-affiliated community club, Warth Fold & Redvales Community Sports Club. However, the Club now utilises the pitches provided on Manchester Road Playing Fields. No football club is currently accessing the site and there are no formal football pitches marked out (at the time of the site assessments). The site is used formally for rounders by the Bury Rounders League.

Radcliffe Leisure Centre (former Riverside School) is planned to be redeveloped by the Department for Education (DfE) as the Star Leadership Academy, Radcliffe's new secondary school. Construction of the new school is planned to commence late 2023.

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The development will see the current Radcliffe Leisure Centre close and move to the new Civic Hub which is proposed to be located in Radcliffe Town Centre as part of the Radcliffe Regeneration (planned to be open winter 2024). The new Star Leadership Academy is proposed to have new pitch and outdoor sports facilities, including 3G pitch provision.

Gigg Lane

Shortly after the completion of the previous PPOSS (2018) Bury FC was withdrawn from the English Football League (2019) due to the Club going into administration. Gigg Lane has not officially accommodated a competitive football league fixture since with it suffering from severe vandalism affecting the surrounding ancillary infrastructure. Comparatively the grass pitch has received some levels of voluntary maintenance throughout the time period with occasional usage from local grass roots clubs/groups. It should be noted that the ancillary provision requires significant investment in order to bring back up to a functioning state.

In April 2023, members of the Shakers Community Society which set up as Bury AFC (a grassroots phoenix club set up following Bury FC folding), and Bury Football Club Supporters Society, which owns the ground, voted to unite in a bid to ensure men's and women's football returns to Gigg Lane for the first time in four years. The merger was successful, and men's and women's football is planned to return to Gigg Lane for the 2023/24 season. The men's teams will play in the ninth tier of the English Football Pyramid (North West Counties League) and the women's team will play in the North West Women's Regional League Premier Division which is Tier 5 on the Women's National League System.

Some pre-season matches have already been played at Gigg Lane, with games against Bradford City FC and Preston North End FC already taken place, meaning the pitch has improved in quality. Funding is potentially available to improve the aforementioned ancillary provision and surrounding infrastructure from the Council and government levelling up funds.

Seedfield Sports Club

Seedfield Sports Club JFC currently use pitches at Seedfield Sports Club (Bury East Analysis Area) which has one adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitches marked. All Seedfield Sports Club JFC teams (11 in total) use the site. The playing field is associated as part of a former school site, both of which have been identified by the Council as potential for housing development. The planned development of the school footprint is still in the application stage due to the current plans affecting the playing field. If the playing field were to be lost all demand (11 teams) would need to be relocated and the playing field currently provided at Seedfield Sports Club would also need to be re-provided. Any proposed playing field relocation would need to meet at least one of the five exceptions in Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

Future provision

Planning consent has been agreed for the relocation of Bolton Wyresdale AFC to a new site which would be developed within the Bury Local Authority located off Radcliffe Moor Road in Radcliffe. The plans are as mitigation for the loss of the Club's previous site nearby at Inverbeg Drive in Bolton and are proposed to include the creation of two adult pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch.

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Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Bury is generally secure i.e., through a long-term lease, self-management agreements (SMA) or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. This relates to most of the Council operated pitches, with such provision protected as part of an ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offering.

A common exception to providing security of tenure is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use, as exemplified with 14 educational providers not currently allowing community use in Bury of some of their pitches. The reasons for not allowing community use varies, although the most common justification is that the school want to protect their pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues. Other motives include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a perceived lack of profitability.

Sport England promotes the use of education providers sports facilities to be available for wider community use and provides guidance¹.

Self-management agreements (SMA)

Bury Council introduced self-management agreements circa 2000, in order to offer sports clubs greater independence through managing their own facilities. SMAs are like a licence agreement, offering clubs long term use of a site for which it is responsible for all maintenance and upkeep, except for where the Council retains a commitment for basic grass cutting. SMAs offer clubs exclusive access and management but due to the need to retain access as public open space they offer security of access rather than security of tenure. In total five clubs in Bury currently either hold or are in the process of finalising a SMA.

Table 2.5: Summary of lease agreements on Council football pitch sites

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Comments
1	Ainsworth Hall Road	Ainsworth FC	SMA till 2038.
20	Clarence Park	Walshaw Park JFC	SMA expired 2019
21	Clifton Road Playing Fields	Prestwich Marauders	Draft lease
22	Close Park	Radcliffe Borough JFC	Draft SMA
24	AFC Dobbies	AFC Dobbies	SMA till 2024
25	Drinkwater Park	Bury Amateurs FC	SMA expired 2019
28	Elms Playing Field	-	Plans for Prestwich FC to use the site
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Bury FC Foundation	Lease agreement but length is unknown
35	Grundy Playing Field	-	-
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Unsworth Junior FC	Draft lease
45	Hollinhurst Playing Fields	Radcliffe Boys	SMA till 2041
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Radcliffe Town FC	35-year lease
51	Manchester Road Playing Field	Bury North Football Club	Draft Lease
52	Nuttall Park	Woodbank FC	SMA expired 2019
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Radcliffe Juniors FC	Lease agreement but length is unknown

¹ <https://www.sportengland.org/funds-and-campaigns/use-our-school>

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Site ID	Site name	Club name	Comments
65	Sandgate Playing Fields	Prestwich Heys FC	Lease agreement but length is unknown
68	Seedfield Sports Club	Seedfield Sports Club	SMA expired 2017
71	St Marys Park	Prestwich Marauders FC	10-year SMA
78	Summerseat Park	Ramsbottom United JFC	SMA till 2037
81	Top Park	Ramsbottom United JFC	Lease agreement but length is unknown
85	Town Meadows	Walshaw Sports Club Juniors	SMA expired 2022
90	Wellington Barracks Playing Field	Westbury Sports Club	Lease agreement till 2041
93	Whitehead Park	-	-

Several clubs have a draft lease or draft SMA, therefore, are considered to be unsecure at this time. Furthermore, sites with SMAs that have expired, clubs are assumed to be renting the site meaning its unsecure.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Bury has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out in January 2023 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in Bury. As seen, the majority of pitches are assessed as either standard or poor quality (79%), with only 27 assessed as good quality.

Table 2.6: Summary of pitch quality (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	18	14	19
Youth 11v11	1	9	9
Youth 9v9	2	10	6
Mini 7v7	4	9	9
Mini 5v5	2	6	8
Total	27	48	51

Although a large amount of council pitches are assessed as poor quality, most are assessed as standard quality when considering the maintenance regime undertaken. As such, the main reasons for pitches being assessed as poor quality relates more so to drainage issues, with unofficial use also exacerbating problems due to open space access nature of the provision.

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The pitches at Close Park are assessed as poor quality due to flooding and the recent flood defence works carried out as mentioned above. The Council is currently in negotiations with the Environment Agency regarding the site and seeking to secure a resolution.

Bury Amateur AFC state the pitches located at Drinkwater Park are poor quality which also aligns with the non-technical assessments. This is due to recent issues surrounding unauthorised access and damaged to pitches with motorbikes.

Despite being assessed as standard quality, the pitches at Goshen Sports Centre are reported to drain poorly and standing water can be seen on pitches during heavy rain fall. However, the quality of pitches are improving following enhanced maintenance.

The pitches located at Heys Road are assessed as good quality through non-technical and PitchPower assessments, however, Prestwich Football Club state issues with debris rising to the surfaces due to the site previously being a waste recycling centre site.

In 2021, Westbury Sports Club FC secured a significant investment from the Football Foundation for a drainage work on the grass pitches located at Westbury Sports Club.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Comparatively the quality of community available pitch provision in Bury has slightly declined since the 2018 audit. The number of poor quality pitches has increased marginally from 39% to 41%, however, there has been a significant increase in the number of good quality pitches from 4% to 21%. Standard quality provision has reduced from 57% to 38%. The quality of pitches in Bury are improving with help from the Football Foundation, County FAs, and the Council through funding opportunities like the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund.

Pitch improvement

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund (detailed later in this section).

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments, instead being able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: September - October, November – March or April – June.

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As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

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

Table 2.7: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

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

In Bury, 18 sites have received a PitchPower assessment. The findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in the table below.

Table 2.8: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
1	Ainsworth Hall Road	Adult	Advanced	Good
21	Clifton Road Playing Fields	Adult	Poor	Poor
22	Close Park	Youth (11v11)	Poor	Poor
22	Close Park	Youth (11v11)	Poor	Poor
22	Close Park	Youth (9v9)	Poor	Poor
22	Close Park	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
22	Close Park	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
22	Close Park	Mini (5v5)	Poor	Poor
22	Close Park	Mini (5v5)	Poor	Poor
22	Close Park	Mini (5v5)	Poor	Poor
25	Drinkwater Park	Adult	Poor	Poor
25	Drinkwater Park	Adult	Poor	Poor
25	Drinkwater Park	Youth (11V11)	Basic	Poor
25	Drinkwater Park	Mini (5v5)	Basic	Poor
25	Drinkwater Park	Mini (5v5)	Basic	Poor
31	Elton Vale Sports Club	Adult	Poor	Poor
31	Elton Vale Sports Club	Mini (5v5)	Advanced	Good
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Adult	Good	Good
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Adult	Basic	Standard
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Adult	Good	Standard
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Youth (11v11)	High	Standard
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Youth (11v11)	Basic	Standard
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Youth (9v9)	High	Standard
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Youth (9v9)	Good	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Mini (7v7)	Good	Standard
41	Heys Road	Adult	Good	Good
41	Heys Road	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
41	Heys Road	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Adult	-	Good
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Adult	-	Good
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Youth (11v11)	Good	Good
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Youth (9v9)	-	Standard
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Youth (9v9)	-	Standard
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Mini (7v7)	Advanced	Good
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Mini (7v7)	Basic	Good
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Mini (5v5)	Poor	Good
45	Hollinhurst Playing Fields	Adult	Good	Good
45	Hollinhurst Playing Fields	Adult	Good	Good
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Adult	Advanced	Good
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Adult	Good	Good
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Adult	Basic	Standard
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Mini (7v7)	-	Standard
49	Manchester Maccabi Community and Sports Club	Adult	Basic	Standard
49	Manchester Maccabi Community and Sports Club	Youth (11v11)	Basic	Standard
52	Nuttall Park	Adult	Basic	Standard
52	Nuttall Park	Youth (11v11)	Basic	Standard
52	Nuttall Park	Youth (11v11)	Basic	Standard
52	Nuttall Park	Youth (9v9)	Basic	Standard
52	Nuttall Park	Mini (7v7)	Basic	Standard
52	Nuttall Park	Mini (5v5)	Basic	Standard
52	Nuttall Park	Mini (5v5)	Basic	Standard
55	Old Standians AFC (Ringley Road)	Adult	Basic	Standard
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Youth (11v11)	Basic	Standard
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Youth (9v9)	Good	Standard
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Youth (9v9)	Good	Standard
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Mini (7v7)	Good	Standard
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Mini (7v7)	Good	Standard
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Mini (5v5)	Good	Standard
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Mini (5v5)	Good	Standard
65	Sandgate Playing Fields	Adult	-	Poor
65	Sandgate Playing Fields	Youth (9v9)	Poor	Poor
65	Sandgate Playing Fields	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
65	Sandgate Playing Fields	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
65	Sandgate Playing Fields	Mini (5v5)	Poor	Poor
71	St Marys Park	Adult	-	Poor

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
71	St Marys Park	Youth (9v9)	Poor	Poor
71	St Marys Park	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
71	St Marys Park	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
78	Summerseat Park	Adult	Basic	Poor
78	Summerseat Park	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
81	Top Park	Adult	Basic	Standard
81	Top Park	Youth (11v11)	Basic	Standard
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	Adult	Good	Good
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	Mini (7v7)	Basic	Standard
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	Mini (7v7)	Basic	Standard
89	Walshaw Sports Club	Adult	Basic	Standard

For reference the PPOSS quality scores will be the ones used in the capacity analysis below. Most of the ratings from PitchPower assessments are aligned with those from the non-technical assessments.

Where there are discrepancies, it has been agreed with the FF, LFA and MFA to use the PPOSS quality scores as these are the most up to date point assessments, however, it should be noted these scores have still been cross referenced against PitchPower reports and club consultation. Both Goshen Sports Centre and Redbank Playing Fields have the biggest difference in quality rating, this is due to visible drainage issues that was identified during the non-technical assessments. Though, current maintenance improvements are being carried out on the pitches at Goshen Sports Centre which should improve the quality.

Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund²

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 Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF). As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues by the GMA via PitchPower assessment can apply to access funding to improve pitches to good quality or sustain them at good quality.

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

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, education establishments, Parish & Town Councils, National League System Clubs (excluding the stadia pitch) at (Steps 1-6) and Women's Football Pyramid (Tiers 1-4) and charities.

² [Link to the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund](#)

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Several clubs/sites in Bury have been awarded funding from the Football Foundation to improve the quality of their pitches including, King George V Playing Field (Radcliffe Town AFC) and Goshen Sports Centre (Bury FC Foundation).

Over marked pitches

There are some football pitches in Bury which are marked onto or overlapping cricket outfield, which can create availability issues at multi-sport sites as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing, and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. The following sites have football pitches over marked onto cricket outfield:

- ◀ Walshaw Sports Club
- ◀ Unsworth Cricket Club

Ancillary facilities

As with pitch quality, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across Bury has been assessed on the basis of identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. To that end, ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing. The following sites are considered to have poor quality facilities:

- ◀ Ainsworth Hall Road
- ◀ Cams lane Sports Ground
- ◀ Close Park
- ◀ Drinkwater Park
- ◀ Nuttall Park
- ◀ Manchester Road Playing Fields
- ◀ Top Park
- ◀ Redbank Playing Fields
- ◀ Westbury Sports Club

In addition to site assessments, of the clubs that responded to consultation requests, 6% report they have access to good quality ancillary provision at their respective home venues, whilst standard quality facilities are accessed by 6% of clubs and 21% access poor quality facilities.

Westbury Sports Club FC has aspiration to rebuild ancillary facilities at Westbury Sports Club. The current building is extremely basic and is in need of modernisation. The Club also states the roof of the ancillary facility needs repairing.

Radcliffe Borough Juniors FC state current issues with safeguarding due to the recent flood defence works which have been carried out at Close Park. A bund has been created around the playing field, which has led to the creation of a steep slope, so much so that a concrete block of double-sided steps has had to be created. This means that when juniors are accessing the clubhouse they can't be viewed from the pitches.

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2.3: Demand

In total there are 454 teams identified as playing competitive football matches within Bury. This is made up of 50 men's, 15 women's, 182 youth boys', 34 youth girls' and 173 mini teams.

Table 2.9: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Bury

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
2018						
Bury East	18	49	23	19	8	117
Bury West	4	12	6	5	5	32
Prestwich	10	14	5	11	11	51
Radcliffe	22	18	11	13	16	80
RT&NM	6	17	10	16	8	57
Whitefield & Unsworth	1	9	4	4	3	21
Total	61	119	59	68	51	358
2023						
Bury East	24	31	14	24	26	119
Bury West	3	11	6	7	15	42
Prestwich	12	27	6	25	14	84
Radcliffe	16	25	25	22	23	111
RT&NM	8	28	20	4	2	62
Whitefield & Unsworth	2	12	11	6	5	36
Total	65	134	82	88	85	454

The Bury East Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 119 (26%) whilst Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area has the fewest with only 36 teams (8%).

Bolton and Bury District Junior Football League (BBDJFL)

The Bolton and Bury District Junior Football League (BBDJFL) is a large mini and youth football league which incorporates Bury football clubs.

The League is now out the pilot phase for a summer football league which was approved by the Lancashire FA. It involves Bury clubs and is based on a home and away structure, instead of using a central venue, in order to increase the number of teams accessing grass pitches. Ages for teams are between U7s (mini 5v5) to U11s (youth 9v9) with the season taking place between March and October.

Across Bury the following sites are used by clubs for summer football:

- ✦ Goshen Sports Centre (Bury FC Foundation)
- ✦ Lower Gigg Playing Fields (Bury Allstars FC)
- ✦ Close Park (Radcliffe Borough Juniors FC)
- ✦ Drinkwater Park (Bury Amateur AFC)
- ✦ Hillock Playing Fields (Unsworth Juniors)
- ✦ Redbank Playing Fields (Radcliffe Juniors FC)
- ✦ King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe Town FC)
- ✦ Heys Road (Prestwich FC)
- ✦ Nuttall Park (Woodbank JFC)
- ✦ St Marys Park (Prestwich Marauders FC)
- ✦ Top Park (Ramsbottom United Junior FC)

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- ❖ Westbury Sports Club (Westbury Sports Club)
- ❖ Clarence Park (Walshaw Park JFC)
- ❖ Walshaw Sports Club (Walshaw Sports Club Juniors)

All the above sites are used for both winter and summer football for U7s through to U11s which can create issues regarding pitch maintenance and quality. This is a particular problem within Bury as many pitches in the winter suffer from poor drainage meaning they are unable to receive any type of remedial work as maintenance equipment cannot go onto the pitch without risking deteriorating its quality further.

It should be noted that none of the aforementioned sites are used for summer sports, such as cricket or rugby league. Therefore, there is no conflict between winter and summer playing seasons for different sports.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

As seen in the table above there has been an increase in demand since the previous PPOSS for each age group, totalling an overall 27% growth in participation. This, in part, can be attributed to the enhancement of grass playing provision and creation of new artificial surfaces (3G pitches) such as at Goshen Sports Centre driving up participation.

Football pyramid demand

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. These are then supported by regional feeder leagues, which were previously at Step 7 of the pyramid but are now not included.

The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top. Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements.

Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 6 clubs.

Four teams from four clubs play within the football pyramid, as seen in the table below.

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

Team	League	Level
Radcliffe FC	Evo Stik Northern Premier League – Premier	Step 3
Bury FC	North West Counties – Premier Division	Step 5
Prestwich Heys FC	North West Counties – Premier Division	Step 5
Ramsbottom United FC	North West Counties – Premier Division	Step 5

As mentioned earlier men's football is planned to return to Gigg Lane for the 2023/24 season. The Club which will be associated with Gigg Lane will be known as Bury FC and are set to play in the North West Counties Football League Premier Division for the 2023/24 season. There will be a need for investment into the ancillary provision to ensure the site meets relevant requirements.

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Women's National League System

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

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

Bury FC Women is playing in the North West Women's Regional League Premier Division for the 2023/24 season which is Tier 5 on the Women's National League System. Furthermore, Radcliffe FC Women is a newly developed team which is playing in the North West Women's Regional League Division One North for the 2023/24 season which is Tier 6 on the Women's National League System.

Walking football

Walking football³ is a slower paced version of the game, like football but at walking pace. Walking football is available for all ages, abilities and fitness level and anyone who wants to play football for longer, make new friends and get out the house and stay active.

Bury Relics is a walking football club in Bury, it has four teams in the Greater Manchester Walking Football League, two over 60s teams, an over 65s team and an over 70s team. Bury Relics host community sessions at Castle Leisure Centre every Tuesday from 11.15am until 12pm, these sessions are open to players of all ages, abilities, men and women, including players with learning difficulties, handicaps and health issues. Furthermore, training sessions for league players were introduced in 2018 at Radcliffe FC on the small sided 3G pitches.

Radcliffe Sonics Women's Over 40s Walking Football is a small group that runs weekly sessions at Radcliffe FC every Sunday morning on the small sided 3G pitches. The group welcomes all women with different skill or fitness level.

Training

Access to affordable sports lit training facilities is a significant issue for most clubs in Bury, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. Of the 21 clubs that responded to consultation requests, 10 clubs state a demand for additional training facilities with some of their teams struggling to train due to the club not being able to find a training location.

There are currently two full size 3G pitches in Bury. However, several clubs indicate that they train outside of Bury to access suitable 3G pitches at the following sites:

- ❖ Bolton St Catherine's Academy (Bolton)
- ❖ Salford Sports Village (Salford)
- ❖ Little Lever School (Bolton)

³ [Link to England Football Website - How to Play Walking Football](#)

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In Bury there are several clubs which have feeder teams. These teams consist of children under the age of seven who are not old enough to participate in formalised league matches and instead train on a regular basis. Clubs with feeder teams have aspirations to eventually progress to compete in competitive fixtures once they have reached the required age. Bury FC Foundation, Radcliffe Juniors FC, Westbury Sports Club and Walshaw Park JFC all have feeder teams which train on a regular basis.

Unmet and latent demand

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

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

Table 2.11: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Latent demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁴
FC Unsworth	Whitefield & Unsworth	1 x youth	Youth 9v9	0.5
FC Unsworth	Whitefield & Unsworth	1 x youth	Youth 11v11	0.5
Radcliffe Juniors FC	Radcliffe	1 x youth	Youth 11v11	0.5
Radcliffe Juniors FC	Radcliffe	1 x youth	Youth 9v9	0.5

Both clubs that express latent demand do so in the Whitefield & Unsworth and Radcliffe Analysis Area, with a total of two match equivalent sessions per week. In total, latent demand amounts to one match equivalent session per week on youth 11v11 pitches and one match equivalent session per week on youth 9v9 pitches.

Radcliffe FC Old Boys, FC Unsworth, AFC Swan, Bury North Football Club, Unsworth Juniors Football Club, Prestwich Football Club, Bury Amateur AFC, Elton Vale FC, Walshaw Park JFC, Westbury Sports Club and Ramsbottom United JFC all indicate they could field additional teams if they had access to better pitch provision, however, none of the clubs quantify a specific amount.

Displaced/exported demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Bury based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities.

According to Lancashire FA affiliation data 2022/23, there are 29 teams across four clubs which play matches on venues outside of the local authority area; Prestwich All Stars, Prestwich and Whitefield JFC, Prestwich FC and Prestwich Marauders.

⁴ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Bury study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. Based on 2022/23 affiliation data Cheetham Hill Juniors FC import demand from Manchester to Bury, using the facilities at Manchester Maccabi.

Future demand

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

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

Participation growth

Of responding clubs, 13 report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 52 teams, as seen below.

Table 2.12: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Gender	Number of teams	Pitch size	MES per week ⁵
AFC Dobbies	Radcliffe	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
AFC Swan	Bury East	Mens	2	Adult	1
Ainsworth FC	Radcliffe	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Ainsworth FC	Radcliffe	Girls	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Bury Amateur AFC	Prestwich	Mixed	1	Mini 7v7	0.5
Bury North FC	Bury East	Mens	1	Adult	1
Prestwich Football Club	Prestwich	Mens	2	Adult	1
Prestwich Football Club	Prestwich	Womens	2	Adult	1
Prestwich Football Club	Prestwich	Boys	4	Youth 9v9	2
Prestwich Football Club	Prestwich	Boys	4	Youth 11v11	2
Prestwich Football Club	Prestwich	Girls	2	Youth 9v9	1
Prestwich Football Club	Prestwich	Girls	2	Youth 11v11	1
Prestwich Football Club	Prestwich	Mixed	3	Mini 7v7	1.5
Radcliffe Borough Juniors FC	Radcliffe	Boys	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Radcliffe Town FC	Radcliffe	Girls	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Ramsbottom United JFC	RT&NM	Girls	6	Youth 9v9	3
Ramsbottom United JFC	RT&NM	Girls	6	Youth 11v11	3
Tottington United	RT&NM	Mens	1	Adult	0.5
Unsworth Junior Football Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Boys	2	Youth 9v9	1
Unsworth Junior Football Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Unsworth Junior Football Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
Westbury Sports Club	Bury West	Mixed	2	Mini 7v7	1
Westbury Sports Club	Bury West	Mixed	2	Mini 5v5	1

⁵ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Club	Analysis area	Gender	Number of teams	Pitch size	MES per week ⁵
Woodbank Junior FC	RT&NM	Mens	1	Adult	0.5
Woodbank Junior FC	RT&NM	Boys	1	Youth 11v11	0.5
Woodbank Junior FC	RT&NM	Mixed	1	Mini 7v7	0.5
-	-	Totals	52	-	26.5

The total future demand expressed by the club listed above amounts to 26.5 match equivalent sessions per week (as two teams equates to one match equivalent session playing on a home and away basis).

Broken down by pitch type, five match equivalent sessions per week are identified on adult pitches, 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches, 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches, 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches and one match equivalent session per week on mini 5v5 pitches.

In light of FA aspirations to increase female participation in football through the establishment and foreseen future effect of the Weetabix Wildcats programme and Inspiring Positive Change Strategy, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through team generation rates. To what extent is not currently quantifiable, however, this increase in female demand is likely to be captured within the club aspirational future demand figures expressed in Table 2.11.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2043 (the period to which this assessment projects), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth.

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

For reference total current population in 2022 of 193,417 will increase to 207,091 by 2043. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.13: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent sessions per week ⁶
Adult Mens (18-45)	1:705	3.53	4	2
Adult Womens (18-45)	1:2384	1.06	1	0.5
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:46	7.85	8	4
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:217	1.62	2	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:38	5.02	5	2.5
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:238	0.78	1	0.5

⁶ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent sessions per week ⁶
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:59	6.22	6	3
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:59	6.01	6	3

As the 33 teams expect to be generated (equating to 16.5 match equivalent sessions per week) are authority wide and not accredited to any analysis area, they will be added onto the overall supply and demand total for each pitch type within the 'Supply and Demand' section later.

Figures surrounding the extra demand generated for football training provision (hours per week on a 11v11 3G pitch with sports lighting) from future population will be referenced within Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

Future demand summary

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

Taking this into consideration, a total requirement for 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week is identified on adult pitches, five match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches, three match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches, three match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and three match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality.

Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in the Bury:

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

Table 2.15 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

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Match equivalent sessions per week

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

Education sites

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

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

Table 2.14 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed because of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

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

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

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Bury, peak time for adult and youth 11v11 is Sunday morning, whereas it is Saturday morning for all remaining pitch types, as most teams across all age groups play at this time.

In the table overleaf, please note that, on occasions, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than what exists overall. This is because most of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period, therefore the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

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

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

The table below identifies the way capacity balance is represented in Table 2.15

Table 2.14: Capacity balance examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	With a dash, this indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	Not highlighted by with a value, this indicates that the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.

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Table 2.15: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused (+), at capacity (/) or potential to accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (MES)	Comments
1	Ainsworth Hall Road	Radcliffe	BL2 5SA	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Good	1	0.5	3	2.5	0.5	Pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session.
8	Hazelwood High School (Formally Broad Oak Sports College)	Bury East	BL9 7QT	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(11v11)	No	Poor	1	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
10	Bury & Whitefield Jewish Primary	Whitefield & Unsworth	BL9 8JT	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(9v9)	No	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
11	Market Street Athletics Track	Bury East	BL9 9FX	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	3.5	2	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
11	Market Street Athletics Track	Bury East	BL9 9FX	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	1	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
12	Bury Church of England High School	Bury East	BL9 0TS	Unsecure	Education	Adult	-	No	Poor	2	2	2	0	2	Pitch is played to capacity.
13	Bury College	Bury East	BL9 0BG	Unsecure	Education	Adult	-	No	Standard	2	2	4	2	2	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
16	Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Field	Bury East	BL8 2BD	Unsecure	Education	Adult	-	Yes	Good	4	1.5	12	10.5	3	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
16	Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Field	Bury East	BL8 2BD	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Good	1	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
18	Cams Lane Sports Ground	Radcliffe	M26 3YZ	Secure	Council	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
19	Unsworth Academy (Formally Castlebrook High School)	Whitefield & Unsworth	BL9 8LP	Unsecure	Education	Adult	-	No	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
19	Unsworth Academy	Whitefield & Unsworth	BL9 8LP	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	2	2	4	2	2	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
20	Clarence Park	Bury East	BL9 6NQ	Unsecure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	2	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions.
20	Clarence Park	Bury East	BL9 6NQ	Unsecure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
20	Clarence Park	Bury East	BL9 6NQ	Unsecure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	7	2	5	-	Pitch is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions.
20	Clarence Park	Bury East	BL9 6NQ	Unsecure	Sports Club	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	1	9	2	7	-	Pitch is overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions.
21	Clifton Road Playing Fields	Prestwich	M25 3EQ	Unsecure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
22	Close Park	Radcliffe	M26 2QA	Unsecure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	2	4.5	2	2.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent session.

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused (+), at capacity (/) or potential to accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (MES)	Comments
22	Close Park	Radcliffe	M26 2QA	Unsecure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	3	1	2	-	Pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent session.
22	Close Park	Radcliffe	M26 2QA	Unsecure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	2	5.5	4	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent session.
22	Close Park	Radcliffe	M26 2QA	Unsecure	Sports Club	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	3	6.5	6	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent session.
24	AFC Dobbies	Radcliffe	BL2 6QR	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	2	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
25	Drinkwater Park	Prestwich	M25 9SU	Unsecure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	2	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
25	Drinkwater Park	Prestwich	M25 9SU	Unsecure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
25	Drinkwater Park	Prestwich	M25 9SU	Unsecure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
25	Drinkwater Park	Prestwich	M25 9SU	Unsecure	Sports Club	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	1	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
28	Elms Playing Field	Whitefield & Unsworth	M45 8NX	Unsecure	Council	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to poor quality.
30	Elton High School	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL8 1RN	Unsecure	Education	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
30	Elton High School	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL8 1RN	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
31	Elton Vale Sports Club	Bury West	BL8 2RZ	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
31	Elton Vale Sports Club	Bury West	BL8 2RZ	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Good	1	-	6	6	1.5	Pitch has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent session.
32	Gigg Lane	Bury East	BL9 9HR	Secure	Other	Adult	-	Yes	Good	1	-	3	3	1	Pitch has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Bury East	BL9 9RG	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Good	1	1.5	3	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Bury East	BL9 9RG	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	2	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Bury East	BL9 9RG	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	2	4	4	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Bury East	BL9 9RG	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	2	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
33	Goshen Sports Centre	Bury East	BL9 9RG	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
35	Grundy Playing Field	Whitefield & Unsworth	BL9 8AS	Unsecure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused (+), at capacity (/) or potential to accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (MES)	Comments
38	Harry Williams Riverside Stadium	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 0BS	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Good	1	1	3	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
41	Heys Road	Prestwich	M25 1BZ	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Good	1	4	3	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
41	Heys Road	Prestwich	M25 1BZ	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Good	2	5.5	12	6.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
42	Higher Lane Primary School	Whitefield & Unsworth	M45 7EX	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(9v9)	No	Poor	1	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Whitefield & Unsworth	M45 8LB	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Good	2	1	6	7	1	Spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Whitefield & Unsworth	M45 8LB	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	3.5	4	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Whitefield & Unsworth	M45 8LB	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	2	4	4	0	-	Pitches are played to capacity.
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Whitefield & Unsworth	M45 8LB	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Good	2	3	12	9	1.5	Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Whitefield & Unsworth	M45 8LB	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Good	1	2.5	6	3.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
44	Holcombe Brook Primary School	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 9TA	Unsecure	Education	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	2	2	8	6	2	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
45	Hollinhurst Playing Fields	Radcliffe	M26 1GH	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Good	2	1	6	5	1	Spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Radcliffe	M26 1AG	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Good	2	2.5	6	3.5	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Radcliffe	M26 1AG	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session.
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Radcliffe	M26 1AG	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Good	1	4	4	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Radcliffe	M26 1AG	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	5	4	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
49	Manchester Maccabi Community and Sports Club	Prestwich	M25 0EG	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
49	Manchester Maccabi Community and Sports Club	Prestwich	M25 0EG	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	4	2	2	-	Pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
51	Manchester Road Playing Field	Bury East	BL9 0TD	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	3	3	6	3	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
52	Nuttall Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 9LU	Unsecure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	1	3	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused (+), at capacity (/) or potential to accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (MES)	Comments
52	Nuttall Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 9LU	Unsecure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	2	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure..
52	Nuttall Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 9LU	Unsecure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
52	Nuttall Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 9LU	Unsecure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	4	2.5	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
52	Nuttall Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 9LU	Unsecure	Sports Club	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	2	1	8	7	2	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
54	Old Hall Primary School	Bury West	BL8 4LU	Unsecure	Education	Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
55	Old Standians AFC (Ringley Road)	Whitefield & Unsworth	M45 7LN	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
58	Parrenthorn Sports Centre	Prestwich	M25 2BW	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	2	-	2	2	-	Pitches are unavailable for community use at peak time.
59	Philips High School	Whitefield & Unsworth	M45 7PH	Unsecure	Education	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	2	2	2	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Radcliffe	M26 3RF	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	7	2	5	-	Pitch is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions.
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Radcliffe	M26 3RF	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	2	6.5	4	2.5	-	Pitches are overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Radcliffe	M26 3RF	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	2	6	8	2	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Radcliffe	M26 3RF	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	2	5.5	8	2.5	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
64	Ripon Hall Avenue Recreation Land	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 9RE	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
64	Ripon Hall Avenue Recreation Land	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 9RE	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	0.5	2	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
65	Sandgate Playing Fields	Prestwich	M45 6NT	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
65	Sandgate Playing Fields	Prestwich	M45 6NT	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
65	Sandgate Playing Fields	Prestwich	M45 6NT	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	2	-	4	4	4	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
65	Sandgate Playing Fields	Prestwich	M45 6NT	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	1	-	2	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
68	Seedfield Sports Club	Bury East	BL9 6NY	Unsecure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused (+), at capacity (/) or potential to accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (MES)	Comments
68	Seedfield Sports Club	Bury East	BL9 6NY	Unsecure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
68	Seedfield Sports Club	Bury East	BL9 6NY	Unsecure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	3.5	2	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
68	Seedfield Sports Club	Bury East	BL9 6NY	Unsecure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	4	2.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
68	Seedfield Sports Club	Bury East	BL9 6NY	Unsecure	Sports Club	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	3.5	4	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
69	St Annes	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL8 3LZ	Secure	Other	Adult	-	Yes	Good	1	1.5	3	1.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
70	St Gabriels RC High School	Bury East	BL9 0TZ	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(11v11)	No	Poor	2	2	2	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
71	St Marys Park	Prestwich	M25 1GG	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
71	St Marys Park	Prestwich	M25 1GG	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
71	St Marys Park	Prestwich	M25 1GG	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	2	4	4	0	-	Pitches are played to capacity.
74	St Peters C of E Primary School	Bury East	BL9 9PW	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
76	Stainton Park	Radcliffe	M26 3PE	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Good	1	2.5	3	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
78	Summerseat Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL9 5QL	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
78	Summerseat Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL9 5QL	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
79	Sunny Bank Primary School	Whitefield & Unsworth	BL9 8EQ	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(9v9)	No	Poor	1	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
80	The Derby High School	Bury East	BL9 9NH	Unsecure	Education	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
80	The Derby High School	Bury East	BL9 9NH	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	2	2	2	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
80	The Derby High School	Bury East	BL9 9NH	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
81	Top Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 9NU	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
81	Top Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 9NU	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
82	Tottington High School	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL8 3LY	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(11v11)	No	Poor	1	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (MES)	Site capacity (MES)	Overused (+), at capacity (/) or potential to accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (MES)	Comments
82	Tottington High School	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL8 3LY	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(9v9)	No	Poor	1	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
82	Tottington High School	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL8 3LY	Unsecure	Education	Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
83	Tottington Primary School	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL8 3HR	Unsecure	Education	Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
85	Town Meadow	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL8 3LY	Unsecure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	BL9 8QL	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Good	1	1	3	2	-	Pitch played to capacity at peak time.
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	BL9 8QL	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	2	1.5	8	6.5	2	Spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions.
87	Unsworth Primary School	Whitefield & Unsworth	BL9 8LY	Unsecure	Education	Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
89	Walshaw Sports Club	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL8 3EG	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
90	Westbury Sports Club	Bury West	BL8 2XD	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
90	Westbury Sports Club	Bury West	BL8 2XD	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
90	Westbury Sports Club	Bury West	BL8 2XD	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	2	3	4	1	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
90	Westbury Sports Club	Bury West	BL8 2XD	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	3.5	4	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
90	Westbury Sports Club	Bury West	BL8 2XD	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	3.5	4	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
91	Wesley Methodist Primary School	Radcliffe	M26 4PX	Unsecure	Education	Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
93	Whitehead Park	Bury West	BL8 2RR	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	2	0.5	2	1.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
95	Woodhey High School	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	BL0 9QZ	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	2	2	4	2	2	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
96	Lower Gigg Playing Fields	Bury East	BL9 9EW	Secure	Sports Club	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
97	Chantlers Primary School	Bury West	BL8 2SF	Unsecure	Education	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Bury. It totals 10 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 13 pitches at eight sites.

Table 2.16: Actual (peak time) spare capacity site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)
1	Ainsworth Hall Road	Radcliffe	Adult	1	0.5
31	Elton Vale Sports Club	Bury West	Mini 5v5	1	1.5
32	Gigg Lane	Bury East	Adult	1	1
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Whitefield & Unsworth	Adult	2	1
43	Hillock Playing Fields	Whitefield & Unsworth	Mini 7v7	2	1.5
45	Hollinhurst Playing Fields	Radcliffe	Adult	2	1
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Radcliffe	Adult	1	0.5
55	Old Standians AFC (Ringley Road)	Whitefield & Unsworth	Adult	1	1
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Mini 7v7	2	2
-	-	-	-	Total	10

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, most actual spare capacity is located on adult pitches and in the Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area. No actual spare capacity is identified in the Prestwich and RT&NM analysis areas.

Table 2.17: Actual spare capacity summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Bury East	1	-	-	-	-
Bury West	-	-	-	-	1.5
Prestwich	-	-	-	-	-
Radcliffe	2	-	-	-	-
RT&NM	-	-	-	-	-
Whitefield & Unsworth	2	-	-	3.5	-
Bury	5	0	0	3.5	1.5

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Bury, 31 pitches across 14 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 44 match equivalent sessions per week. Pitches are generally overplayed due to a high level of demand coupled with poor pitch quality.

Table 2.18: Overplay site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)
11	Market Street Athletics Track	Bury East	Mini 7v7	1	1.5
20	Clarence Park	Bury East	Adult	2	1

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)
20	Clarence Park	Bury East	Youth 9v9	1	0.5
20	Clarence Park	Bury East	Mini 7v7	1	5
20	Clarence Park	Bury East	Mini 5v5	1	7
21	Clifton Road Playing Fields	Prestwich	Adult	1	1
22	Close Park	Radcliffe	Youth 11v11	2	2.5
22	Close Park	Radcliffe	Youth 9v9	1	2
22	Close Park	Radcliffe	Mini 7v7	2	1.5
22	Close Park	Radcliffe	Mini 5v5	3	0.5
41	Heys Road	Prestwich	Adult	1	1
48	King George V Playing Fields (Radcliffe)	Radcliffe	Mini 7v7	1	1
49	Manchester Maccabi Community and Sports Club	Prestwich	Adult	1	1
49	Manchester Maccabi Community and Sports Club	Prestwich	Youth 11v11	1	2
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Radcliffe	Youth 11v11	1	5
63	Redbank Playing Fields	Radcliffe	Youth 9v9	2	2.5
68	Seedfield Sports Club	Bury East	Youth 9v9	1	1.5
71	St Marys Park	Prestwich	Adult	1	1.5
71	St Marys Park	Prestwich	Youth 9v9	1	1
78	Summerseat Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
81	Top Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	Adult	1	0.5
81	Top Park	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
85	Town Meadow	Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
90	Westbury Sports Club	Bury West	Adult	1	0.5
90	Westbury Sports Club	Bury West	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
-	-	-	Totals	30	44

Overplay is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, most overplay is located on youth 11v11 pitches and in the Bury East Analysis Area. No overplay is identified in the Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area.

Table 2.19: Overplay summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Bury East	1	-	2	6.5	7
Bury West	0.5	0.5	-	-	-
Prestwich	4.5	2	1	-	-
Radcliffe	-	7.5	4.5	2.5	0.5
RT&NM	0.5	3.5	-	-	-
Whitefield & Unsworth	-	-	-	-	-
Bury	6.5	13.5	7.5	9	7.5

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2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. As stated earlier, future demand is calculated based on what has been identified through population growth.

Adult pitch capacity

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Bury East	1	1	-
Bury West	-	0.5	0.5
Prestwich	-	4.5	4.5
Radcliffe	2	-	2
RT&NM	-	0.5	0.5
Whitefield & Unsworth	2	-	2
Bury	5	6.5	1.5

The table above shows that there is currently a shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent session per week on adult pitches in Bury. Shortfalls can be found in the Bury West, Prestwich and RT&NM analysis areas amounting to 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week, and the Radcliffe and Whitefield & Unsworth analysis areas have actual spare capacity. The remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.21: Future supply and demand position for adult pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Bury	1.5	2.5	4

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to four match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Bury East	-	-	-
Bury West	-	0.5	0.5
Prestwich	-	2	2
Radcliffe	-	7.5	7.5
RT&NM	-	3.5	3.5
Whitefield & Unsworth	-	-	-
Bury	0	13.5	13.5

The table above shows that there is currently a shortfall of 13.5 match equivalent session per week on youth 11v11 pitches in Bury. Shortfalls, due to overplay, can be found in the Bury West, Prestwich, Radcliffe and RT&NM analysis areas and the remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

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Table 2.23: Future supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Bury	13.5	5	18.5

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 18.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

Table 2.24: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Bury East	-	2	2
Bury West	-	-	-
Prestwich	-	1	1
Radcliffe	-	4.5	4.5
RT&NM	-	-	-
Whitefield & Unsworth	-	-	-
Bury	0	7.5	7.5

There is currently a shortfall amounting to 7.5 match equivalent session per week on youth 9v9 pitches in Bury. Overplay can be found in the Bury East, Prestwich and Radcliffe analysis areas and the remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.25: Future supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Bury	7.5	3	10.5

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Table 2.26: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Bury East	-	6.5	6.5
Bury West	-	-	-
Prestwich	-	-	-
Radcliffe	-	2.5	2.5
RT&NM	-	-	-
Whitefield & Unsworth	3.5	-	3.5
Bury	3.5	9	5.5

Across Bury, there is a current shortfall amounting to 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches. Shortfalls can be found in the Bury East and Radcliffe analysis areas amounting to nine match equivalent sessions, with actual spare capacity found in the Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Areas. The remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

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Table 2.27: Future supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Bury	5.5	3	8.5

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

Table 2.28: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Bury East	-	7	7
Bury West	1.5	-	1.5
Prestwich	-	-	-
Radcliffe	-	0.5	0.5
RT&NM	-	-	-
Whitefield & Unsworth	-	-	-
Bury	1.5	7.5	6

Across Bury, there is a current shortfall amounting to six match equivalent sessions per week on mini 5v5 pitches. All overplay can be found in the Bury East and Radcliffe analysis areas resulting in a shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Actual spare capacity can be found in the Bury West Analysis Area amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week and the remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.29: Future supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Bury	6	3	9

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to nine match equivalent sessions.

2.6: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall Bury supply and demand balance by pitch type.

Table 2.30: Summary of supply and demand in match equivalent sessions per week

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	5	6.5	1.5	2.5	4
Youth 11v11	-	13.5	13.5	5	18.5
Youth 9v9	-	7.5	7.5	3	10.5
Mini 7v7	3.5	9	5.5	3	8.5
Mini 5v5	1.5	7.5	6	3	9

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There are currently shortfalls across all pitch types in Bury amounting to 34 match equivalent sessions per week. When considering future demand shortfall amounts to 50.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

In comparison to the 2018 PPOSS, current shortfalls have reduced on adult (7 MES⁷ to 1.5 MES) and youth 11v11 pitch types (18.5 MES to 13.5 MES), whereas minor shortfalls have arisen on youth 9v9 pitch types (4.5 MES to 7.5 MES), mini 7v7 (capacity of 1 MES to a shortfall of 5.5 MES) and mini 5v5 pitch types (at capacity to shortfall of 6 MES). Although the overall quality has decreased the number of available good quality pitches has increased, so this has had a positive impact on reducing shortfalls on adult and youth pitches. Furthermore, there are now two 11v11 3G pitches available in Bury meaning less teams are playing on grass pitches.

A direct comparison to the future total cannot be done as future demand previously (2018) incorporated club aspirational demand and population growth rather than just population growth which is in the document.

Supply and demand summary

- ▶ **Current supply of football pitch provision is insufficient with shortfalls evident on all five pitch types.**
- ▶ **When considering future demand, these shortfalls will worsen to 50.5 match equivalent sessions. This is exacerbated due to a high level of demand and poor pitch quality.**

Supply summary

- ▶ The audit identifies a total of 154 grass football pitches across 59 sites in Bury, however, 126 pitches across 41 sites are identified as being available for community use at some level for community use (although not necessarily used).
- ▶ Most community available pitches can be found in the Bury East Analysis Area with 34 pitches provided (27%), this is followed by the Radcliffe Analysis Area providing 27 (21%) community available pitches. The Bury West Analysis Area provides the least number of community available pitches with just eight (6%).
- ▶ There are 13 sites, which were not marked as formal pitches for the 2022/23 season.
- ▶ Radcliffe Borough JFC currently use pitches at Close Park which has two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 pitches marked. All Radcliffe Borough JFC teams (21 in total) use the site, however, the Club has lost a number of pitches on site due to flooding and the recent flood defence works which have been carried out.
- ▶ Seedfield Sports Club JFC currently use pitches at Seedfield Sports Club which has one adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitches marked. All Seedfield Sports Club JFC teams (11 in total) use the site. The former school site has been identified by the Council as potential for housing development which affects the old school building and the carpark.
- ▶ Tenure of sites in Bury is generally secure i.e., through a long-term lease, Self-management agreements (SMA) or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years.
- ▶ Several sites have a draft lease or draft SMA, therefore, are considered to be unsecure. Furthermore, sites with SMAs that have expired, clubs are assumed to be renting the site meaning its unsecure.
- ▶ The quality of football pitches across Bury has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out in January 2023, PitchPower reports, and user consultation. Most pitches are assessed as standard, with 48 being rated as such. There are then 51 community available pitches assessed as poor quality and 27 assessed as good.

⁷ Match equivalent session

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- ◀ Nine sites are considered to have poor quality ancillary facilities. In addition to site assessments, of the clubs that responded to consultation requests, 6% report they have access to good quality ancillary provision at their respective home venues, whilst standard quality facilities are accessed by 6% of clubs and 21% access poor quality facilities.

Demand summary

- ◀ In total there are 454 teams identified as playing competitive football matches within Bury. This is made up of 50 men's, 15 women's, 182 youth boys', 34 youth girls' and 173 mini teams.
- ◀ The Bury East Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 119 (26%) whilst Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area has the fewest with only 36 teams (8%).
- ◀ Four teams from four clubs play within the football pyramid, Bury AFC, Prestwich Heys FC, Radcliffe Borough FC and Ramsbottom United FC.
- ◀ In Bury, Bury AFC Women are the only women's team in the Women's National League System, currently playing in the North West Women's Regional League South Division.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, 13 clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of 52 teams.
- ◀ There is relatively high demand in Bury for walking football with Bury Relics being the main club with four teams. It plays at Castle Leisure Centre (indoors) but trains on 3G pitches at Radcliffe FC. In addition, Radcliffe Sonics Women's Over 40s is a small walking football group that runs weekly sessions at Radcliffe FC on the 3G pitches.
- ◀ In Bury, actual spare capacity amounts to 10 match equivalent sessions and is identified across 13 pitches at eight sites.
- ◀ In Bury, 31 pitches across 14 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 44 match equivalent sessions per week. Pitches are overplayed due to a high level of demand and poor pitch quality at each site.

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

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

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

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

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

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

3.2: Supply

The recommended dimensions for an 11v11 size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g., the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

Based on the above specification, there are two 11v11 3G pitches in Bury across two sites. Both the pitches are sports lit and available for community use, compared to the last Bury PPS this is an increase of two 11v11 3G pitches. Further to this, the pitch at Bury Grammar School (Boys) is not quite 11v11 size, measuring at 73 metres x 46 metres.

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Table 3.1: 11v11 3G pitches in Bury

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
30	Elton High School	BL8 1RN	RT&NM	Yes	Yes	101 x 63
33	Goshen Sports Centre	BL9 9RG	Bury East	Yes	Yes	100 x 63

One 11v11 3G pitch is located in the RT&NM Analysis Area and one is located in the Bury East Analysis Area.

Table 3.2: Summary of the number of 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of full size pitches available for community use
Bury East	1
Bury West	-
Prestwich	-
Radcliffe	-
RT&NM	1
Whitefield & Unsworth	-
Bury	2

As well as the 11v11 3G pitches, there are also 16 smaller size outdoor 3G pitches across six sites in Bury. Of these, all pitches are available to the community and are sports lit.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G provision (outdoor)

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
14	Bury Grammar School (Boys)	BL9 0HN	Bury East	Yes	Yes	73 x 46
49	Manchester Maccabi Community and Sports Club	M25 0EG	Prestwich	Yes	Yes	55 x 50
59	Philips High School	M45 7PH	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	Yes	35 x 20
59	Philips High School	M45 7PH	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	Yes	35 x 20
59	Philips High School	M45 7PH	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	Yes	35 x 20
60	Powerleague / Bury College	BL9 0DB	Bury East	Yes	Yes	40 x 30
60	Powerleague / Bury College	BL9 0DB	Bury East	Yes	Yes	40 x 30
60	Powerleague / Bury College	BL9 0DB	Bury East	Yes	Yes	30 x 20
60	Powerleague / Bury College	BL9 0DB	Bury East	Yes	Yes	30 x 20
60	Powerleague / Bury College	BL9 0DB	Bury East	Yes	Yes	30 x 20

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
60	Powerleague / Bury College	BL9 0DB	Bury East	Yes	Yes	30 x 20
60	Powerleague / Bury College	BL9 0DB	Bury East	Yes	Yes	30 x 20
60	Powerleague / Bury College	BL9 0DB	Bury East	Yes	Yes	30 x 20
76	Stainton Park	M26 3PE	Radcliffe	Yes	Yes	42 x 28
76	Stainton Park	M26 3PE	Radcliffe	Yes	Yes	42 x 28
89	Walshaw Sports Club	BL8 3EG	RT&NM	Yes	Yes	15 x 45

Most of the smaller size pitch provision is provided in the Bury East Analysis Area (nine of 16 – 56%), this is due to eight pitches being located at Playleague/Bury College, accounting for half of the smaller sized 3G provision.

Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas.

The pitch located at Bury Grammar School (Boys) is the only small sided 3G pitch which is FA approved and therefore can accommodate match play.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Since the previous study, two 11v11 3G pitches have been created in Bury with one each at Goshen Sports Centre and Elton High School. These are the first two 11v11 pitches provided in the Authority with only smaller size provision previously provided. The quantity of small size pitches has remained the same.

Figure 3.1 identifies the location of all 3G pitches in Bury, regardless of size.

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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in Bury



Future supply

Though 11v11 3G pitches are considered to be those which meet FA minimum pitch dimensions, it is recommended that any new 3G pitches built in future should meet FA recommended pitch dimensions to ensure suitability for all formats of football and maximise opportunities for use.

Table 3.4: FA recommended 3G pitch sizes

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56

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Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

After receiving planning permission in January there is a new 11v11 3G pitch, changing pavilion and clubhouse funded by The Football Foundation and the Council being built at Redbank Playing Field in the Radcliffe Analysis Area. Redbank Playing Field is the home of Radcliffe Juniors FC which accommodates 50 teams.

Furthermore, there is a plan for another 11v11 3G pitch to be located at Top Park in the RT&NM Analysis Area. Ramsbottom United Juniors currently use this site for their home matches.

As mentioned above, the Radcliffe Leisure Centre (former Riverside School) is being redeveloped by the Department for Education (DfE) as the Star Leadership Academy, Radcliffe's new secondary school. It is planned that the school will have a new 3G pitch and other facilities including a small size AGP. The development is planned to commence late 2023, with the permanent academy campus open from summer 2025.

Future demand

FA 3G Pitch Register

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

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard. Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours.

To remain on the Register, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the football pyramid (Step 1-6).

In Bury, the 11v11 3G pitches at Elton High School and Goshen Sports Centre are both FA registered and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. Furthermore, the 3G located at Bury Grammar School (Boys) is also FA registered.

The small sided 3G pitch located at Manchester Maccabi Community and Sports Club could be added to the FA 3G Pitch Register in the future to accommodate 5v5 matches.

Retesting is required every three years as a condition of The Football Foundation grant to ensure that this remains the case. Both the pitch at Elton High School and Goshen Sports Centre will be retested before May 2024, whilst the 3G pitch located at Bury Grammar School (Boys) will be retested before May 2025.

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None of the remaining smaller size pitches located in Bury are FA registered and therefore cannot be used for matches.

World Rugby (WR) compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, WR has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification included a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

In Bury, none of the 3G pitches are WR compliant.

Management

The 3G pitch at Elton High School is managed internally by the education provider, and the pitch located at Goshen Sports Centre is managed by Bury FC foundation.

The smaller size 3G pitches are managed by either commercial management (11 or 69%), sports club (four or 25%), or education providers (one or 6%).

Availability

The following table summarises the availability within the peak period of 11v11 3G pitches in Bury. Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies a generic overall peak period for AGPs based the following hours for AGPs 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

The pitch at Elton High School is not available throughout each day due to curriculum use, whereas the pitch at Goshen Sports Centre is available every day from 09:00 until 21:00. The availability at each venue providing a 11v11 3G pitch is summarised in the table below.

Table 3.5: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Availability
30	Elton High School	34	Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 weekdays and from 09:00 until 21:00 at weekends.
33	Goshen Sports Centre	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 21:00 on weekdays and from 09:00 until 21:00 at weekends.

Quality

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

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In Bury, the 3G pitches located at both Elton High School and Goshen Sports Centre are assessed as good quality. These have both been installed in recent years and have no significant issues.

Table 3.6: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
30	Elton High School	2020	Good
33	Goshen Sports Centre	2020	Good

In addition to above, there are two good quality, nine standard quality and five poor quality smaller size 3G pitches.

Table 3.7: Summary of smaller size 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Quality
14	Bury Grammar School (Boys)	Yes	Yes	Good
49	Manchester Maccabi Community and Sports Club	Yes	Yes	Good
59	Philips High School	Yes	Yes	Poor
59	Philips High School	Yes	Yes	Poor
59	Philips High School	Yes	Yes	Poor
60	Powerleague / Bury College	Yes	Yes	Standard
60	Powerleague / Bury College	Yes	Yes	Standard
60	Powerleague / Bury College	Yes	Yes	Standard
60	Powerleague / Bury College	Yes	Yes	Standard
60	Powerleague / Bury College	Yes	Yes	Standard
60	Powerleague / Bury College	Yes	Yes	Standard
60	Powerleague / Bury College	Yes	Yes	Standard
60	Powerleague / Bury College	Yes	Yes	Standard
76	Stainton Park	Yes	Yes	Poor
76	Stainton Park	Yes	Yes	Poor
89	Walshaw Sports Club	Yes	Yes	Standard

Ancillary facilities

All 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate with no issues raised during consultation or via site assessments.

3.3: Demand

The 11v11 3G pitches currently available for community use in Bury are all reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting).

Currently, it is considered that all the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, with no rugby union usage identified through consultation. All of capacity is being taken up by football clubs for training and match play purposes.

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The table below summarises usage levels of the 11v11 3G provision in Bury based on booking sheets supplied by the operators. This compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM). This applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week; split between 18 hours midweek and 16 hours at the weekend (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 3.8: Current usage of 3G pitches across Bury in peak time

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
30	Elton High School	18	15 ⁸	16	4
33	Goshen Sports Centre	18	16	16	5
-	Totals	36	31	24	9

As seen, all midweek availability is currently at capacity or close to capacity, with only spare capacity existing at weekends. This data should be used to establish a baseline that can be reviewed annually to see if the position changes, taking into account any new pitches that are established and the impact these have.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

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

FA training scenario

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

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a sports lit 3G surface, together with priority access for every England Football Accredited Club through a partnership agreement. As such, it has established a model to calculate the required number of pitches to meet demand, with one 11v11 pitch being required to service every 38 teams within a local authority.

This is based on peak time access being Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings (Mondays and Fridays are discounted as it is considered that teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match, and it also allows for other forms of access such as for commercial leagues and recreational play).

⁸ Whilst these hours represent the hours that the pitch is currently in use, the pitch can be booked in quarters or halves and therefore sections are still available to be hired during these times, mainly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

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There is also a need to consider training demand on the existing smaller size 3G stock, some of which play an important role in meeting some club's requirements, although many should not be considered due to their size, lack of floodlighting and/or operational structure, however, this is not the case at Bury Grammar School (Boys). As a result, the 3G pitch located at Bury Grammar School (Boys) will be factored into the training scenarios below.

Using the above, with 454 football teams based in Bury, there is a calculated need for 12 11v11 3G pitches (rounded up from 11.9). With two 11v11 3G pitches and the pitch located at Bury Grammar School (Boys) already provided, this means there is a shortfall in principle of nine (rounded down from 9.25) within Bury.

Table 3.9: Current demand for 3G pitches in Bury (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
454	11.9 - 12	2.75	9.25 - 9

When considering future demand for an additional 33 teams (based on population growth), there is demand for 13 11v11 3G pitches (rounded up from 12.8), which suggests there would be a future shortfall of 10 (rounded down from 10.25) 3G pitches.

Table 3.10: Future demand for 3G pitches in Bury (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
487	12.8 - 13	2.75	10.25 - 10

Alternatively, the tables below consider the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the need exists across Bury, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

Table 3.11: Current demand for 3G pitches for affiliated football team training – by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of available full size 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Bury East	119	3.1 - 3	1.75 - 2	1
Bury West	42	1.1 - 1	-	1
Prestwich	84	2.2 - 2	-	2
Radcliffe	111	2.9 - 3	-	3
RT&NM	62	1.6 - 2	1	1
Whitefield & Unsworth	36	0.9 - 1	-	1
Bury	454	12	3	9

The table above suggests there is a shortfall of nine 3G pitches, with a shortfall identified in each analysis area.

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Match play demand

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

In Bury, currently 29 affiliated teams across five clubs are registered as using 3G pitches for regular match play.

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

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. 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.

As mentioned previously, there are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within Bury. However, The College of Rugby has aspiration for a WR compliant 3G pitch at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2) which would be available to use by The College of Rugby (educational hours) and both rugby clubs in the Borough (Sedgley Park RUFC and Bury RUFC) for matches and training. More information can be found in Part 6: Rugby Union.

Other sports

Currently, no other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Bury (outside of some school activity). The 3G pitch will be compliant for contact activity.

3.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is insufficient supply of 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand in Bury, with a current shortfall of nine pitches identified and an anticipated future shortfall of 10 full size 3G pitches.

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In addition, to ensure that current supply and any future supply is maintained to a good enough standard to accommodate demand, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that FA certification remains in place.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

The current shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches, by analysis area, has remained the same to the previous study with a shortfall of nine full size pitches. Although two pitches have been provided, this increase is directly related to the rise in participation since 2018.

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Supply and demand summary

- ◀ In Bury, there is insufficient supply of 3G pitches (11v11 size) to meeting football training demand (based on the FA training model of one 11v11 pitch accommodating 38 teams) with a shortfall of nine pitches identified currently and an anticipated future shortfall of ten pitches for football.

Supply summary

- ◀ There are two 3G pitches in Bury identified as being 11v11 size, both of which are available to the community and sports lit: Elton High School (101m x 63m) in the RT&NM Analysis Area and Goshen Sports Centre (100m x 63m) in the Bury East Analysis Area.
- ◀ Further to this, the pitch at Bury Grammar School (Boys) is just less than 11v11 size, measuring 73 metres x 46 metres, for the purposes of this report is referred to as a smaller size pitch.
- ◀ There are also 16 smaller size 3G pitches (measuring less than 100 x 60 metres) across six sites in Bury. Of these, all pitches are available to the community and are sports lit.
- ◀ Most of the smaller size pitch provision is provided in the Bury East Analysis Area (nine of 16 – 56%), this is due to eight pitches being located at Playleague/Bury College, accounting for half of the smaller sized 3G provision.
- ◀ In Bury, the 11v11 3G pitches at Elton High School and Goshen Sports Centre are both FA registered and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. Furthermore, the 3G pitch located at Bury Grammar School (Boys) is also FA registered.
- ◀ In Bury, none of the 3G pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ The pitch at Elton High School is managed internally by the education provider, and the pitch located at Goshen Sports Centre is managed by Bury FC Foundation.
- ◀ The smaller size 3G pitches are managed by either commercial management (11 or 69%), sports club (four or 25%), or education providers (one or 6%).
- ◀ The 3G pitches located at both Elton High School and Goshen Sports Centre are assessed as good quality. These have been installed in recent years and have no significant issues.
- ◀ The smaller size pitches are assessed as two good quality, nine standard quality and five poor quality.
- ◀ All midweek availability is currently at capacity or close to capacity, with only spare capacity existing at weekends.
- ◀ The College of Rugby has aspiration for a WR compliant 3G pitch at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2) which would be available to use by The College of Rugby (educational hours) and both rugby clubs in the Borough (Sedgley Park RUFC and Bury RUFC) for matches and training.

Demand summary

- ◀ With 454 football teams based in Bury, there is a need for 12 11v11 size 3G pitches (rounded up from 11.9) to meet football training demand (based on the FA training model of one 11v11 pitch accommodating 38 teams). With two 11v11 3G pitches and the pitch located at Bury Grammar School (Boys) already provided, this suggests there is a theoretical shortfall of nine 11v11 3G pitches within Bury.
- ◀ When considering future demand for an additional 33 football teams (based on population growth), there is demand for 13 11v11 3G pitches (rounded up from 12.8), which suggests there is a future shortfall of 10 11v11 3G pitches.
- ◀ If every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in there is a shortfall identified in each analysis area.
- ◀ No other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Bury (outside of some school activity).

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PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

Lancashire Cricket Foundation (LCF) serves as the main governing and representative body for cricket across Bury. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the Borough. It is currently working with the ECB on delivering its Inspiring Generations Strategy which has been live since 2020.

Consultation

In total, 13 affiliated cricket clubs are identified as playing within Bury. Only seven cricket club have responded to consultation requests despite all clubs being contacted on several occasions, resulting in a 54% response rate. It should be noted that since the previous study Elton Vale CC has folded due to a lack of demand.

4.2: Supply

Grass wickets

In total, there are 14 grass wicket cricket squares in Bury, provided across 14 sites. All 14 cricket squares are available for community use.

Most provision RT&NM Analysis Area which has five and the least amount of provision is in Prestwich Analysis Area which has one.

Table 4.1: Grass wicket squares in Bury by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of squares available for community use
Bury East	2
Bury West	2
Prestwich	1
Radcliffe	2
RT&NM	5
Whitefield & Unsworth	2
Bury	14

Non-turf pitches

There are four non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying grass wickets squares in Bury, located at Brooksbottom Cricket Club, Greenmount Cricket Club, Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowls Club and Stand Cricket Club.

In addition, there are 10 standalone NTPs located in Bury across nine sites. Of which six are newly installed as part of the Greater Manchester Cricket Strategy located at The Derby High School, Openshaw Park, Nuttall Park, Hoyles Park, Close Park and Grundy Playing Field.

NTPs, particularly at club sites, aid with training and practice and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs can be used for junior matches.

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Comparison to previous PPOSS

Since the previous study in 2018 there has been a reduction of one grass cricket square and one NTP as the provision formally located at Elton Vale Sports Club (Bury West) is no longer in use due to a lack of demand. The site is still actively used for both tennis and football however has had no known cricket demand since *circa* 2019.

The map below shows the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Bury. For a key to the map, see Table 4.2.

Disused Provision

In addition to Elton Vale Sports Club there is also a disused NTP located at the former Radcliffe Leisure Centre.

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket squares within Bury



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Table 4.2: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
						Grass	Non-turf
9	Brooksbottom Cricket Club	BL9 5NQ	RT&NM	Yes	1	12	1
12	Bury Church of England High School	BL9 0TS	Bury East	No	1	-	1
14	Bury Grammar School (Boys)	BL9 0HN	Bury East	Yes	1	6	-
16	Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Fields	BL8 2BD	Bury East	Yes	1	-	1
16	Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Fields	BL8 2BD	Bury East	Yes	1	-	1
17	Bury Sports Club	BL9 9JX	Bury East	Yes	1	16	-
22	Close Park	M26 2QA	Radcliffe	Yes	1	-	1
27	East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club	M26 2RF	Radcliffe	Yes	1	8	-
29	Elton Cricket Club	BL8 2RH	Bury West	Yes	1	17	-
34	Greenmount Cricket Club	BL8 4DX	RT&NM	Yes	1	11	1
35	Grundy Playing Field	BL9 8AS	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	1	-	1
47	Hoyles Park	BL9 6JD	Bury East	Yes	1	-	1
52	Nuttall Park	BL0 9LU	RT&NM	Yes	1	-	1
56	Openshaw Park	BL9 7DA	Bury East	Yes	1	-	1
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club	M25 1BZ	Prestwich	Yes	1	12	1
62	Radcliffe Cricket Club	M26 3RF	Radcliffe	Yes	1	14	-
70	St Gabriels RC High School	BL9 0TZ	Bury East	No	1	-	1
77	Stand Cricket Club	M45 7WF	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	1	18	1
80	The Derby High School	BL9 9NH	Bury East	Yes	1	-	1
84	Tottington St Johns	BL8 3NF	RT&NM	Yes	1	8	-
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	BL9 8QL	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	1	14	-
89	Walshaw Sports Club	BL8 3EG	RT&NM	Yes	1	12	-
94	Woodbank Cricket Club	BL8 1AY	Bury West	Yes	1	12	-
118	Ramsbottom Cricket Club	BL0 0BS	RT&NM	Yes	1	15	-

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Ball strike issues

ECB identifies a growing issue nationally in relation to potential ball strike issues (which can result in damage to properties) where there is either new cricket provision developed close to houses, or more commonly, a new housing development being built near to a cricket pitch.

As such, the ECB recommends that the clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken at an early stage of planning; further information can be provided by the ECB.

Currently no clubs which have responded to consultation state having ball strike issues.

Management and security of tenure

Most cricket clubs in Bury are known to have secure tenure at their home venues whilst East Lancs Paper Mill CC and Brooksbottom CC have unsecure tenure agreement.

For reference a site is considered to have unsecure tenure if the cricket provision on the site is not guaranteed to be retained over the next three years. The table below identifies tenure arrangements for all affiliated clubs.

Table 4.3: Summary of security of tenure for Bury cricket clubs where known.

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Club/league	Arrangement	Tenure
9	Brooksbottom Cricket Club	BL9 5NQ	RT&NM	Brooksbottom CC	Lease with the Council and private landowner	Unsecure
17	Bury Sports Club	BL9 9JX	Bury East	Bury CC	Freehold	Secure
27	East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club	M26 2RF	Radcliffe	East Lancs Paper Mill CC	One year lease from Private landowner, Homes England	Unsecure
29	Elton Cricket Club	BL8 2RH	Bury West	Elton CC	Freehold	Secure
34	Greenmount Cricket Club	BL8 4DX	RT&NM	Greenmount CC	Freehold	Secure
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club	M25 1BZ	Prestwich	Prestwich CC	Freehold	Secure
62	Radcliffe Cricket Club	M26 3RF	Radcliffe	Radcliffe CC	Freehold	Secure
77	Stand Cricket Club	M45 7WF	Whitefield & Unsworth	Stand CC	Freehold	Secure
84	Tottington St Johns	BL8 3NF	RT&NM	Tottington St Johns CC	35-year lease with The Free Church of England (St John's)	Secure

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Club/league	Arrangement	Tenure
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	BL9 8QL	Whitefield & Unsworth	Unsworth CC	Freehold	Secure
89	Walshaw Sports Club	BL8 3EG	RT&NM	Walshaw CC	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
94	Woodbank Cricket Club	BL8 1AY	Bury West	Woodbank CC	Freehold	Secure
118	Ramsbottom Cricket Club	BL0 0BS	RT&NM	Ramsbottom CC	Freehold	Secure

East Lancs Paper Mill CC has unsecure tenure at its home ground and has just one year remaining on its lease from private landowner Homes England. The site is implicated as part of aforementioned proposals to development new housing on the East Lancashire Paper Mill site, with current plans showing the relocation of the cricket ground elsewhere within the scheme towards the Tower Farm part of the site, along with additional surrounding playing field land.

Pitch quality

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

- ◆ Good
- ◆ Standard
- ◆ Poor

For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 3.

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

The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Bury found nine to be good quality and five of standard quality. None were deemed to be poor quality. The site-by-site breakdown of this is shown in the table below.

Table 4.4: Quality ratings for community available grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality 2018	Square quality 2023
9	Brooksbottom Cricket Club	BL9 5NQ	RT&NM	1	Standard	Standard
14	Bury Grammar School (Boys)	BL9 0HN	Bury East	1	Good	Good
17	Bury Sports Club	BL9 9JX	Bury East	1	Standard	Good
27	East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club	M26 2RF	Radcliffe	1	Good	Standard
29	Elton Cricket Club	BL8 2RH	Bury West	1	Standard	Good
34	Greenmount Cricket Club	BL8 4DX	RT&NM	1	Good	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality 2018	Square quality 2023
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club	M25 1BZ	Prestwich	1	Good	Good
62	Radcliffe Cricket Club	M26 3RF	Radcliffe	1	Standard	Good
77	Stand Cricket Club	M45 7WF	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	Standard	Standard
84	Tottington St Johns	BL8 3NF	RT&NM	1	N/A	Good
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	BL9 8QL	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	Standard	Standard
89	Walshaw Sports Club	BL8 3EG	RT&NM	1	Good	Standard
94	Woodbank Cricket Club	BL8 1AY	Bury West	1	Good	Good
118	Ramsbottom Cricket Club	BL0 0BS	RT&NM	1	Good	Good

The squares at Brooksbottom Cricket Club, East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club, Stand Cricket Club, Unsworth Cricket Club and Walshaw Cricket Club all assessed as standard quality with the remaining sites assessing as good quality.

Both Bury Cricket Club and Tottington St Johns Cricket Club state issues surrounding dog walkers and subsequently dog fouling due to being open and accessible to the public.

The audit of standalone NTPs in Bury found six to be good quality, one standard quality and three to be poor quality. The poor quality NTPs are located at Bury Church of England High School, Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Fields and St Gabriels RC High School. The site-by-site breakdown of this is shown below.

Table 4.5: Quality ratings for standalone NTPs (site by site)

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
12	Bury Church of England High School	BL9 0TS	Bury East	1	Poor
16	Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Fields	BL8 2BD	Bury East	1	Standard
16	Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Fields	BL8 2BD	Bury East	1	Poor
22	Close Park	M26 2QA	Radcliffe	1	Good
35	Grundy Playing Field	BL9 8AS	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	Good
47	Hoyles Park	BL9 6JD	Bury East	1	Good
52	Nuttall Park	BL0 9LU	RT&NM	1	Good
56	Openshaw Park	BL9 7DS	Bury East	1	Good
70	St Gabriels RC High School	BL9 0TZ	Bury East	1	Poor
80	The Derby High School	BL9 9NH	Bury East	1	Good

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Overall, across the Borough, square quality has improved since 2018 with more good quality (nine from seven) and less standard quality squares (five from six). Bury Sports Club, Elton Cricket Club and Radcliffe Cricket Club have improved from standard to good quality.

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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 required standards, which are benchmarked by the GMA.

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports (comprehensive, mini or verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

Table 4.6: Performance Quality Standard ratings

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

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Bury have access to changing room facilities at their home ground, although quality varies. Most of the provision is assessed as good quality, however, East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club is identified as being serviced by poor quality provision, as shown in the table below.

Table 4.7: Quality ratings for ancillary facilities servicing community available grass wicket squares

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
9	Brooksbottom Cricket Club	RT&NM	Good
14	Bury Grammar School (Boys)	Bury East	Good
17	Bury Sports Club	Bury East	Good
27	East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club	Radcliffe	Poor
29	Elton Cricket Club	Bury West	Good
34	Greenmount Cricket Club	RT&NM	Good
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club	Prestwich	Good
62	Radcliffe Cricket Club	Radcliffe	Good
77	Stand Cricket Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Standard
84	Tottington St Johns	RT&NM	Good
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Good
89	Walshaw Sports Club	RT&NM	Standard
94	Woodbank Cricket Club	Bury West	Standard
118	Ramsbottom Cricket Club	RT&NM	Good

East Lancs Paper Mill CC state the quality of its ancillary facilities are poor quality, with toilets and changing facilities in need of modernisation.

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Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Where known, all clubs, except Brooksbottom CC and East Lancs Paper Mill CC have access to training nets at their respective home venues.

Radcliffe CC currently use mobile nets on a grass wicket for training at Radcliffe Cricket Club.

In 2022 Elton CC had a new three lane all weather training net facilities installed at Elton Cricket Club. The Club secured a funding boost from SUEZ Communities Trust to enable this.

4.3: Demand

There are 13 affiliated cricket clubs in Bury which collectively provide 115 cricket teams, equating to 40 senior men's, four senior women's, 66 junior boy's and five junior girl's teams. Demand information was collated via club consultation and information from LCF. For unresponsive clubs, information has been retrieved from PlayCricket, Cricket HQ and club websites.

Ramsbottom CC offers the greatest number of teams, accommodating 17 teams respectively. Ramsbottom CC is the only club which has dedicated Women's and Girls teams.

Table 4.8: Summary of teams by club

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boy's	Junior girl's
2018					
Brooksbottom CC	RT&NM	3	-	8	-
Bury CC	Bury East	3	-	5	-
East Lancs Paper Mill CC	Radcliffe	3	-	-	-
Elton CC	Bury West	3	-	5	-
Elton Vale CC	Bury West	2	-	-	-
Greenmount CC	RT&NM	4	-	7	-
Prestwich CC	Prestwich	3	-	5	-
Radcliffe CC	Radcliffe	2	-	4	-
Ramsbottom CC	RT&NM	3	-	6	-
Stand CC	Whitefield & Unsworth	3	-	4	-
Tottington St John's CC	RT&NM	2	1	-	-
Unsworth CC	Whitefield & Unsworth	3	-	4	-
Walshaw CC	RT&NM	3	-	5	-
Woodbank CC	Bury West	3	-	5	-
Total		40	1	58	-
2023					
Brooksbottom CC	RT&NM	3	-	5	-
Bury CC	Bury East	3	-	7	-
East Lancs Paper Mill CC	Radcliffe	3	-	3	-
Elton CC	Bury West	4	1	7	-
Greenmount CC	RT&NM	3	-	5	-

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Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boy's	Junior girl's
Prestwich CC	Prestwich	4	-	8	-
Radcliffe CC	Radcliffe	2	-	-	-
Ramsbottom Cricket Club	RT&NM	3	2	7	5
Stand CC	Whitefield & Unsworth	3	-	6	-
Tottington St Johns CC	RT&NM	3	-	4	-
Unsworth Cricket Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	2	-	2	-
Walshaw Sports Club	RT&NM	4	1	7	-
Woodbank Cricket Club	Bury West	3	-	5	-
Total	-	40	4	66	5

As seen in the table below, most teams are based in the RT&NM Analysis Area (52), followed by the Bury West Analysis Area containing 20 teams. The Radcliffe Analysis Area contains the least number of teams with eight.

Table 4.9: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls
Bury East	3	-	7	-
Bury West	7	1	12	-
Prestwich	4	-	8	-
Radcliffe	5	-	3	-
RT&NM	16	3	28	5
Whitefield & Unsworth	5	-	8	-
Bury	40	4	66	5

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Overall, across the Borough, there has been a increase in the number of junior boys teams by eight, with an increase to senior women's teams from one to four teams and an increase to the number of girls teams from no teams to five teams.

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

All Stars

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

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

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Dynamos

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos programme for 8-11 year olds which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars Cricket programme for 5-8 year olds established in 2018 and will develop the pathway to retain juniors progressing from All Stars into Dynamos.

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

Five clubs are identified as running All Stars sessions in Bury. Currently, Bury CC is the only club which runs Dynamos sessions. The table below summarises the participation figures for 2023.

Table 4.10: Summary of Bury All Stars and Dynamos participation

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club/organisation	All Stars	2023 sign ups	Dynamos	2023 sign ups
17	Bury Sports Club	Bury East	Bury CC	✓	9	✓	14
27	East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club	Radcliffe	East Lancs Paper Mill CC	✓	7	-	-
34	Greenmount Cricket Club	RT&NM	Greenmount CC	✓	22	-	-
89	Walshaw Sports Club	RT&NM	Walshaw CC	✓	22	-	-
118	Ramsbottom Cricket Club	RT&NM	Ramsbottom CC	✓	36	-	-
-	-	-	Total	All Stars	96	Dynamos	14

Softball

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are played on the outfield and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats. No softball sessions are currently run in Bury.

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

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Exported demand

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

Imported demand

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

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand is demand which is perceived to exist but is not presently realised, whereas unmet demand is existing demand that is not able to access sufficient pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list. There is no recorded latent/unmet demand for cricket in Bury.

Future demand

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

Population forecasts

Based on population projections to 2043, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) estimates the likely additional demand for grass cricket pitches that will arise from any growth.

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

For reference total current population in 2023 of 193,417 will increase to 207,091 by 2043. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.11: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Peak time for population	Average games for age group	Match equivalent session per season ⁹
Men (18-55yrs)	1409	2.26	2	Saturday	12	24
Women (18-55yrs)	46598	0.07	0	Sunday	8	0
Boys (7-18yrs)	765	1.41	1	Midweek	6	6
Girls (7-18yrs)	4857	0.21	0	Midweek	6	0

⁹ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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As seen in the table above, two additional men's team and one junior boys' team are expected to be generated by population growth. Although no women or girls' teams are predicted to be created via population growth alone.

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

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

Participation increases

Of the responding clubs, none indicate plans to increase the number of senior teams, however, they all indicate aspirations to strengthen their junior participation.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Bury is Saturday. For junior cricket, peak time is midweek albeit some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

4.4: Capacity analysis

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

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive match equivalent sessions per season per square that is available and that currently takes place.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

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

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The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

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

In addition to grass wickets, NTPs are considered to have capacity for 60 match equivalent sessions per season. However, please note that NTPs have been discounted from the analysis by means of not distorting the findings. This is because no NTPs are recorded as accommodating more than their recommended capacity, which is 60 match equivalent sessions per season, meaning all NTPs are considered to have spare capacity. Whilst this translates to actual spare capacity for junior play, where the provision is more commonly used and where matches can be played on a variety of days, it is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

Any squares not currently available for community use have also been discounted from the analysis as they are not presently providing any capacity.

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Table 4.12: Capacity analysis of community available grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Users	Tenure	No. of squares	Community use	Square quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Saturday)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Sunday)	Potential spare capacity for junior cricket? (Midweek)
9	Brooksbottom Cricket Club	RT&NM	Brooksbottom CC	Unsecure	1	Yes	Standard	12	48	47	1	No	No	No
14	Bury Grammar School (Boys)	Bury East	-	Unsecure	1	Yes	Good	6	30	-	30	Yes	Yes	Yes
17	Bury Sports Club	Bury East	Bury CC	Secure	1	Yes	Good	16	80	60	20	No	Yes	Yes
27	East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club	Radcliffe	East Lancs Paper Mill CC	Unsecure	1	Yes	Standard	8	32	46	14	No	No	No
29	Elton Cricket Club	Bury West	Elton CC	Secure	1	Yes	Good	17	85	113	28	No	No	No
34	Greenmount Cricket Club	RT&NM	Greenmount CC	Secure	1	Yes	Good	11	55	55		No	No	No
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club	Prestwich	Prestwich CC	Secure	1	Yes	Good	12	60	110	50	No	No	No
62	Radcliffe Cricket Club	Radcliffe	Radcliffe CC	Secure	1	Yes	Good	14	70	21	49	No	Yes	Yes
77	Stand Cricket Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Stand CC	Secure	1	Yes	Standard	18	72	54	18	No	Yes	Yes
84	Tottington St Johns	RT&NM	Tottington St Johns CC	Secure	1	Yes	Good	8	40	40		No	No	No
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Unsworth CC	Secure	1	Yes	Standard	14	56	35	21	No	Yes	Yes
89	Walshaw Sports Club	RT&NM	Walshaw CC	Secure	1	Yes	Standard	12	48	89	41	No	No	No
94	Woodbank Cricket Club	Bury West	Woodbank CC	Secure	1	Yes	Good	12	60	70	10	No	No	No
118	Ramsbottom Cricket Club	RT&NM	Ramsbottom CC	Secure	1	Yes	Good	15	75	100	25	No	No	No

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Actual spare capacity

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

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the actual spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and during midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising it across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per season theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

Taking the above into consideration there is no actual spare capacity to accommodate further senior demand at peak time on a Saturday in Bury.

Sunday cricket

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

Table 4.13: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Capacity rating	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period
17	Bury Sports Club	20	1	8
62	Radcliffe Cricket Club	49	2	16
77	Stand Cricket Club	18	1	8
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	21	2	16

Total actual spare capacity on a Sunday equates to 48 match equivalent sessions per season. The Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area has the most actual spare capacity totalling 24 match equivalent sessions a season, this is closely followed by the Radcliffe Analysis Area with 16 match equivalent session a season and the Bury East Analysis Area with eight match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.14: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Bury East	8
Bury West	-
Prestwich	-
Radcliffe	16
RT&NM	-
Whitefield & Unsworth	24
Bury	48

Sunday capacity provides capacity for additional senior men's demand to be accommodated outside of the peak period whilst still being able to play within a competitive format.

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Moreover, it provides peak time availability for senior women's cricket (both hardball and softball) and for some junior demand.

Junior cricket (midweek)

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

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

Taking the above into consideration there are two squares across two sites in Bury that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek.

Table 4.15: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Capacity rating	Number of additional teams that could be accommodated in the peak period	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams in the peak period
62	Radcliffe Cricket Club	49	6	24
86	Unsworth Cricket Club	21	4	16

The total of actual spare capacity midweek equates to 40 match equivalent sessions with most of this being located in the Radcliffe Analysis Area, followed by 16 match equivalent sessions in the Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area.

Table 4.16: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Bury East	-
Bury West	-
Prestwich	-
Radcliffe	24
RT&NM	-
Whitefield & Unsworth	16
Bury	40

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Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square.

Table 4.17: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (Matches per season)
27	East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club	Radcliffe	14
29	Elton Cricket Club	Bury West	28
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club	Prestwich	50
89	Walshaw Sports Club	RT&NM	41
94	Woodbank Cricket Club	Bury West	10
118	Ramsbottom Cricket Club	RT&NM	25

In Bury, six sites are overplayed located at, East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club, Elton Cricket Club, Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club, Walshaw Sports Club, Woodbank Cricket Club and Ramsbottom Cricket Club, as seen in the table above. It should also be noted that, although not overplayed, provision at Tottington St Johns and Greenmount Cricket Club are played to capacity.

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and identified future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for senior teams and between four and eight matches for junior teams, depending on age).

Saturday supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday). For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

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Table 4.18: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday) in sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bury East	-	-		-	
Bury West	-	38	38	24	62
Prestwich	-	50	50	-	50
Radcliffe	-	14	14	-	14
RT&NM	-	66	66	-	66
Whitefield & Unsworth	-	-		-	
Bury	0	168	168	24	192

As seen in the table above, there is a current shortfall of grass wicket squares in Bury on Saturdays amounting to 168 match equivalent sessions per season. After considering future demand derived from population growth the shortfall worsens equating to 192 match equivalent sessions a season.

Sunday cricket supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams.

Table 4.19: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Sunday cricket in sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bury East	8	-	8	-	8
Bury West	-	38	38	-	38
Prestwich	-	50	50	-	50
Radcliffe	16	14	2	-	2
RT&NM	-	66	66	-	66
Whitefield & Unsworth	24	-	24	-	24
Bury	48	168	120	-	120

In contrast to Saturday cricket, there is a current and future shortfall for Sunday cricket in Bury amounting to 120 match equivalent sessions per season. Spare capacity is identified in the Bury East, Radcliffe and Whitefield & Unsworth analysis areas and no additional Sunday teams are expected to be created through population growth.

Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by four (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because junior demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamos.

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Table 4.20: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for midweek cricket in sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bury East	-	-		-	
Bury West	-	38	38	4	42
Prestwich	-	50	50	-	50
Radcliffe	24	14	10	-	10
RT&NM	-	66	66	-	66
Whitefield & Unsworth	16	-	16	-	16
Bury	40	168	128	4	132

As seen in the table above, there is a current shortfall of grass wicket squares in Bury for midweek cricket amounting to 128 match equivalent sessions per season. After considering future demand derived from population growth, the shortfall worsens on grass wicket squares amounts to 132 match equivalent sessions per season.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Since the previous study, the amount of overplay has increased from 54 match equivalent sessions per season to 128 match equivalent sessions, this is due to the growth of additional teams across all clubs, especially within the junior sections. an improvement on pitch quality and large squares located at some sites.

4.6: Conclusion

Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket in Bury on Saturdays, whereas spare capacity is existing on Sundays and midweek. However, when future demand is accounted for, shortfalls for Saturday cricket are further exacerbated.

Table 4.21: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares summary in match equivalent sessions per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	0	168	168	24	192
Sunday	48	168	120	-	120
Midweek	40	168	128	4	132

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Supply and demand summary

- There is no actual spare capacity to accommodate further senior demand at peak time on a Saturday, Sunday or midweek cricket in Bury.
- There are six sites identified in Bury as being overplayed located at, East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club, Elton Cricket Club, Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club, Walshaw Sports Club, Woodbank Cricket Club and Ramsbottom Cricket Club.

Supply summary

- In total, there are 14 grass wicket cricket squares in Bury, provided across 14 sites. All 14 cricket squares are available for community use.
- There are four non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying grass wickets squares in Bury, located at Brooksbottom Cricket Club, Greenmount Cricket Club, Prestwich Cricket Tennis and Bowls Club and Stand Cricket Club.
- In addition, there are 10 standalone NTPs located across nine sites in Bury. Of which six are newly installed as part of the Greater Manchester Cricket Strategy located at The Derby High School, Openshaw Park, Nuttall Park, Hoyles Park, Close Park and Grundy Playing Field.
- Where known, two clubs have secure tenure at their home venues whilst East Lancs Paper Mill CC and Brooksbottom CC have an unsecure tenure agreement.
- The squares at Brooksbottom Cricket Club, East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club, Stand Cricket Club, Unsworth Cricket Club and Walshaw Cricket Club all assessed as standard quality with the remaining sites assessing as good quality.
- The audit of standalone NTPs in Bury found six to be good quality, one standard quality and four to be poor quality. The poor quality NTPs are located at Bury Church of England High School, Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Fields and St Gabriels RC High School.
- All clubs in Bury have access to changing room facilities at their home ground, although quality varies. Most of the provision assessed as good quality, however, East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club is identified as being serviced by poor quality provision.

Demand summary

- There are 13 affiliated cricket clubs in Bury which collectively provide 115 cricket teams, equating to 40 senior men's, four senior women's, 66 junior boy's and five junior girl's teams.
- Ramsbottom CC offers the greatest number of teams, accommodating 17 teams respectively. Ramsbottom CC is the only club which has dedicated Women's and Girls teams.
- Five clubs are identified as running All Stars sessions in Bury. Currently, Bury CC is the only club which runs Dynamos sessions.
- Two additional men's team and one junior boys' team are expected to be generated by population growth. Although no women or girls' teams are predicted to be created via population growth alone.
- Of the responding clubs, none indicate plans to increase the number of senior teams, however, they all indicate aspirations to strengthen their junior participation.

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PART 5: RUGBY LEAGUE

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in Britain and Ireland. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League, and the Championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game structure in the UK. The RFL also administers the amateur and junior game across the country in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

Most community club rugby league is played throughout the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered as a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training can also be required throughout the winter months.

Senior rugby league is played on a pitch measuring 100 x 68 metres. The preferred pitch size for U7s, U8s and U9s is 60 x 40 metres, whereas for U10s and U11s it is 80 x 30 metres, with U12s and above generally playing on senior pitches. Teams from U7s to U11s are known as primary teams, whilst teams from U12s to U18s known as junior teams.

Consultation

Bury Broncos RLFC were the only rugby league club based in Bury. However, the Club folded last season, therefore, there are no known rugby league clubs in Bury.

5.2: Supply

There are two dedicated senior rugby league pitches, located at Philips High School in the Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area which are available for community use. There has been no change in the number of rugby league pitches since the previous study.

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Figure 5.1: Location of rugby league pitch provision within Bury



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Security of tenure

Security of tenure refers to the rights of occupation on playing field and infrastructure. Clubs and stakeholders are generally fall into the bracket of owner-occupier, tenant or licensee.

The two rugby league pitches located at Philips High School are managed in house by the school.

Pitch quality

The quality of rugby league pitches in Bury have been assessed via a combination of site visits undertaken in January 2023, carrying out non-technical assessments as determined by the RFL all pitches, and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◆ Good
- ◆ Standard
- ◆ Poor

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

Carrying capacity of a pitch is dependent upon the quality of a pitch which is outlined below:

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

Table 5.1: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Tenure	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Quality rating
59	Philips High School	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	Unsecure	2	Senior	No	Poor

The pitches located at Philips High School are poor quality due to the lack of maintenance and drainage issues.

Ancillary facilities

Changing facilities are available at Philips High School, with no issues reported during consultation with Philips High School. There is also a small pavilion onsite which was used by Bury Broncos RLFC.

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5.3: Demand

There are currently no known rugby league teams based in Bury. Bury Broncos RLFC were the only rugby league team in Bury and they folded last season (2022). It should be highlighted that the RFL are working with Bury Broncos to get them back up and running through intervention work focused on junior activity and supporting long term participation.

5.4: 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. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during the peak period and off peak times.

As previously indicated the carrying capacity of a pitch is dependent upon the quality of a pitch which is outlined below:

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

The 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 takes place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. As the majority of competitive rugby league takes place on senior rugby league pitches the peak period is considered to be Saturday PM and Sunday AM.

The table below identifies the way capacity and overplay is represented in Table 5.3.

Table 5.2: Spare capacity examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitch(es) have actual spare capacity at peak time.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch(es) is/are played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality but can also be due to the site being unavailable to the community.
1	If the cell is highlighted in red with a number, it means that the pitch(es) are overplayed.

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Table 5.3: Rugby league capacity table

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Type of Tenure	Management	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions of play (per week)	Recommended site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
59	Philips High School	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	Unsecure	Education	Senior	2	Poor	1	2	1	Used for curriculum and extra curriculum activities. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

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Actual spare capacity

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

There is currently no actual spare capacity on pitches in Bury due to unsecure tenure at Philips High School.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

In the previous study, the pitches located at Philips High School were overplayed by four match equivalent sessions, however, given that Bury Broncos RLFC has now folded there is currently only one match equivalent session of curriculum usage on these pitches.

5.6: Conclusion

Given there is currently no known rugby league team be based in Bury, there is sufficient supply if a rugby league team was to be created in the future with two pitches being located at Philips High School.

If a new club was to be created in the future, the priority should be to improve the quality of the pitches at Philips High School to safely accommodate any future demand.

Supply and demand summary

- ▶ **Given there is currently no known rugby league team be based in Bury, there is sufficient supply if a rugby league team was to be created in the future with two pitches being located at Philips High School.**
- ▶ **If a new club was to be created in the future, the priority should be to improve the quality of the pitches at Philips High School to safely accommodate any future demand.**

Supply summary

- ▶ There are two dedicated senior rugby league pitches, located at Philips High School in the Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area which are available for community use.
- ▶ The two rugby league pitches located at Philips High School are managed in house by the school.
- ▶ The pitches located at Philips High School is poor quality due to the lack of maintenance and drainage issues.
- ▶ Changing facilities are available at Philips High School, with no issues reported during consultation by Philips High School. There is also a small pavilion which was used by Bury Broncos RLFC.

Demand summary

- ▶ There is currently no known rugby league team based in Bury. Bury Broncos was the only rugby league team in Bury, however, folded last season (2022). It should be highlighted that the RFL are working with Bury Broncos to get them back up and running through intervention work focused on junior activity and supporting long term participation.

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PART 6: RUGBY UNION

6.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. As part of this, Club Developers and a team of community rugby coaches deliver core programmes for clubs across Bury.

The RFU governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

Consultation

There are two clubs in Bury, Bury RUFC and Sedgley Park RUFC. Both clubs were consulted resulting in a 100% response rate. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

6.2: Supply

There are eight senior and two junior grass rugby union pitches identified in Bury across five sites. All 10 pitches are available for community use with only two pitches, located in the Bury East Analysis Area, available for community use but currently unused.

Table 6.1: Supply of rugby union pitches in Bury

Analysis area	Available	Available but unused	Unavailable	Total
Bury East	3	2	-	5
Bury West	-	-	-	-
Prestwich	-	-	-	-
Radcliffe	-	-	-	-
RT&NM	-	-	-	-
Whitefield & Unsworth	5	-	-	5
Total	8	2	-	10

Provision of rugby union pitches is equally split between Bury East Analysis Area and Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area both accommodating five pitches. There is no rugby union provision located in the Bury West, Prestwich, Radcliffe or RT&NW analysis areas.

At present, there are no World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitches in Bury with the nearest pitches located at Leigh Sports Village (Wigan), Westhoughton High School (Bolton) and AJ Bell Stadium (Salford).

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

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches with posts. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to Table 6.2 below.

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Table 6.2: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ¹⁰
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U15	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U16	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U17	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U18	Colts	100 x 70
Senior	Senior	100 x 70

Comparison to previous PPOSS

There has been a marginal decrease of four pitches in Bury since the 2018 study. The following pitches are no longer actively marked: one pitch at Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Fields, one pitch at The Derby High School and two pitches at Woodhey High School.

It should be noted that Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Fields and The Derby High School still have other rugby union pitches marked, whereas Woodhey High School no longer has any formal rugby union provision.

¹⁰ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

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Figure 6.1: Map of rugby union pitch provision within Bury



Future provision

Sedgley Park RUFC aspires to extend its current provision with plans to buy a section of land from the neighbouring golf club (Whitefield Golf Club) and create an additional grass pitch. No funding has been secured for this development and it is purely just aspirational at this time.

The College of Rugby

The College of Rugby is based at Sedgley Park Rugby Club delivering BTEC Level 2 and Level 3 Sports provision. With support from Sedgley Park RUFC this provides extra curriculum programmes and initiatives including groundwork, strength and conditioning, school programmes, Rugby Tots, alongside RFU programmes such as coaching, refereeing and first aid qualifications.

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The College of Rugby has three main aspirations. The first aspiration is for a WR compliant 3G pitch at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2) which would be available to use by The College of Rugby (educational hours) and both rugby clubs in the Borough (Sedgley Park RUFC and Bury RUFC) for matches and training.

Furthermore, the College has aspiration for a small sided multi-sport surface at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2) to be able to accommodate other sports and to support its curriculum offering.

Its third aspiration is to build a teaching block and car parking on Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2), including changing rooms, classrooms, and toilets. The main issue at this site is not having such facilities and having to walk some distance back to the main site, Sedgley Rugby Club (Site 1). The College would need to get planning permission for this development in line with the Sport England Planning Field Policy.

At present, insufficient funds have been secured for these developments, therefore is currently aspirational. However, the College is actively looking for funding opportunities.

Ownership/management

Bury RUFC is one of the four sporting clubs which forms Bury Sports Club and has freehold of its site. Therefore, Bury RUFC is considered to have secure tenure. The Club also accesses pitches at neighbouring Derby High School, however, there is not a current formal community use agreement in place between the Club and School meaning tenure is not secure.

Sedgley Park RUFC accesses two sites which are Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 1) and Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2). The Club has a freehold on both of its sites and therefore has secure tenure.

Pitch quality

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

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

Table 6.3: Definition of maintenance categories

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

Table 6.4: Definition of drainage categories

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

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Table 6.5: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

Drainage	Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
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

Most community available pitches in Bury (70% or seven) are standard quality with two pitches being poor quality (20%) and one pitch good quality (10%) located at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 1).

Table 6.6: Summary of rugby union pitch quality in Bury

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Bury East	-	3	2
Bury West	-	-	-
Prestwich	-	-	-
Radcliffe	-	-	-
RT&NM	-	-	-
Whitefield & Unsworth	1	4	-
Total	1	7	2

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

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Table 6.7: Rugby union pitch quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership/management	Community use	Non-technical assessment rating	Number of pitches	Sports lit?	Quality rating	Comments
8	Hazelwood High School	Bury East	Education	Yes (Unused)	M0/D1	1	No	Poor	School based poor quality pitch which receive basic levels of maintenance.
16	Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Fields	Bury East	Education	Yes (Unused)	M1/D1	1	No	Standard	One pitch which receive dedicated maintenance. Pitches are used extensively by the School for its curricular and extracurricular activities.
17	Bury Sports Club	Bury East	Sports Club	Yes	M1/D1	1	Yes	Standard	One standard quality pitch used by Bury RUFC, which is sports lit.
17	Bury Sports Club	Bury East	Sports Club	Yes	M1/D1	1	Yes (Partially)	Standard	One standard quality pitch used by Bury RUFC, which is partially sports lit.
66	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 1)	Whitefield & Unsworth	Sports Club	Yes	M2/D2	1	Yes	Good	One pitch which is of good quality and fully sports lit. Pitch is used for both competitive and training demand. Used by Sedgley Park RUFC.
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	Sports Club	Yes	M1/D1	1	Yes	Standard	One pitch which is of standard quality and fully sports lit. The pitch accommodates both competitive and training demand and receives dedicated levels of maintenance. Used by Sedgley Park RUFC.
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	Sports Club	Yes	M1/D1	1	Yes	Standard	One pitch which is of standard quality and fully sports lit. The pitch accommodates both competitive and training demand and receives dedicated levels of maintenance. Used by both Sedgley Park RUFC and The College of Rugby.
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	Sports Club	Yes	M1/D1	1	Yes (Partially)	Standard	One pitch which is of standard quality and partially sports lit. The pitch accommodates both competitive and training demand and receives dedicated levels of maintenance. Used by both Sedgley Park RUFC and The College of Rugby.
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	Sports Club	Yes	M1/D1	1	Yes	Standard	One pitch which is of standard quality and fully sports lit. The pitch accommodates both competitive and training demand and receives dedicated levels of maintenance. Used by Sedgley Park RUFC.
80	The Derby High School	Bury East	Education	Yes	M0/D0	1	No	Poor	School based poor quality pitch which receive basic levels of maintenance. Pitches drain poorly and are used by Bury RUFC.

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Comparison to previous PPOSS

Broadly the overall quality of grass rugby union provision has remained the same in Bury as the preceding PPOSS. The pitches at Bury Sports Club remain as standard quality despite their rating changing from M0/D2 to a M1/D1. The pitches at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2) remain the same quality whereas the sole senior pitch at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 1) has improved from a standard (M1/D2) to a good quality (M2/D2) rating.

Ancillary facilities

Rugby union in Bury is solely club driven at club owned or managed sites, both of which have access to changing facilities. Although each club has access to ancillary facilities, quality varies on a club by club basis.

Sedgley Park RUFC access ancillary facilities at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 1) which it reports are generally good quality. The clubhouse facilities are also considered to be of good quality and are available to hire for events. The Club state it has access to seven changing rooms and three official changing rooms which are poor quality. This is a particular issue for the Club, it has plans to improve the changing facilities and add female changing facilities as the club looks to develop its female offer.

Facilities at Bury Sports Club are considered to be poor quality and in need of modernisation. Bury RUFC reports it has access to six changing rooms which are all dated with communal showers. The Club has aspiration to improve the quality of the provision with refurbishment of existing facilities and potential extensions to building to create new, suitable changing rooms.

6.3: Demand

Competitive demand

There are two community rugby union clubs based in Bury, providing a total of 34 teams. There are ten senior teams, of which, two are women's with Bury RUFC and Sedgley Park RUFC accommodating one team each. There are seven age grade boys' teams and two dedicated age grade girls' teams both of which are from Sedgley Park RUFC. Both clubs have a large mixed age grade systems totalling 11 mixed sex mini teams, five provided at Bury RUFC and six provided at Sedgley Park RUFC.

Table 6.8: Summary of club demand (number of rugby union teams)

Club	Analysis area	Senior Men's (19+)	Senior Women's (19+)	Age Grade Boys' (13-17)	Age Grade Girls' (13-17)	Mixed Age Grade (6-12)
Bury RUFC	Bury East	4	1	4	-	5
Sedgley Park RUFC	Whitefield & Unsworth	4	1	7	2	6
-	Totals	8	2	11	2	11

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Comparison to previous PPOSS

Overall demand in Bury has remained the same with 34 teams. The only minor change has seen a decrease in dedicated mixed age grade teams by one and an increase of dedicated boys' or girls' age grade teams by one.

Training

Training demand for rugby union, typically, takes place during the week (Monday – Friday), utilising sports lighting to accommodate this demand. This can add demand to match pitches and lead to a concentration of activity in specific areas. There can also be an issue with peak time capacity during this period to accommodate all midweek training demand from club teams, with rugby union clubs traditionally training on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings.

Bury RUFC utilises a partially sports lit grass pitch accompanied by a fully sports lit pitch to accommodate its entire training demand. In comparison Sedgley Park RUFC disperses its training demand across its sports lit provision at both sites. It also exports training demand to a sports lit 3G pitch to The Co-Operative Academy of Manchester, which is not World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant.

Table 6.9: Summary of club training provision (sports lit)¹¹

Site ID	Club	Site name	Sports lit training provision	MES per week
17	Bury RUFC	Bury Sports Club	Partially sports lit pitch which accommodates age grade training.	2
17	Bury RUFC	Bury Sports Club	Fully sports lit pitch which accommodates senior training.	3
66	Sedgley Park RUFC	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 1)	Sports lit pitch which accommodates the 1 st team and mixed age grade teams training.	2
67	Sedgley Park RUFC	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Sports lit pitch which accommodates both senior and age grade training and usage from The College of Rugby.	7
67	Sedgley Park RUFC	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Sports lit pitch which accommodates both senior men's and senior women's training and usage from The College of Rugby.	6
67	Sedgley Park RUFC	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Sports lit pitch which accommodates age grade training and usage from The College of Rugby.	4
67	Sedgley Park RUFC	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Partially sports lit pitch which accommodates age grade training.	2
Exported	Sedgley Park RUFC	The Co-operative Academy of Manchester	Sports lit 3G pitch (not WR compliant).	2

¹¹ Shows only midweek demand for floodlit training provision. Some mini and junior training takes place on Sunday mornings when there is no fixture and there isn't a requirement for sports lighting.

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Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby (WR) 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 WR 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.

Nationally, clubs with access to 3G pitches for training utilise them as a method of protecting grass pitches for matches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play generally continues to take place on grass pitches, although there is occasional use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of grass pitch quality or capacity issues (especially during bad weather spells).

Currently, there are no WR compliant 3G pitches identified in Bury. As mentioned above, The College of Rugby has an aspiration for a WR compliant 3G on Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2).

Unmet, latent and displaced demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training, it is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. In comparison, latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is no known unmet or latent demand in Authority.

Displaced demand refers to existing demand which is exported outside of the study area and any imported demand from neighbouring districts that accesses facilities within Bury.

This is often due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. There is no identified competitive displaced demand of rugby union provision in Bury, however, as mentioned Sedgley Park RUFC exports partial training demand to The Co-operative Academy of Manchester (Manchester).

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments within Bury.

Population increases

Based on population projections to 2043 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth.

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

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For reference the current population of 190,708 will increase to 207,091 by 2043. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 6.10: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent session ¹²
Men (19-45yrs)	1:3955	0.68	1	0.5
Women (19-45yrs)	1:16248	0.17	0	-
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:525	1.19	1	0.5
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:2339	0.25	0	-
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:1723	0.76	1	0.5

As seen in the table above, three additional teams are predicted to be generated via population growth, one senior men's team, one age grade boys' team and one mixed age grade team.

Future training demand

Similar to competitive demand referenced above, future levels of training demand can also be calculated via using Sport England's PPC. This demand is based upon access to a sports lit grass pitch equated into match equivalent sessions.

Table 6.11: Future training demand

Age group	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions)	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions) - rounded figure ¹³	Hour/s equivalent
Men (19-45yrs)	0.34	0	0
Women (19-45yrs)	0.08	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	0.59	0.5	1
Girls (13-18yrs)	0.13	0	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	0.10	0	0

As seen in the table above, additional training demand of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week will also be generated.

Participation increases

Sedgley Park RUFC indicates plans to continue to increase age grade girls section every year. The Club currently has 33 affiliated age grade girls in total and plans for this number to increase. It is understood that there are also a number of unaffiliated age grade girls that train and play regularly, but this is unquantifiable at this time.

¹² Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

¹³ Rounded to the nearest 0.5 match equivalent session.

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Bury RUFC also indicate plans to increase number of teams by one age grade boys' team and two age grade girls' teams. Additionally, Bury RUFC Women's team aspires to increase the women and girls' section with the help and support from the Council and the RFU.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only future demand identified through participation increases. Future demand expressed by clubs is considered aspirational and may not be fully achieved. The preceding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if this level of growth was realised.

The Strategy & Action Plan Report will contain a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing development.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior men's teams' match demand, it is considered to be Saturday PM; and senior women's teams Sunday PM. Peak time for age grade rugby is Sunday AM.

6.4: Capacity analysis

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

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby union pitches, the following assumptions are applied to the site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch analysis:

- ✦ All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ✦ All competitive play is on marked pitches (except for when explicitly identified by the clubs).
- ✦ From U13s upwards, teams play 15 v 15 and use a full pitch.
- ✦ Mixed age grade teams (U6s-U12s) play on half of a pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time; this means that play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ✦ For senior and single gender age grade teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ✦ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ✦ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ✦ Age grade rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ✦ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.
- ✦ Internal use of school pitches is added to current play, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.

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

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Table 6.12: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

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

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Table 6.13: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Bury

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Sports lit?	Competitive demand (Match equivalent sessions per week)	Training demand (Match equivalent sessions per week)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
8	Hazelwood High School	Bury East	Yes (Unused)	Unsecure	M0/D1 (Poor)	1	No	1	-	1.5	0.5	Poor quality pitch which is currently unused by community clubs. Used for curriculum and extra curriculum activities. Pitch has potential spare capacity.
16	Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Fields	Bury East	Yes (Unused)	Unsecure	M1/D1 (Standard)	1	No	1	-	2	1	Standard quality pitch which is currently unused by community clubs. Used for curriculum and extra curriculum activities. Pitch has potential spare capacity.
17	Bury Sports Club	Bury East	Yes	Secure	M1/D1 (Standard)	1	Yes	2.5	3	2	3.5	Standard quality first team pitch which is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Used by Bury RUFC to accommodate both competitive and training demand.
17	Bury Sports Club	Bury East	Yes	Secure	M1/D1 (Standard)	1	Yes (Partially)	2	2	2	2	Standard quality pitch which is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week. Used by Bury RUFC to accommodate both competitive and training demand.
66	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 1)	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	Secure	M2/D2 (Good)	1	Yes	2	2	3.25	0.75	Good quality first team pitch which is overplayed by 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Used by Sedgley Park RUFC to accommodate both competitive and training demand.
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	Secure	M1/D1 (Standard)	1	Yes	1	6	2	5	Standard quality pitch which is sports lit. Pitch is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per week. Used by Sedgley Park RUFC to accommodate both competitive and training demand and usage from The College of Rugby.
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	Secure	M1/D1 (Standard)	1	Yes	0.5	7	2	5.5	Standard quality sports lit pitch which is overplayed by 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Used by Sedgley Park RUFC to accommodate both competitive and training demand and usage from The College of Rugby.
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	Secure	M1/D1 (Standard)	1	Yes (Partially)	2	2	2	2	Standard quality pitch which is partially sports lit. Pitch is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week. Used by Sedgley Park RUFC to accommodate both competitive and training demand.
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	Secure	M1/D1 (Standard)	1	Yes	1.5	4	2	3.5	Standard quality pitch which is sports lit. Pitch is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Used by Sedgley Park RUFC to accommodate both competitive and training demand and usage from The College of Rugby.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Sports lit?	Competitive demand (Match equivalent sessions per week)	Training demand (Match equivalent sessions per week)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
80	The Derby High School	Bury East	Yes	Unsecure	M0/D0 (Poor)	1	No	1	-	0.5	0.5	Poor quality pitch which is currently unused by community clubs. Used for curriculum and extra curriculum activities. Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.

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Actual spare capacity

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

There are two sites which display potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play totalling 1.5 match equivalent sessions. However, in practice there is no spare capacity on these pitches at any peak time due to neither site being considered secure.

Table 6.14: Summary of actual spare capacity on senior pitches (Saturday PM)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Potential capacity	Actual spare capacity	Comments
8	Hazelwood High School	Bury East	0.5	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure.
16	Bury Grammar School Boys Playing Fields	Bury East	1	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due unsecure tenure.

For age grade rugby, ascertaining actual spare capacity can be unclear with regards to the programming of matches as it can vary from week to week. This is because age grade sections tend to enter cup competitions or play organised friendly fixtures, with clubs arranging for several of their age groups to play those from another club all at once, either at home or away. Then when fixtures are not scheduled, clubs will generally hold training sessions, which means that clubs may require use of home pitches for consecutive weeks, or not at all for the same time period.

Given the above, it is generally assumed that no pitches used by age grade teams have significant actual spare capacity. However, it is acknowledged that some capacity does exist during the weekend when the pitches are not in use.

Overplay

There are eight pitches across four sites which are overplayed totalling 22.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 6.15: Overplay summary (pitches used by community teams)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
17	Bury Sports Club	Bury East	1	3.5
17	Bury Sports Club	Bury East	1	2
66	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 1)	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	0.75
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	5

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	5.5
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	2
67	Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2)	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	3.5
80	The Derby High School	Bury East	1	0.5
-	-	Total	8	22.75

The most amount of overplay in Bury is located across the two sites at Sedgley Park Rugby Club. These five pitches accommodate a substantial amount of competitive and training demand; and usage from The College of Rugby in the week. This is similarly the case at Bury RUFC. On the contrary, overplay at The Derby High School is a result of curriculum and extra curriculum play on a poor quality pitch.

Table 6.16: Summary of overplay by analysis area in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Amount of overplay
Bury East	6
Bury West	-
Prestwich	-
Radcliffe	-
RT&NM	-
Whitefield & Unsworth	16.75
Bury	22.75

6.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay of rugby union pitches in Bury based on match equivalent sessions.

Table 6.17: Summary of supply and demand analysis in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current demand	Future demand	Total
Bury East	-	6	6	1	7
Bury West	-	-		-	
Prestwich	-	-		-	
Radcliffe	-	-		-	
RT&NM	-	-		-	
Whitefield & Unsworth	-	16.75	16.75	0.5	17.25
Bury	0	22.75	22.75	1.5	24.25

There is a current shortfall of 22.75 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand in Bury. When factoring in future demand, the shortfall increases to 24.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

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Comparison to previous PPOSS

Since the previous study, the shortfalls that were evident in the 2018 PPOSS have since worsened from a shortfall of 12 match equivalent sessions to now 22.75 match equivalent sessions. When considering future demand, the shortfall increase from 14 match equivalent sessions in 2018 to a shortfall of 24.25 match equivalent sessions.

6.6: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of rugby union capacity in Bury which exclusively derives from the two analysis areas where there are community clubs, Bury RUFC, in the Bury East Analysis Area, and Sedgley Park RUFC, in the Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area.

Where shortfalls are present, these could be alleviated through providing new pitches, although the number required is dependent on the quality they are provided to and whether they can accommodate training needs or not. However, there are also alternatives to reducing the deficits, for example via improving the quality of the existing stock, increasing the presence of sports lighting and enabling access to World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. These will be further explored in the proceeding strategy document.

Supply and demand summary

- ❖ **Current supply is not sufficient to cater for the level of demand expressed in Bury at present, there is a shortfall of 22.75 match equivalent sessions per week. When considering future demand, the shortfall increase to 24.25 match equivalent sessions.**

Supply demand

- ❖ There are eight senior and two junior grass rugby union pitches identified in Bury across five sites. Of these, all 10 pitches are available for community use, two pitches located in the Bury East Analysis Area is available for community use but currently unused.
- ❖ Provision of rugby union pitches is equally split between Bury East Analysis Area and Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area both accommodating five pitches. There is no rugby union provision located in the Bury West, Prestwich, Radcliffe or RT&NW analysis areas.
- ❖ Sedgley Park RUFC aspires to extend its current provision with plans to buy a section of land from the neighbouring golf club (Whitefield Golf Club) and create an additional pitch. No funding has been secured for this development and it is purely just aspirational at this time.
- ❖ Both Bury RUFC and Sedgley Park RUFC has secure tenure at their respective sites.
- ❖ Most community available pitches in Bury (70% or seven) are standard quality with two pitches being poor quality (20%) and one pitch good quality (10%) located at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 1).

Demand summary

- ❖ There are two community rugby union clubs based in Bury, providing a total of 34 teams. There are ten senior teams, of which, there is a single women's team which plays at Bury RUFC and Sedgley Park RUFC. There are seven age grade boy's teams and two dedicated age grade girls' teams all of which are from Sedgley Park RUFC. Both clubs have a mixed age grade teams totalling 11, five provided at Bury RUFC and six provided at Sedgley Park RUFC.
- ❖ Bury RUFC utilises a partially sports lit training area accompanied by a fully sports lit pitch to accommodate its entire training demand.
- ❖ Sedgley Park RUFC uses one sports lit pitch at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 1), three sports lit pitches, and one partially sports lit pitch located at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2) for its training demand.
- ❖ Currently, no WR compliant 3G pitches are identified in Bury. As mentioned, The College of Rugby has aspiration for a WR compliant 3G at Sedgley Park Rugby Club (Site 2).
- ❖ Three additional teams are expected to be generated via population growth, one senior men's team, one age grade boys' team and one mixed age grade team.
- ❖ There are two sites which display potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play totalling 1.5 match equivalent sessions. However, in practice there is no spare capacity on senior pitches at peak time for senior play.
- ❖ There are eight pitches across four sites which are overplayed totalling 22.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

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PART 7: HOCKEY

7.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH). It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day, providing that it has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek for senior activity and requires access to a pitch and sports lights, whereas many junior teams train on a Sunday as well as during midweek.

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

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

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

In addition to the above pitch types, EH is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2¹⁴, is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it is a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including at schools, with a dynamic carpet which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

Consultation

Bury HC is the only hockey club in Bury and was consulted with via an online interview, representing a 100% club response rate.

¹⁴ [Link to England Hockey website](#)

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7.2: Supply

There are four full size hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs) located in Bury, all of which have sports lighting and are available for community use to some extent.

Bury East, Whitefield & Unsworth, Prestwich and Ramsbottom, Tottington & North Manor (RT&NM) analysis areas all have one full sized AGP each. There are none in Radcliffe or Bury West analysis areas.

In addition, there is one smaller size sports lit hockey suitable AGP in Bury which is located at Bury Grammar School (Boys). The pitch is marked as seven a side hockey pitch and is over marked by four tennis courts.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

The main change from the previous 2018 study has been the removal of the disused hockey suitable AGP at Goshen Sports Centre. This was removed *circa* 2021 and replaced by an adult grass football pitch. All other provision remains the same.

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Figure 7.1: Map of full size hockey suitable AGPs pitches within Bury



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Table 7.2: Full size hockey suitable AGPs in Bury

Site ID	Site name	Ownership/management	Analysis Area	Number of pitches	Sports lighting?	Surface type	Dimensions ¹³ (metres)	Availability for community use
8	Hazel Wood High School (Formally Broad Oak Sports College)	School	Bury East	1	Yes	Sand Filled	110 x 63	Yes
19	Unsworth Academy (Formally Castlebrook High School)	School	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	Yes	Sand Dressed	98 x 63	Yes
58	Parrenthorn Sports Centre	School	Prestwich	1	Yes	Sand Filled	102 x 62	Yes
95	Woodhey High School	School	RT&NM	1	Yes	Sand Filled	97 x 60	Yes

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Quality

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

The following table indicates when each full sized hockey suitable AGP was installed or last resurfaced together with an agreed quality rating following non-technical assessments and user and provider consultation.

Table 7.3: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGP quality

Site ID	Site name	Availability for community use	Number of pitches	Surface type	Year built (refurbished)	Quality
8	Hazel Wood High School	Yes	1	Sand Filled	2005 (2010)	Poor
19	Unsworth Academy	Yes	1	Sand Dressed	2004	Poor
58	Parrenthorn Sports Centre	Yes	1	Sand Filled	2008 (2019)	Good
95	Woodhey High School	Yes	1	Sand Filled	2006	Poor

Three of the four full size AGPs are rated as poor quality. Hazel Wood High School, Unsworth Academy and Woodhey High School are rated as poor quality due to their relative age and limited maintenance.

The AGP located at Parrenthorn Sports Centre is rated at good quality due to recently being resurfaced in 2019.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

As mentioned, the pitch quality at Parrenthorn Sports Centre has improved since the 2018 study having been refurbished in 2019, in comparison, the pitches at Hazel Wood High School and Woodhey High School have both worsened in quality going from standard to poor. It should be noted that the pitch at Unsworth Academy was poor quality in 2018 meaning the quality now is close to unusable.

Ownership/management and security of tenure

All four available full size hockey suitable AGPs are located at school sites. Parrenthorn Sports Centre lettings are managed internally by the sports centre.

Both Woodhey High School and Unsworth Academy lettings are currently managed by an external lettings company, Schools Plus. Furthermore, Hazel Wood High School lettings are also managed by an external company, Edu-Lettings.

Bury HC currently uses the provision at Woodhey High School on a rental agreement and therefore does not have secured access. It reports wanting to formalise an agreement with the School for dedicated hockey usage at peak times, midweek for training and Saturday for competitive demand, in order provide security of tenure and capacity for growth.

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Ancillary provision

Access to ancillary facilities at school sites can often be restricted or limited for security reasons where changing rooms may be located in the main school building or where there is a lack of staffing to open and manage access. Schools also often have limited budget amongst other competing requirements for investment to make any qualitative improvements to changing provision, consequently they are often tired, dated and in need of modernisation.

Bury HC access changing facilities at Woodhey High School and states the changing rooms are in poor condition and need updating.

7.3: Demand

Bury HC is the only affiliated hockey club in Bury, providing five teams. As a breakdown, this consists of two senior men's, two senior women's and a junior section. All of its demand takes place on the AGP at Woodhey High School.

Table 7.4: Summary of community hockey teams

Name of club	Men's	Women's	Mixed	Juniors
Bury HC	2	2	-	1

Table 7.5: England Hockey affiliation figures (Category One and Two)

Name of club	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior boys (14-16)	Junior girls (14-16)	Junior boys (11-13)	Junior girls (11-13)	Mini mixed (5-10)	Total
Bury HC	40	57	2	2	6	6	0	113

All matches and training take place at Woodhey High School with matches played from 12:00 Saturdays and training from 19:00 – 21:00 on Wednesdays for senior training, 11:00 - 12:00 on Sundays for junior training.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Demand at Bury HC has reduced since the previous study with a reduction of one women's and four junior teams. The decline in membership, in part, can be attributed to the Club not having a secure home venue for the previous few seasons. The Club was previously based at Unsworth Academy in 2018 and left the site due to issues with pitch quality and accessibility during Covid-19. The Club state that in previous seasons it has also played outside of the Authority in order to access suitable provision, due to all hockey suitable pitches being located at school sites in Bury, and during the pandemic schools were closed for community use.

Exported/imported demand

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

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

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There is no known exported or imported hockey demand in Bury.

Latent/unmet demand

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

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

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years, meaning it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.

Bury HC aspires to continue to increase the junior section.

Hockey Heroes

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

There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in Bury.

Back to Hockey

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

Benefits of clubs being involved in Back to Hockey include:

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

Bury HC runs back to hockey sessions.

Walking hockey

Increasing in popularity, walking hockey is perfect for players looking for a less physically demanding version of the game but still enjoy showing their skills and being involved in the team and social aspect.

There are currently no walking hockey sessions operating in Bury.

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Peak time demand

Generally, all senior hockey is played on a Saturday whereas all junior hockey is played on a Sunday.

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Availability

The following table summarises the availability of full sized AGPs for community use in Bury. 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 per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

All four pitches are available for community use midweek from 6pm as all are situated at school sites and are used by schools for extracurricular sport until this time.

Table 7.6: Summary of availability and usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Bury

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Availability for community use	Sports lighting?	Quality ¹⁵	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Hockey usage	Football usage	Spare capacity
8	Hazel Wood High School	Sand Filled	Yes	Yes	Poor	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: 4 hours Total: 17 hours	No recorded community hockey usage.	13 hours (76%) - AFC Dobbies, Bury Allstars FC, Radcliffe Borough JFC, Seedfield Sports Club, Walshaw Park JFC	4 hours (24%) Saturdays (4 Hours)
19	Unsworth Academy	Sand Dressed	Yes	Yes	Poor	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: 6 hours Total: 19 hours	No recorded community hockey usage.	10 hours (53%) - Elton & Walshaw FC, Prestwich Marauders FC, Radcliffe Borough JFC, Radcliffe Town FC, Walshaw Sports Club	9 hours (47%) Mondays (2 Hour) Tuesdays (1 Hour) Saturday (6 Hours)
58	Parrenthorn Sports Centre	Sand Filled	Yes	Yes	Good	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: 3 hours Total: 16 hours	No recorded community hockey usage.	13 hours (81%) – Unsworth Juniors, Prestwich Marauders FC, Prestwich All Stars, Prestwich Juniors, Radcliffe Town and Love Football Ltd	3 hours (19%) Saturdays (3 Hours)
95	Woodhey High School	Sand Filled	Yes	Yes	Poor	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekends: 16 hours Total: 29 hours	8 hours (28%) - Bury HC	11 hours (38%) – Woodbank Junior FC, Brandlesholme Warriors JFC, Walshaw Sports Club	10 hours (34%) Saturdays (3 Hours) Sunday (7 Hours)

Spare capacity

There is spare capacity to accommodate additional use in the peak period on all four full size hockey suitable AGPs, however, much of this is on Saturdays and is limited to a few hours only. Bury HC has tried to access Parrenthorn for training and matches, however, was unsuccessful due to the pitch only being available for three hours on a weekend, reportedly due to staffing issues.

There is capacity to accommodate more use on Saturdays at Woodhey High School; however, this is limited due to the poor quality of the surface.

All four AGPs are well used midweek and almost exclusively accommodate football team training demand.

¹⁵ Quality is assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions.

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7.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is suggested that a full size, sports lit AGP is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there are four full size AGPs available which can accommodate hockey matches in Bury, this provides an opportunity to accommodate up to 32 hockey teams across the Borough. With just five teams currently playing in Bury, there is sufficient spare capacity to accommodate demand.

At present the Club has a sufficient level of access for midweek training for both its junior and senior teams. However, the current poor quality pitch at Woodhey High School is inhibiting hockey growth.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Since the previous study, supply is still considered to be sufficient. The number of available hockey suitable pitches which are provided has not changed since the previous study with four available located at, Hazel Wood High School (formerly Broad Oak Sports College), Unsworth Academy (formerly Castlebrook High School), Parrenthorn Sports Centre and Woodhey High School.

7.5: Conclusion

There is sufficient quantity of full size hockey suitable AGPs to meet current and future demand for hockey in Bury. However, the poor quality of Woodhey High School is inhibiting the growth of Bury HC.

Ideally if Parrenthorn AGP (now good quality) could be secured for hockey use and made available for longer at weekends this would service the needs of Bury HC both now and in the future. Alternatively, the quality needs to be improved at Woodhey High School and security of tenure secured for Bury HC.

The continued development of 3G pitches to accommodate football team training is likely to see increased capacity freed up midweek which should be utilised to facilitate growth in hockey participation.

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Supply and demand summary

- Supply of AGPs suitable for hockey is sufficient albeit there are key issues regarding quality at Woodhey High School.
- There are a number of sand based AGPs which offer potential for surface conversion to 3G to reduce 3G shortfalls without impacting on current or future ability to cater for community hockey demand.

Supply summary

- There are four full sized hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs) located in Bury, all of which have sports lighting and are available for community use.
- Bury East, Whitefield & Unsworth, Prestwich and Ramsbottom, Tottington & North Manor (RT&NM) analysis areas all have one full sized AGP each. There are none in Radcliffe or Bury West analysis areas.
- Three of the four full sized AGPs are rated as poor quality. Hazel Wood High School, Unsworth Academy and Woodhey High School are rated as poor quality due to their relative age and limited maintenance.
- The AGP located at Parrenthorn Sports Centre is rated at good quality due to recently being resurfaced in 2019.
- All four available full sized hockey suitable AGPs are located at school sites.

Demand summary

- Bury HC is the only affiliated hockey club in Bury, providing five teams. As a breakdown, this consists of two senior men's, two senior women's and a junior section. All of the Club's demand takes place on the AGP at Woodhey High School.
- Bury HC runs back to hockey sessions.
- There is spare capacity to accommodate additional use in the peak period on all four full sized hockey suitable AGPs, however much of this is on Saturdays when there is little demand for use as football teams play competitively on grass pitches and hockey demand is relatively little, based at Woodhey High School.
- There is four full size AGP available which can accommodate hockey matches in Bury, this provides an opportunity to accommodate up to 32 hockey teams across the Borough. With just five teams currently playing in Bury, there is sufficient spare capacity to accommodate demand.

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PART 8: BOWLING GREENS

8.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Bury are crown greens. The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) is the governing body responsible for ensuring effective governance of crown green bowls across the Country. More locally the sport is run and administered by County Bowling associations and Bury clubs generally affiliate to the Lancashire County Crown Green Bowling Association (LCGBA).

Consultation

There are 38 clubs identified as currently using outdoor bowling greens in Bury. Of these, seven have responded to consultation requests, despite all clubs being contacted on several occasions. Consultation attempts are still on going.

8.2: Supply

There are 37 bowling greens in Bury provided across 33 sites, all of which, are available for community use.

As seen in the table below, the Bury East and Radcliffe analysis areas provide the most greens with eight provided respectively. Bury West Analysis Area provides the least number of greens with only two.

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

Analysis area	Number of crown greens
Bury East	8
Bury West	2
Prestwich	7
Radcliffe	8
RT&NM	7
Whitefield & Unsworth	5
Bury	37

Figure 8.1 below shows the location of all bowling greens currently servicing Bury. For a key to the map, see Table 8.3.

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Figure 8.1: Location of bowling greens in Bury



Table 8.2: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Type of green	Club user
2	Ainsworth Vets Bowling Club	BL2 5SQ	Radcliffe	1	Crown	Ainsworth BC / Ainsworth Ladies BC
5	Black Lane Bowls Club	M26 4HZ	Radcliffe	1	Crown	Black Lane BC / East Lancs Paper Mill BC / Bay Horse BC / Redfern BC
20	Clarence Park	BL9 6NQ	Bury East	1	Crown	Clarence Park Vets
22	Close Park	M26 2QA	Radcliffe	1	Crown	Close Park BC
26	Eagle And Child Bowls Club	M45 7EY	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	Crown	Eagle and Child Crown Green BC / Higher Blackley Cons BC

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Type of green	Club user
29	Elton Cricket Club	BL8 2RH	Bury West	1	Crown	-
37	Hare And Hounds Bowls Club	M26 1BG	Radcliffe	1	Crown	Hare & Hound BC / Coronation BC
45	Hollinhurst Playing Fields	M26 1GH	Radcliffe	1	Crown	Hollinhurst BC / Huntly Mount BC
46	Hollins Bowling Club	BL9 8AY	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	Crown	Hollins Village Community Association BC
47	Hoyles Park	BL9 6JA	Bury East	1	Crown	Hoyles Vets BC
50	Manchester Road Recreation Ground	BL9 0TD	Bury East	1	Crown	-
52	Nuttall Park	BL0 9LU	RT&NM	2	Crown	Nuttall Park BC
56	Openshaw Park	BL9 7DS	Bury East	2	Crown	Openshaw Park BC
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club	M25 1BZ	Prestwich	1	Crown	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & BC
68	Seedfield Sports Club	BL9 6NY	Bury East	1	Crown	Seedfield BC / Scouters BC
71	St Marys Park	M25 1GG	Prestwich	2	Crown	St Mary's Park BC / Church Institute BC
85	Town Meadow	BL8 3LY	RT&NM	1	Crown	Tottington Bowling & Social Club
92	Whitefield Park	M45 8SH	Whitefield & Unsworth	2	Crown	Whitefield Park BC
104	Allens Green Bowling Pavilion	M26 3AD	Radcliffe	1	Crown	Allens Green BC
105	Bailey Street Bowling Green	M25 1HQ	Prestwich	1	Crown	Bailey Street BC
106	Prestwich Conservative Club	M25 1AN	Prestwich	1	Crown	Prestwich Cons BC
107	Prestwich Liberal Club	M25 3AJ	Prestwich	1	Crown	Prestwich Liberal BC
108	St Margaret's Bowling Green	M25 2GN	Prestwich	1	Crown	St Margaret's BC
109	Tottington Conservative Club	BL8 3NH	RT&NM	1	Crown	Tottington Cons BC
110	Elton Libs Bowling Green	BL8 1NW	Bury West	1	Crown	Elton Liberals BC
111	Stanley Conservative Club	BL9 9AY	Bury East	1	Crown	Stanley Cons BC
112	Huntley Unionist Club	BL9 7LN	Bury East	1	Crown	-
113	Walmersley Conservative Club	BL9 6RB	RT&NM	1	Crown	Hargreaves BC
114	Dobbies Sports & Social Club	BL2 6RE	Radcliffe	1	Crown	Dobbies BC

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Type of green	Club user
115	Buchanan Sports & Social	BL0 9JG	RT&NM	1	Crown	Buchanan Sports and Social BC
116	Rose And Crown Bowling Green	BL0 9EG	RT&NM	1	Crown	The Rose BC
117	Whitefield Bowls Club	M45 7NF	Whitefield & Unsworth	1	Crown	-
126	Bolton Road Park	M26 3QZ	Radcliffe	1	Crown	Bolton Road BC / Bolton Road Ladies BC

It should be noted that there are four flat bowling greens located in close proximity to the Bury study area in neighbouring authority of Manchester. These greens are located at Heaton Park which is located less than a mile outside of Bury and it is likely that some demand from Bury will be accommodated here.

Disused green

There was one bowling green located in the Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor (RT&NM) Analysis Area. The green is known locally as the Grant Arms Bowling Green and was given the certification of an asset of community value in 2015. The bowling green has previously had an unsuccessful planning application placed on it to build flats.

In addition, there was previously a bowling green at East Lancashire Paper Mill which was home to East Lancs Paper Mill Bowling Club. The green was lost after the original paper mill was demolished in circa 2005 and is currently scrubland. The bowling club has since relocated and is now accessing provision at Black Lane Bowls Club.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Since the previous study, there has been no change in the number of bowling greens provided in Bury with 37 across 33 sites still provided.

Ownership and management

Most greens in Bury operate as sports clubs on self-management agreements or hold freehold status. Seedfield BC, Dobbies BC, Buchanan Sports and Social BC, Bailey Street BC, Elton Liberals BC, Nuttall Park BC, Prestwich Cons BC and Prestwich Liberals BC all report having a freehold of their bowling greens.

No club through consultation report an issue with their current arrangements.

Quality

The quality of bowling greens across Bury have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◆ Good
- ◆ Standard
- ◆ Poor

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For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs off unofficial use. For further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2.

In Bury, five greens are assessed as standard quality whilst all the remaining greens are assessed as good quality. No greens are assessed as poor quality. An overview of this can be seen in the table below.

Table 8.3: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Type of green	Number of greens	Green quality 2018	Green quality 2023
2	Ainsworth Vets Bowling Club	Radcliffe	Crown	1	Good	Good
5	Black Lane Bowls Club	Radcliffe	Crown	1	Good	Good
20	Clarence Park	Bury East	Crown	1	Standard	Good
22	Close Park	Radcliffe	Crown	1	Good	Good
26	Eagle And Child Bowls Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Crown	1	Good	Good
29	Elton Cricket Club	Bury West	Crown	1	Good	Good
37	Hare And Hounds Bowls Club	Radcliffe	Crown	1	Good	Good
45	Hollinhurst Playing Fields	Radcliffe	Crown	1	Standard	Good
46	Hollins Bowling Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Crown	1	Good	Good
47	Hoyles Park	Bury East	Crown	1	Good	Standard
50	Manchester Road Recreation Ground	Bury East	Crown	1	Good	Good
52	Nuttall Park	RT&NM	Crown	2	Standard	Good
56	Openshaw Park	Bury East	Crown	2	Good	Good
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club	Prestwich	Crown	1	Good	Good
68	Seedfield Sports Club	Bury East	Crown	1	Good	Good
71	St Marys Park	Prestwich	Crown	2	Good	Good
85	Town Meadow	RT&NM	Crown	1	Good	Good
92	Whitefield Park	Whitefield & Unsworth	Crown	2	Good	Good
104	Allens Green Bowling Pavilion	Radcliffe	Crown	1	Good	Good
105	Bailey Street Bowling Green	Prestwich	Crown	1	Good	Good
106	Prestwich Conservative Club	Prestwich	Crown	1	Good	Good
107	Prestwich Liberal Club	Prestwich	Crown	1	Good	Good
108	St Margaret's Bowling Green	Prestwich	Crown	1	Good	Good
109	Tottington Conservative Club	RT&NM	Crown	1	Good	Good
110	Elton Libs Bowling Green	Bury West	Crown	1	Good	Good

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Type of green	Number of greens	Green quality 2018	Green quality 2023
111	Stanley Conservative Club	Bury East	Crown	1	Good	Standard
112	Huntley Unionist Club	Bury East	Crown	1	Standard	Standard
113	Walmersley Conservative Club	RT&NM	Crown	1	Good	Good
114	Dobbies Sports & Social Club	Radcliffe	Crown	1	Good	Good
115	Buchanan Sports & Social	RT&NM	Crown	1	Good	Standard
116	Rose And Crown Bowling Green	RT&NM	Crown	1	Good	Standard
117	Whitefield Bowls Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Crown	1	Good	Good
126	Bolton Road Park	Radcliffe	Crown	1	Standard	Good

All the good quality greens share similar qualities, having an even surface, good quality boardings and surrounding areas, and minimal signs of wear and tear.

Clubs which responded to consultation requested report no issues surrounding their green and rate it of high quality.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

The overall percentage of the good quality greens has increased slightly from 86% to 89% since the previous study. This can be accredited to, in part, to the greens at Clarence Park, Hollinhurst Playing Fields, Nuttall Park and Bolton Road Park now being assessed as good quality rather than standard quality due to enhanced maintenance regimes.

Ancillary provision

All greens and clubs in Bury are serviced by some form of ancillary provision. Eight sites are serviced by standard quality provision and the remaining sites are serviced by good quality provision. A summary of this can be seen in the table below.

Table 8.4: Summary of ancillary facility quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Quality
2	Ainsworth Vets Bowling Club	Radcliffe	Good
5	Black Lane Bowls Club	Radcliffe	Standard
20	Clarence Park	Bury East	Good
22	Close Park	Radcliffe	Standard
26	Eagle And Child Bowls Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Good
29	Elton Cricket Club	Bury West	Standard
37	Hare And Hounds Bowls Club	Radcliffe	Good
45	Hollinhurst Playing Fields	Radcliffe	Standard
46	Hollins Bowling Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Standard
47	Hoyles Park	Bury East	Standard
50	Manchester Road Recreation Ground	Bury East	Good

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Quality
52	Nuttall Park	RT&NM	Good
56	Openshaw Park	Bury East	Standard
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club	Prestwich	Good
68	Seedfield Sports Club	Bury East	Good
71	St Marys Park	Prestwich	Good
85	Town Meadow	RT&NM	Good
92	Whitefield Park	Whitefield & Unsworth	Good
104	Allens Green Bowling Pavilion	Radcliffe	Good
105	Bailey Street Bowling Green	Prestwich	Good
106	Prestwich Conservative Club	Prestwich	Good
107	Prestwich Liberal Club	Prestwich	Standard
108	St Margaret's Bowling Green	Prestwich	Good
110	Elton Libs Bowling Green	Bury West	Good
111	Stanley Conservative Club	Bury East	Good
112	Huntley Unionist Club	Bury East	Good
113	Walmersley Conservative Club	RT&NM	Good
114	Dobbies Sports & Social Club	Radcliffe	Good
115	Buchanan Sports & Social	RT&NM	Good
116	Rose And Crown Bowling Green	RT&NM	Good
117	Whitefield Bowls Club	Whitefield & Unsworth	Good
126	Bolton Road Park	Radcliffe	Good

Ainsworth and Ainsworth Ladies BC state that its clubhouse facilities have recently been refurbished which was funded through a grant during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Sports lighting

In Bury, five greens across three sites are provided with sports lighting located at, Nuttall Park, Rose and Crown Bowling Green and Dobbies Sports & Social Club. However, in Bury no clubs reference aspirations to gain access to sports lighting.

8.3: Demand

There are 38 clubs using bowling greens in Bury. Of the six clubs that have responded to consultation requests, there are a total of 423 members. None of the responding club accommodates junior members.

Table 8.5: Summary of club membership

Club name	Format	Number of members 2018	Number of members 2023
Ainsworth BC and Ainsworth Ladies BC	Crown	43	80
Allens Green BC	Crown	100	80
Bailey Street BC	Crown	-	100
Bay Horse BC	Crown	-	Unknown
Black Lane BC	Crown	70	46
Bolton Road BC	Crown	13	Unknown

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Club name	Format	Number of members 2018	Number of members 2023
Bolton Road Ladies BC	Crown	-	Unknown
Buchanan Sports and Social BC	Crown	65	65
Church Institute BC	Crown	-	Unknown
Clarence Park Vets BC	Crown	24	Unknown
Close Park BC	Crown	49	Unknown
Coronation Park BC	Crown	-	Unknown
Dobbies BC	Crown	50	Unknown
Eagle and Child Crown Green BC	Crown	88	Unknown
East Lancs Paper Mill BC	Crown	-	Unknown
Elton Liberals BC	Crown	60	Unknown
Hare & Hounds BC	Crown	-	Unknown
Hargreaves BC	Crown	41	Unknown
Higher Blackley Cons BC	Crown	-	Unknown
Hollinhurst BC	Crown	70	Unknown
Hollins Village Community Association BC	Crown	44	Unknown
Hoyles Vets BC	Crown	25	Unknown
Huntly Mount BC	Crown	10	Unknown
Nuttall Park BC	Crown	100	Unknown
Openshaw BC	Crown	60	Unknown
Prestwich Cons BC	Crown	75	Unknown
Prestwich Cricket Tennis & BC	Crown	93	52
Prestwich Liberal BC	Crown	80	Unknown
Redfern BC	Crown	-	Unknown
Scouters BC	Crown	16	Unknown
Seedfield BC	Crown	174	Unknown
Stanley Cons BC	Crown	-	Unknown
St Margaret's BC	Crown	67	Unknown
St Mary's Park BC	Crown	-	Unknown
The Rose BC	Crown	-	Unknown
Tottington Bowling and Social Club	Crown	108	Unknown
Tottington Cons BC	Crown	-	Unknown
Whitefield Park BC	Crown	-	Unknown

Due to the small number of clubs which responded to consultation requests, membership figures from the previous 2018 study should be used as a gauge given minor amount of change regarding bowls in Bury.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Due to a low response rate a direct comparison to the previous study could not be derived. From club membership figures where known, there is slight changes which can be seen with Ainsworth BC and Ainsworth Ladies BC increase membership from 43 members to 80 members. Alternatively, Black Lane Bowl Club have had a significant decrease in membership from 70 members to 46 members.

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Future demand

From consultation, the five responsive clubs express some level of future demand. However, the clubs don't quantify the amount to which they plan to increase by due to limited number of people wanting to play bowls.

Latent demand

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool¹⁶ enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 319 people who would like to participate in the sport within Bury, which represents approximately 0.01% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 0.16%.

Notwithstanding this, none of the bowling clubs in Bury are reported as operating at capacity, with all clubs willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within Bury who would like to start participating, could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members which bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Bowling clubs are generally considered viable if they have the appropriate level of membership to sustain their bowling green and accompanying ancillary facilities.

Conversely those clubs which have a substantial level of demand also need to be monitored to ensure they have the appropriate quantity /quality of provision. Four responding clubs are operating over 60 members and should be consulted with regularly to ensure their provision is suitable for their level of demand:

- ◆ Ainsworth BC and Ainsworth Ladies BC
- ◆ Allens Green BC
- ◆ Bailey Street BC
- ◆ Buchanan Sports and Social BC

Clubs operating with or below 20 members are generally deemed to be at risk of becoming unsustainable. With this in mind, further investigation is required into the unresponsive clubs to ensure they are not at risk. None of the responding club are operating close to 20 members, however, should still be monitored to make sure this remains the case.

Responding clubs are willing to accept new members. As such, it is generally considered that anyone within Bury that would like to start participating could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

Although there is unlikely to be enough demand for new bowling green provision, there is a need to protect existing provision and support existing clubs to improve their facilities.

¹⁶ [Link to Sport England's Website](#)

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Comparison to previous PPOSS

Supply and demand analysis for bowling greens in Bury has generally remained the same from the previous study with there still being a need to protect the current provision to cater for the demand.

8.5: Conclusion

All six analysis areas currently have a sufficient supply of bowling greens. With the Borough being adequately catered for from a supply and demand analysis perspective, the focus is ensuring the long-term survival of smaller clubs such as Black Lane BC and Prestwich Cricket Tennis & BC.

As there is no evidence to suggest a need for new bowling greens in Bury, addressing quality issues will be the focus of recommendations.

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Supply and demand summary

- ▶ All responding clubs are willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within Bury that would like to start participating could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence. This means there is enough supply of greens within the Authority.
- ▶ As there is no evidence to suggest a need for new bowling greens in Bury the priority should be based on supporting existing clubs improve their facilities.

Supply summary

- ▶ There are 37 bowling greens in Bury provided across 33 sites, all of which, are available for community use.
- ▶ In Bury, five greens are assessed as standard quality whilst all the remaining greens are assessed as good quality. No greens are assessed as poor quality.
- ▶ All greens and clubs in Bury are serviced by some form of ancillary provision. Eight sites are serviced by standard quality provision and the remaining sites are serviced by good quality provision.
- ▶ In Bury, only five greens are serviced by sports lighting located at Nuttall Park, Rose and Crown Bowling Green and Dobbies Sports & Social Club.

Demand summary

- ▶ There are 38 clubs using bowling greens in Bury. Of the six clubs that have responded to consultation requests, there are a total of 423 members. None of the responding clubs accommodate junior members.
- ▶ The largest club is Bailey Street BC with 100 playing members, followed by both Ainsworth & Ainsworth Ladies BC and Allens Green BC with 80 playing members respectively. Black Lane BC has the least number of members with 46 playing members.
- ▶ From consultation, the five responsive clubs express some level of future demand. However, the clubs don't quantify the amount to which they plan to increase by due to limited number of people wanting to play bowls.
- ▶ Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 319 people who would like to participate in the sport within Bury, which represents approximately 0.01% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 0.16%.
- ▶ Four responding clubs are operating over 60 members and should be consulted with regularly to ensure their provision is suitable for their level of demand, Ainsworth & Ainsworth Ladies BC, Allens Green BC, Bailey BC and Buchanan Sports and Social BC.

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 9: TENNIS COURTS

9.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Bury. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

Consultation

There are four tennis clubs in Bury: Hawkshaw Tennis Club, Holcombe Brook Sports Club, Prestwich Tennis Club and Walmer Tennis Club. Only two clubs responded to consultation requests despite all clubs being contacted on several occasions, resulting in a 50% response rate as shown below. Background information on all clubs and sites has been provided by the LTA. It should be noted that since the previous study Elton Vale Sports TC has folded due to a lack of demand.

Table 9.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Hawkshaw Tennis Club	Yes
Holcombe Brook Sports Club	No
Prestwich Tennis Club	Yes
Walmer Tennis Club	No

9.2: Supply

There are 80 tennis courts identified in Bury across 20 sites. Of these, 76 courts across 19 sites are available for community use.

The largest offering of tennis courts is identified in the Bury East Analysis Area, with 36 courts in total. In contrast, the Bury West and Radcliffe analysis areas offer the least amount of tennis courts with five courts respectively.

Table 9.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
Bury East	32	4
Bury West	5	-
Prestwich	10	-
Radcliffe	5	-
RT&NM	18	-
Whitefield & Unsworth	6	-
Total	76	4

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

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Four tennis courts located at Bury Church of England High School are identified as being unavailable for community use. Although most courts located at education sites state they are available for community use, most aren't used outside of the curricular.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Since the previous study, there has been a loss of ten tennis courts across three sites: St Monica's RC High School, Tottington High School and Woodhey High School. These three sites no longer have tennis courts marked out onsite due to being used for different sporting types for curricular use.

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

Figure 9.1: Location of tennis courts in Bury



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Table 9.3: Tennis courts in Bury

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
8	Hazelwood High School	BL9 7QT	Bury East	Education	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
12	Bury Church of England High School	BL9 0TS	Bury East	Education	No	4	No	Macadam	Good
14	Bury Grammar School (Boys)	BL9 0HN	Bury East	Education	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
15	Bury Grammar School (Girls)	BL9 0HH	Bury East	Education	Yes	8	No	Macadam	Poor
20	Clarence Park	BL9 6NQ	Bury East	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
22	Close Park	M26 2QA	Radcliffe	Local Authority	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Standard
31	Elton Vale Sports Club	BL8 2RZ	Bury West	Sports Club	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Good
36	Hamilton Road Park	M45 8QN	Whitefield & Unsworth	Local Authority	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Good
39	Hawkshaw Tennis Club	BL8 4LA	RT&NM	Sports Club	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
39	Hawkshaw Tennis Club	BL8 4LA	RT&NM	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
50	Manchester Road Park	BL9 0TD	Bury East	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
52	Nuttall Park	BL0 9LU	RT&NM	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
56	Openshaw Park	BL9 7DS	Bury East	Local Authority	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
59	Philips High School	M45 7PH	Whitefield & Unsworth	Education	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowls Club	M25 1BZ	Prestwich	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowls Club	M25 1BZ	Prestwich	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Artificial	Good
71	St Marys Park	M25 1GG	Prestwich	Local Authority	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Standard
80	The Derby High School	BL9 9NH	Bury East	Education	Yes	7	No	Macadam	Standard
85	Town Meadow	BL8 3LY	RT&NM	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
88	Walmer Lawn Tennis Club	BL9 6PH	Bury East	Sports Club	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Good
93	Whitehead Park	BL8 2RR	Bury West	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
125	Holcombe Brook Sports Club	BL0 9FS	RT&NM	Sports Club	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Good
125	Holcombe Brook Sports Club	BL0 9FS	RT&NM	Sports Club	Yes	6	Yes	Macadam	Good
126	Bolton Road Park	M26 3QZ	Radcliffe	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good

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Management and security of tenure

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Bury. Most tennis courts are operated by education sites (29 or 36%); however, four are unavailable for community use. There are 27 (34%) tennis courts which are managed by sports clubs with the remaining courts (24 or 30%) being managed by the Council.

Table 9.4: Tennis courts by management type

Community use?	Sports club	Local Authority	Education
Available	27	24	25
Unavailable	-	-	4
Total	27	24	29

Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts in Bury have a macadam surface, with 77 being of this type and 73 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

There are three courts with an artificial surface provided at Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowls Club. The estimated lifespan of such provision is similar to that of a macadam surface, although it generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is usually more expensive and more regular maintenance is required, in part due to them often catering for multi-sports activity (e.g., football and hockey usage).

Sports lighting

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

In Bury, 21 of the community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just 28% of the provision.

A lack of sports lighting at many of the school sites presents a key reason as to why many of the courts are unavailable for community use. Many of the providers state that making them available for lettings would not be financially viable as usage would be limited, although the LTA does offer solutions to help overcome this including initiatives such as Clubspark and Gate Access (detailed further on).

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key at parks and club sites as it allows for more usage of provision. Both the LTA and the Council aspire to add sports lighting to tennis courts located at park sites. To that end, it must be noted that all tennis clubs in Bury have access to sports lit courts apart from Walmer Lawn Tennis Club.

The table below breaks down the number of courts which have sports lighting by analysis area.

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Table 9.5: Summary of the number of courts which have sports lighting by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts which have sports lighting	No. of courts which don't have sports lighting
Bury East	6	30
Bury West	-	5
Prestwich	6	4
Radcliffe	-	5
RT&NM	9	9
Whitefield & Unsworth	6	-
Total	27	53

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme¹⁷

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

The objectives of the fund are to:

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

As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

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

Over markings

Tennis courts, particularly within school, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher level of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In Bury, 33 courts are overmarked by netball provision, with eight of these located at school sites (Hazelwood High School, Bury Church of England High School, Bury Grammar School (Girls), Philips High School and The Derby High School) where curriculum activity makes this necessary.

¹⁷ [Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](#)

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Quality

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

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

Of the courts in Bury, 52 are assessed as good quality, 14 as standard quality and 14 as poor quality. Of the good quality tennis courts, 48 are available for community use.

Table 9.6: Quality of tennis courts in Bury

Community use?	Good	Standard	Poor
2018			
Available	46	25	8
Unavailable	-	4	7
Total	46	29	15
2023			
Available	48	14	14
Unavailable	4	-	-
Total	52	14	14

Since the previous study, tennis courts across bury have improved in quality with the number of good quality courts increasing from 46 to 52, standard quality courts decreasing from 29 to 14 and a slight decrease in poor quality courts from 15 to 14. This is largely due to 10 local authority sites providing 24 tennis courts being resurfaced through the LTA.

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

- ◆ Hazlewood High School
- ◆ Bury Grammar School (Girls)
- ◆ Philips High School

Issues recorded at these sites include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel, with maintenance also considered to be basic and infrequent at these sites. This leads to further deterioration in quality.

Across the four tennis clubs in Bury, all are serviced with good quality tennis courts with no significant issues.

The tennis courts provided at Close Park are assessed as standard quality. The courts have recently been resurfaced (2022), however, due to the flooding issues this is known to affect the courts during heavy rainfall, with a section of the courts become under water.

Renovation fund¹⁸

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

¹⁸[Renovation Fund for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](https://lta.org.uk/renovation-fund)

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The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

In Bury, 10 local authority sites collectively providing 24 tennis courts have been resurfaced and brought to a good quality standard through the renovation fund totalling a £85,000 investment.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary facilities servicing Holcombe Brook Tennis Club are assessed as good quality, with no issues identified. The facilities servicing Hawkshaw Tennis Club and Prestwich Tennis Club are assessed at standard quality and the ancillary facilities located at Walmer Tennis Club are poor quality with a need to repair and update the facilities.

For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic, most of the sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service football/cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users. In some instances, quality is also poor.

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

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Broadly, the overall quality of tennis court provision has improved in Bury since the previous PPOSS. There are 52 tennis courts assessed as good quality compared to the last PPOSS with 46 being assessed as good quality. Furthermore, the number of standard quality tennis courts has decreased from 29 to 14 and the number of poor quality courts has decrease from 15 to 14 courts with eight poor quality courts provided at Bury Grammar School (Girls).

9.3: Demand

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

Competitive tennis

Of the four clubs in Bury, Holcombe Brook Sports TC, Prestwich Tennis Club, Hawkshaw Tennis Club and Walmer, there is a total of 506 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 369 senior and 137 junior members as seen below.

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 9.7: Current tennis demand by club

Club	No. of senior members	No of junior members	Total members
2018			
Holcombe Brook Sports TC	183	77	260
Hawkshaw Tennis Club	83	28	111
Prestwich TC	122	63	185
Walmer TC	48	2	50
2023			
Holcombe Brook Sports TC	111	75	186
Hawkshaw Tennis Club	67	18	85
Prestwich TC	158	42	200
Walmer TC	33	2	35

Due to only two clubs (Preswitch TC and Hawkshaw TC) responded to consultation requests, membership figures for Holcombe Brook Sports TC and Walmer TC are from November 2022 registration which were provided by the LTA.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

From club membership figures, there has been an increase in members at Prestwich TC by 15 members. Alternatively, the remaining three clubs have seen a slight decrease in membership, Holcombe Brook Sports TC have decreased from 260 members to 186 members, Hawkshaw TC has decreased from 111 members to 85 members and Walmer TC has decreased from 50 members to 35 members.

Participation trends

Nationally, the LTA has announced participation figures for 2022 showing sustained success in getting more people playing tennis more often, with growth across all demographics, regions and nations of Great Britain. This is particularly amongst 16-34 year-olds and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The number of adults reporting that they had played tennis during the year increased 43% compared to the previous year (2021), rising from 3.3 million to 4.7 million from January through to December. This is the highest total recorded since 2017 and has continued the growth seen in 2018-19 before being interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, more than two million adults play monthly, and this is the highest level recorded since the LTA started tracking this measure seven years ago. This means that the LTA has achieved the targets set out in its five-year 2018-23 strategy for adult annual and monthly participation one year ahead of schedule.

Finally, children's weekly participation in tennis has seen positive growth in the past year with over three and a half million children playing tennis and with an extra 328,000 children playing tennis in schools.

In Bury, Prestwich Tennis Club report that demand has increased over recent years.

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Informal and parks tennis

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

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◆ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◆ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◆ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◆ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package.
- ◆ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◆ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◆ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◆ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

All four clubs in Bury; Hawkshaw Tennis Club, Holcombe Brook Sports Club, Prestwich Tennis Club and Walmer Tennis Club, use ClubSpark.

LTA Play

LTA Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

LTA Play provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

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Smart Access

The LTA has developed two Smart Access gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

All ten Local Authority sites collectively providing 24 tennis courts, are secured with Smart Access gate access systems. The table below shows current number of bookings which have been placed at park courts in Bury.

Table 9.8: Number of court bookings at park sites in Bury

Club	No. of bookings
Close Park	270
Hamilton Road Park	1109
Openshaw Park	442
St Mary's Park	3063
Manchester Road Park	297
Clarence Park	787
Town Meadow Park	339
Whitehead Park	386
Bolton Road Park	379
Nuttall Park	1019

Additional demand

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

Parks tennis

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

In Bury, there is the Bury Tennis League that takes place. The league is played in rounds and lasts eight weeks with an entry cost of £18.

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LTA Youth Red

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

There are currently no LTA Youth Red sessions operating in Bury.

Free Parks Tennis

The LTA are due to launch the LTA Free Parks Tennis offer. This is due to the following needs:

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

The key points of a free park tennis session are:

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

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

LTA Big Tennis Weekend

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

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

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No sites in Bury currently host or are scheduled to host a Big Tennis Weekend.

LTA Youth Programmes

The LTA provides children with the perfect opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. Designed for children aged between 4-10, mini tennis utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques.

The game is split out into five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

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

No mini tennis courts have been identified in Bury.

Padel

One of the LTA's key strategies is to find new ways to grow participation and padel is an innovative format of tennis that is fun, flexible, easy to play and extremely sociable. Padel is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities, as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

Padel has been integrated into the LTA and is recognised as a format of tennis. This has provided a platform to facilitate the growth of the sport, with tennis venues throughout the Country exploring the potential opportunities it can bring to a facility. The LTA plans to grow padel through:

- ♦ organic growth through tennis clubs, parks, LAs and education sites (70%).
- ♦ partnership growth through leisure operators, existing CITCs and new CITCs.
- ♦ new growth through padel only operators and new sectors including squash, real tennis, football and golf.

There are currently no padel tennis courts within Bury. The table below shows demand arising from population for padel tennis.

Table 9.9: Demand figures for padel tennis in Bury

Analysis Area	Population	Demand (20%)	Tennis (8%)	Padel (4%)
Bury East	473,611	75,559	6,106	3,053
Bury West	303,103	47,965	3,873	1,936
Prestwich	1,274,029	213,175	17,214	8607
Radcliffe	556,752	90,078	7,274	3637
RT&NM	531,172	84,088	6,788	3394
Whitefield & Unsworth	1,089,603	179,267	14,484	7242

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Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low quality facilities were addressed.

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

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

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

In addition, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 3,436 people within Bury, which represents approximately 1.8% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 1.7%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand may be marginally higher than what would otherwise be expected.

Notwithstanding the above, responding clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members. This suggests that the latent demand identified through other methods is for non-club activity, or that other barriers aside from facilities are preventing activity.

Future demand

Prestwich Tennis Club doesn't state if it has plans to increase membership, however, Hawkshaw Tennis Club state plans to increase membership but does not quantify the amount.

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

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

For club-based tennis, the LTA suggests that non-sports lit courts can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas courts with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Using this, the table below identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs, taking into account current demand.

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As Walmer TC and Holcombe Brooke TC didn't respond to consultation requests, current demand has been taken from membership figures provided to the LTA November 2022.

Table 9.10: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Available for community use	Current demand (members)	Current capacity (members)	Capacity balance (members)
39	Hawkshaw Tennis Club	Hawkshaw Tennis Club	Yes	85	260	175
61	Prestwich Cricket Tennis & Bowls Club	Prestwich Tennis Club	Yes	200	360	160
88	Walmer TC	Walmer TC	Yes	35	160	125
125	Holcombe Brook Sports TC	Holcombe Brook TC	Yes	186	480	294

For club-based tennis, there is considered to be sufficient provision to meet demand. Further investigation is required to determine if there have been any significant changes at Walmer TC and Holcombe Brooke TC.

For non-club courts, particularly given the recent investment, no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, and previously expressed latent demand is likely to have been met. However, it is also likely that informal demand will continue to increase following the improvement to courts.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

The overall quality of tennis court provision has improved in Bury since the previous PPOSS. There are now 52 tennis courts assessed as good quality compared to 46 previously. Furthermore, the number of standard quality tennis courts has decreased from 29 to 14 and the number of poor quality courts has also decreased from 15 to 14 courts. The improvement of court quality is largely to do with the recent investment from the LTA in the park sites.

9.5: Conclusion

To conclude, with all four tennis clubs across Bury operating within LTA recommended guidelines, it can be determined that the Borough is adequately catered for with regards to club tennis provision.

Outside of club based tennis, given the recent resurface of 24 tennis courts across 10 Council sites, anecdotal evidence suggests this has increased informal demand.

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Supply and demand summary

- ▶ **For club-based tennis, there is considered to be sufficient provision to meet demand where known.**
- ▶ **Away from clubs, no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, and previously expressed latent demand is likely to have been met. However, it is also likely that informal demand will continue to increase following the improvement to courts.**

Supply summary

- ▶ There are 80 tennis courts identified in Bury across 20 sites. Of these, 76 courts across 19 sites are available for community use.
- ▶ The largest offering of tennis courts is identified in the Bury East Analysis Area, with this containing 36 courts and 32 that are available for community use. In contrast, the Bury West and Radcliffe analysis areas offers the least amount of tennis courts with five courts respectively which are available for community use.
- ▶ All tennis courts identified as being unavailable for community use are located at school sites.
- ▶ Most tennis courts are operated by education sites (29 or 36%); however, four are unavailable for community use. There are 27 (34%) tennis courts which are managed by Sports Clubs with the remaining courts (24 or 30%) being managed by the Local Authority.
- ▶ Most outdoor tennis courts in Bury have a macadam surface, with 77 being of this type and 73 of these being available for community use.
- ▶ In Bury, 21 of the community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just 28% of the provision.
- ▶ Of the courts in Bury, 52 are assessed as good quality, 14 as standard quality and 14 as poor quality. A total of 48 good quality tennis courts are available for community use.
- ▶ Ancillary facilities servicing Holcombe Brook Tennis Club are assessed as good quality, with no issues identified. The facilities servicing Hawkshaw Tennis Club and Prestwich Tennis Club are assessed at standard quality and the ancillary facilities located at Walmer Tennis Club are poor quality with a need to repair and update the facilities.

Demand summary

- ▶ There are four tennis clubs in Bury.
- ▶ Of the four clubs in Bury, Holcombe Brook Sports TC, Prestwich Tennis Club, Hawkshaw Tennis Club and Walmer, there is a total of 506 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 369 senior and 137 junior members.
- ▶ All four clubs in Bury; Hawkshaw Tennis Club, Holcombe Brook Sports Club, Prestwich Tennis Club and Walmer Tennis Club, use ClubSpark.
- ▶ In Bury, there is the Bury Tennis League that takes place. The league is played in rounds and lasts eight weeks with an entry cost of £18.
- ▶ There are currently no padel tennis courts in Bury.

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PART 10: ATHLETICS

10.1: Introduction

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

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

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

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

Play track

The first of the four alternative designs is a 'play track' featuring visually hardstanding areas which can be located in school playgrounds (KS1 & KS2), parks and play areas. The track encourages participation through challenging environments and promotes independent learning and skills development.

Compact track

A 'compact track' featuring sprint straight (4x lane, 40m length) with an accompanying long jump runways, landing pit and shot put space. This provision is the smallest of the four and is installed at education sites or community and club settings.

Mini track

A 'mini track' features a sports lit synthetic oval track (min 100m/max 200m) with a six lane 60m sprint, as well as accompanying shot put and jumping provision. An advantage to a mini track design is it leaves a large space in the centre of the oval track to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump, or alternatively it can be used for other sports such as football pitches or an outdoor gym.

Mini track sites also feature a new design of shot put practice areas in which it flattens a natural slope and athletes throw into a hill allowing for the put to roll back to the participant thus reducing time spent retrieving the put after each throw.

Active track

Finally, an 'active track' is a macadam surface or synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance (similar to a formula one circuit), in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field. An Active Track attracts users of all ages and abilities across a wide variety of activities (runners, joggers, walkers (particularly the elderly), cyclists, wheelchair users).

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Consultation

Bury AC is the only track and field athletics club in the Borough with a regular requirement for access to built track provision. The club was consulted with via face-to-face. The findings from which helped to inform this section of the report is from consultation with Bury AC and England Athletics.

10.2: Supply

There is one formal athletics track in Bury located at Market Street Athletics Track, which is a six lane, synthetic 400 metre track. The track has sports lighting to support activities on both the track and infield and provides all accompanying field event facilities including a throws cage (hammer, discus & club), javelin, high jump, long/triple jump and shot put area.

Additional facilities can be found onsite including wheelchair accessible outdoor exercise equipment, Wheel for All adapted bicycles, Petra running cycles racing wheelchairs and boccia set with pushers and ramp for wheelchair users.

Table 10.1: Summary of athletics tracks in Bury

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Length	Surface type	Sports lighting
11	Market Street Athletics Track	Bury East	400m	Synthetic	Yes

Disused

The track located at Cams Lane Sports Ground (also known locally as Nellie Halstead Track) is a basic 400m track cinder track. There are no accompanying facilities for field events onsite. The Club known to use the site, Radcliffe Athletics Club, now use Market Street athletics Track which means the athletic track is now disused. There is a potential opportunity to upgrade the cinder track (to a basic macadam/road surface or low cost synthetic surface) to create a community running/jogging facility.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Since the previous study, there has been no change in the supply with Market Street Athletics Track still being the only formal athletics track in Bury.

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Figure 10.1: Location of athletics tracks in Bury



Management

The track at Market Street Athletics Track is managed by Bury Athletics Club on behalf of the Council. The Club is in the process of negotiating a 25 year lease of the site from the Council.

The Market Street Athletics Track is a highly valued Community Asset which is regularly used by four local athletics clubs, a junior football club (Elton & Walshaw Junior FC), Action for Children, Jigsaw Bury, Bury College and 12 local primary and secondary schools. Additionally, the site is used for morris dancing, cheerleading competitions and an annual accessibility festival to support people with disabilities.

To enable the site to become financially sustainable for the longer term a new multi-purpose health & wellbeing centre has been proposed by the Club which will encourage a greater number of local people (including people with disabilities and/or from a minority background) to visit the site to participate in a wider range of healthy physical and recreational activities.

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Quality

Key factors impacting upon the quality ratings of athletics facilities include the condition and age of the track surface, the prominence of the line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use. For the full site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 3.

The non-technical assessment undertaken in June 2023 by KKP identifies the track and accompanying track and field facilities as good quality with accompanying good quality ancillary facilities, with maintenance carried out to a high standard for both. Furthermore, the throwing cage has recently been upgraded, and the long jump and pole vault surface has recently been resurfaced.

It should be noted that the track was resurfaced in 2022. The Club indicates that the sports lighting at Market Street Athletics Track needs modernising as it hasn't been updated since installation in 1985.

The field event facilities have been upgraded with accessible paths, a throwing circle with an anchor point to secure wheelchairs, and a wider long jump pit with a central runway suitable for people with disabilities.

TrackMark¹⁹

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

Market Street Athletics Track is TrackMark compliant.

Ancillary facilities

Market Street Athletics Club is serviced by a small clubhouse and small kitchen. The building is at the end of its working life and needs to be replaced due to roof damage. The clubhouse is regularly used by Action for Children during school holidays to provide recreational activities for children with disabilities. The changing rooms are standard quality, catering for both male and female members and provides disabled toilet and shower facilities.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

The overall quality of athletics provision has improved in Bury since the previous PPOSS due to the resurfacing of the Market Street Athletics Track which is now good quality. Furthermore, the track is now TrackMark compliant.

10.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

¹⁹ [Link to UKA website](#)

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As seen in the table below, Bury AC accommodate 391 members (including 240 junior members and 38 volunteers).

Table 10.2: Summary of track and field club membership

Name of club	Home site	Number of members
Bury Athletics Club	Market Street Athletics Track	391

Bury Athletics Club

Bury Athletics Club is a large athletics club based at Market Street Athletics Track. It accommodates both male and female members at senior and junior level and covers the full spectrum of athletic activities including track and field, sports hall, cross country, road racing and fell running.

Radcliffe Athletics Club

Radcliffe Athletics Club is a multi-disciplined running club. The Club offers fell and hill running, road running and cross-country events and meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at Radcliffe Leisure Centre every week. It also regularly uses the Market Street Athletics Track for winter training.

Ramsbottom Running Club

Ramsbottom Running Club is the newest club within Bury having been established in 2016. The Club is predominantly a road running club that caters for runners of all abilities. It meets every Tuesday evening and uses Ramsbottom Railway Station as a meeting base. The Club also regularly host training sessions on the Market Street Athletics Track.

Prestwich Athletics Club

The Club is a running club based in Prestwich and train Monday and Thursday evenings. It caters all running abilities and uses Prestwich Metro Bridge as a meeting base. The Club also regularly host training sessions on the Market Street Athletics Track.

Holcombe Harriers

Holcombe Harriers is a multi-disciplined club where members thrive off the enjoyment of racing. Members compete in fell, trail and road running, cycling, mountain biking, duathlons and triathlons. The Club meets every Thursday at 19.30, starting from the Hare and Hound pub.

The Sunnywood Project – Burrs Community Run

Burrs Community Run group offers free weekly, easy paced 2km or 5km runs at The Burrs County Park in Bury. The different distances cater for different abilities and provides opportunities for young people and adults who want to get active and improve their fitness.

The Burrs Community Run takes place every Sunday morning at 9.30am starting from The Burrs show field next to the Brown Cow pub.

Run Together²⁰

²⁰ [Link to Runtogether website](#)

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Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

In Bury there are the following Run Together groups:

- ▶ Rammy Runners (Mondays 18:45) corner of Rugby Street & Plantation View, Summerseat, (BL9 5PT).
- ▶ Rammy Runners (Wednesday 19.00) Ramsbottom Leisure Centre, (BL0 0PT).

A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation in initiatives such as Run Together, meaning this could be targeted moving forward, especially given the number of other clubs that could be involved.

Park Run

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

There is one park run event located in Bury, located at Clarence Park. Furthermore, there is one junior park run event in Bury located at Nuttall Park and is held every Sunday at 9am.

Table 10.3: Summary of Park Run in Bury

Location	Postcode	Event	Number of events	Average attendance
Clarence Park	BL9 6NQ	Park Run	10	154
Nuttall Park	BL0 9LU	Junior Park Run	210	45

Couch to 5k

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

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

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

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

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 4,029 people in Bury, which represents approximately 2.1% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 2%.

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

Future demand

Bury AC are actively looking to grow membership through club websites and social media, with the Club not operating a waiting list and doing their utmost not to turn demand away.

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

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is considered that for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of 200 is required. In Bury, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, with one of the athletics clubs currently based in the Borough (Bury Athletic Club) having 391 members.

There is still a clear need to continue to grow levels of participation through actualising latent and future demand in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the track at Market Street Athletics Track.

10.5: Conclusion

As only Market Street Athletics Track is currently used for club athletics, there is a need to protect the facility and ensure that quality remains sufficient to accommodate the level of demand received.

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

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Overall, the supply and demand position for athletics in Bury remains broadly the same. However, since the previous study, the quality of the athletics track located at Market Street Athletics Track has improved from standard quality to good quality meaning the track can now better meet current and future demand.

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Supply and demand summary

- ▶ In Bury, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, with only one club specialising in both track and field currently based in the Borough (Bury Athletic Club).
- ▶ Priority should be placed on protecting the facility at Market Street Athletics Track and ensuring that quality remains sufficient to accommodate the level of demand.

Supply summary

- ▶ There is one formal athletics track in Bury located at Market Street Athletics Track, which is a six lane, synthetic 400 metre track.
- ▶ The track is fully sports lit and provides all accompanying field event facilities including a hammer cage, javelin, high jump, long jump and shot put area.
- ▶ The track at Market Street Athletics Track is managed by Bury Athletics Club on behalf of the Local Authority. The Club is in the process of negotiating a 25 year lease of the site from the Council.
- ▶ The non-technical assessment undertaken in June 2023 by KKP identifies the track and accompanying track and field facilities as good quality with a good quality accompanying ancillary facility, with maintenance carried out to a high standard for both.
- ▶ The sports lighting surrounding the track requires replacement and upgrading with modern high efficiency light fittings.
- ▶ The clubhouse is at the end of its working life and needs to be replaced to support recreational activities for children with disabilities.
- ▶ Market Street Athletics Track is TrackMark compliant.

Demand summary

- ▶ Six clubs have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in Bury.
- ▶ Bury Athletic Club, Radcliffe Athletics Club, Ramsbottom Runners and Prestwich Athletics Club all use Market Street Athletics Track.
- ▶ There is one park run event in Bury, located at Clarence Park. Furthermore, there is one junior park run event in Bury located at Nuttall Park and is held every Sunday at 9am.
- ▶ Clubs are actively looking to grow membership through club websites and social media, with no club having a waiting list and doing their utmost not to turn demand away.
- ▶ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 4,029 people in Bury, which represents approximately 2.1% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 2%.
- ▶ None have waiting lists in place, and they are all actively looking for new members, on social media and club websites.

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PART 11: NETBALL COURTS

11.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility can also be problematic.

Consultation

Information to inform this section of the report was primarily obtained through discussions with England Netball. In addition, there are two clubs in the Borough; YWCA Bury Netball Club and DNA Netball Club. Although consultation attempts were made, these were unsuccessful.

11.2: Supply

There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Bury, with 33 identified across 11 sites. Of these, 21 courts at seven sites are available for community use; however, some of these courts are without sports lighting which limits usage during winter months. All of the courts that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites.

Both YWCA Bury Netball Club and DNA Netball use the indoor and outdoor courts at Philips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre) for training and competitive demand.

The Bury East Analysis Area provides the largest number of courts, with 14 and no netball courts are provided in the Bury West and Radcliffe analysis areas.

Table 11.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Courts available	Courts unavailable
Bury East	12	2
Bury West	-	-
Prestwich	4	8
Radcliffe	-	-
RT&NM	3	2
Whitefield & Unsworth	2	-
Bury	21	12

Although majority of courts are located at education site and are available for community use, currently they aren't used outside of curricular use.

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Since the previous study, there has been a loss of seven netball courts with these being at Bolton Road Park, Close Park, Hamilton Road Park, Openshaw Park, Nuttall Park, Town Meadow and Whitehead Park. These seven sites no longer have netball courts onsite.

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For a site-by-site breakdown of the courts supplied across Bury, please refer to Table 11.2 and Figure 11.1 below.

Figure 11.1: Location of netball courts in Bury



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Table 11.2: Netball courts in Bury

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis Area	Community use?	Ownership	Number of courts	Over marked?	Surface type	Sports lighting	Quality
8	Hazelwood High School	BL9 7QT	Bury East	Yes	Education	2	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
12	Bury Church of England High School	BL9 0TS	Bury East	No	Education	2	Yes	Macadam	No	Good
15	Bury Grammar School (Girls)	BL9 0HH	Bury East	Yes	Education	5	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
58	Parrenthorn Sports Centre	M25 2BW	Prestwich	Yes	Education	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
59	Philips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre)	M45 7PH	Whitefield & Unsworth	Yes	Education	2	Yes	Macadam	No	Poor
71	St Marys Park	M25 1GG	Prestwich	Yes	Local Authority	1	Yes	Macadam	No	Good
80	The Derby High School	BL9 9NH	Bury East	Yes	Education	5	Yes	Macadam	No	Poor
82	Tottington High School	BL8 3LY	RT&NM	Yes	Education	3	No	Macadam	No	Standard
95	Woodhey High School	BL0 9QZ	RT&NM	No	Education	2	No	Macadam	No	Good
99	St Monica's High School	M25 1JH	Prestwich	No	Education	3	No	Macadam	No	Poor
100	The Heys School	M25 1JZ	Prestwich	No	Education	5	No	Macadam	No	Standard

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Loss of provision

Seven netball courts have been lost at Council sites: Bolton Road Park, Close Park, Hamilton Road Park, Openshaw Park, Nuttall Park, Town Meadow and Whitehead Park. These courts have been resurfaced through LTA funding and are now only marked out for tennis.

Management

Although not uncommon across the Country, netball provision within Bury is largely located on educational sites, with only one being located at a St Mary's Park. This creates a particular issue surrounding community availability where there is often limited or reduced community access.

Table 11.3: Courts by management type

Community use	Local Authority	Education
Available	1	20
Unavailable	-	12
Bury	1	32

Court type

All outdoor netball courts in Bury have a macadam surface, with all 33 being of this type and 21 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

Sports lighting

Only 10 netball courts (30%) are serviced by sports lighting with all 10 being available for community use. These are located at:

- ◆ Hazelwood High School
- ◆ Bury Grammar School (Girls)
- ◆ Parrenthorn Sports Centre

A lack of sports lighting on netball courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in April 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are sports-lit throughout the Country (38%). This is still higher than the level identified across Bury (30%).

Over markings

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often over marked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision that is over marked tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand.

In Bury, all but 17 of the netball courts are over marked. The only standalone courts are located at Parrenthorn Sports Centre, Tottington High School, Woodhey High School, St Monica's High School and The Heys School.

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Quality

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

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

Of the courts in Bury, three are assessed as good quality, 18 as standard quality and 12 as poor quality. Only one of the good quality courts is available for community use, compared to 13 of the standard quality courts and 12 of the poor quality courts.

Table 11.4: Quality of community available courts

Community use	Good	Standard	Poor
2018			
Available	8	5	14
Unavailable	-	2	11
Bury	8	7	25
2023			
Available	1	13	7
Unavailable	4	5	3
Bury	5	18	10

Since the previous study, the quality of netball courts across bury has significantly changed with the number of good quality courts decreasing from eight to three, standard quality courts increasing from seven to 18 and a decrease in poor quality courts from 25 to 12. The decrease of poor quality courts is largely due to seven local authority sites which provided seven netball courts was lost after the courts were resurfaced for tennis.

The good quality courts are located at St Mary's Park, Bury Church of England High School and Woodhey High School.

In contrast, the poor quality courts are supplied at:

- ❖ Philips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre)
- ❖ The Derby High School
- ❖ Woodhey High School
- ❖ St Monica's High School

Of these, the courts at Philips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre) are available for community use, despite the quality issues and currently being used by both YWCA Bury Netball Club and DNA Netball Club. Problems recorded during site assessments include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel, with maintenance also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the sites.

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Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for netball and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Moreover, given that most courts are located at schools, the facilities predominately service sports halls or grass pitches and are therefore not readily available or suited to netball court users. Access can also be limited even at sites that allow for community use as this may entail opening the main school buildings.

The better quality ancillary facilities are provided at Philips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre).

Comparison to previous PPOSS

Broadly the overall quality of netball court provision has decreased in Bury since the previous PPOSS. There are three netball courts assessed as good quality compared with eight being assessed as good quality. However, the number of poor quality netball courts has decreased from 25 to 12 with five poor quality courts now provided at The Derby High School.

11.3: Demand

Demand for outdoor netball tends to come in two forms; league and club-based netball that consists of matches and training, as well as various netball-based initiatives such as Back to Netball and walking netball.

There are two netball clubs based in Bury; YWCA Bury Netball Club and DNA Netball Club. Both clubs use indoor and outdoor courts at Philips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre) for training and competitive matches.

YWCA Bury Netball Club

YWCA Bury Netball Club is a large netball club which offers both performance and development training sessions, ensuring all players have access to high quality training, appropriate to their level of expertise. YWCA Bury Netball Club are National League Champions for the last two consecutive years.

The Club compete in the Premier League 2 which is the highest amateur league below Super League. Competitive senior demand is located solely indoor at Derby High School and Philips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre). Junior competitive demand is also located indoor; however, this is exported to Wright Robinson College (Manchester) which is the netball hub site for Greater Manchester area. Senior team training demand is located indoors at Castle Leisure Centre and Philips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre), whereas junior training is located both indoor and outdoor at the latter.

DNA Netball Club

The Club is the second largest in Bury and caters for all junior abilities. It has junior teams which access both indoor and outdoor provision at Philips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre) for training and competitive demand.

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Bury Netball Ladies League

Bury Netball Ladies League used to run a midweek winter league operated by England Netball accessing indoor courts at Derby High School, Unsworth Academy (formally Castlebrook High School) and Elton High School. However, the League didn't restart after the Covid-19 Pandemic. The main issue was that the league struggled to regain access to facilities, with all available courts in Bury located at education sites. When facilities became available, the players had already been lost to other formats of the game.

Back to Netball

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport.

There is currently no Back to Netball sessions running in Bury. No suitable outdoor venues have been found since the Covid-19 Pandemic. It is a priority for England Netball to get Back to Netball sessions in Bury.

Walking netball

Walking netball is a slower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

Walking Netball sessions used to run at Castle Leisure Centre, but sessions no longer take place. However, a weekly walking netball session is being held at The Maccabi Centre in Prestwich on a Thursday at 1pm-2pm.

Netball Now

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring.

There are no Netball Now sessions in Bury.

Bee Netball

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and teamwork, with each session managed by an England Netball accredited coach. There are no community sessions nationwide, England Netball are in the process of using trailblazer clubs to trial the programme. None of the clubs within Bury are trailblazer clubs.

ParaNetball

England Netball have developed a Para Netball Strategy and offer a diverse range of opportunities to play, train and develop and now we are excited to bring deaf and disabled women and girls into the Netball Family. There is a paranetball session that takes place indoor at The Macabi Centre.

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Unaffiliated demand

Nationally, there is a relatively strong presence of unaffiliated netball demand, most prominently through commercial leagues. These are generally aimed as casual and/or recreational players and are more informal than affiliated leagues, with teams and players paying for each match on a weekly basis. Rules can also differ slightly e.g., with shorter periods of play.

Bury Sports for All is part of the Sport for All set-up (not affiliated), located at Philips High School. The centre accommodates both junior and senior netball leagues Monday – Wednesdays and weekends.

11.4: Supply and demand analysis

Based on the above, there is enough netball provision in Bury to accommodate demand. There is minor use on outdoor courts in Bury with only Philips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre) being used mainly due to the difficulty of gaining access to other sites largely because of cost and poor quality courts. However, given the number of poor quality courts particularly at Phillips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre) which is used by both YWCA Bury Netball Club and DNA Netball Club, there is a need to improve court quality to safely continue to accommodate netball.

11.5: Conclusion

In summary, there is enough netball provision in Bury to meet current demand therefore a priority should be placed on improving court quality and ensuring courts remain. This is key at Philips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre) which is the only school which is accessed for community use of the outdoor courts. It should be noted that netball in Bury is focused at school sites, whether it is outdoor or indoor, therefore securing long term community use of these sites is crucial for the growth of the sport. It is a key priority for England Netball to improve courts for affiliated netball sessions.

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Supply and demand summary

- There is enough netball provision in Bury to accommodate demand.
- Given the number of poor quality courts particularly at Phillips High School (Bury Sports for All Centre) which is used by both YWCA Bury Netball Club and DNA Netball Club, there is a need to improve court quality to safely continue to accommodate netball.

Supply summary

- There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Bury, with 33 identified across 11 sites.
- Of these, 21 courts at seven sites are available for community use.
- The Bury East Analysis Area provides the largest number of courts, with 14, although only 12 of these are available to the community. No netball courts are provided in the Bury West and Radcliffe analysis areas.
- Most courts are operated by schools, with 32 of the 33 courts falling under this management type.
- The large majority of outdoor netball courts in Bury have a macadam surface, with 33 being of this type.
- In Bury, all but 17 of the courts are over marked by tennis provision.
- 10 of the courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing only 30% of the provision.
- Of the courts in Bury, five are assessed as good quality, 18 as standard quality and 10 as poor quality. Only one of the good quality courts are available for community use, compared to 13 of the standard quality courts and seven of the poor quality courts.

Demand summary

- There are two netball clubs based in Bury; YWCA Bury Netball Club and DNA Netball Club.
- There is currently no Back to Netball sessions running in Bury. No suitable venues have been found since the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, it is a priority for England Netball to get Back to Hockey sessions in Bury.
- Walking Netball sessions used to run at Castle Leisure Centre, however, sessions no longer take place. There is currently no walking netball session operating in Bury.
- There are no Bee Netball or Netball Now sessions currently taking place in the Borough.
- Bury Sports for All is part of the Sport for All set-up (not affiliated), located at Philips High School. The centre host both junior and senior netball leagues Monday – Wednesdays and weekends.

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PART 12: GOLF

12.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 740,000 members belonging to one of 1,800 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership.

More than four million people have played golf on a full-length course in the last 12 months – this is an increase on previous years and highlights a growing golf participation market. Other notable figures regarding golf club participation in the last 12 months suggest a large and growing market of new and existing golfers:

- 2.6 million have used driving ranges.
- 2.1 million played a short course.
- 3.7 million played pitch & putt.
- 6.8 million have been to Adventure Golf facility.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

This section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within Bury.

12.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

Table 12.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

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Within Bury, there are seven golf venues that provide facilities conforming with the above definitions, as identified in Table 12.1 and Table 12.2 below. Three are located in Whitefield & Unsworth Analysis Area, whilst two are located in Bury East Analysis Area, one is located in Prestwich Analysis Area and one is located in Ramsbottom Tottington & North Manor Analysis Area.

Figure 12.1: Location of golf courses in Bury



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Table 12.2: Golf facilities within Bury

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area
127	Bury Golf Club	BL9 9TJ	Bury East
128	Greenmount Golf Club	BL8 4LH	RT&NM
129	Whitefield Golf Club	M45 7EZ	Whitefield & Unsworth
130	Pike Fold Golf Club	BL9 8QP	Whitefield & Unsworth
131	Prestwich Golf Club	M25 9XB	Prestwich
132	Lowes Park Golf Club	BL9 6SU	Bury East
137	Stand Golf Club	M45 7NL	Whitefield & Unsworth

Standard hole golf courses

In total across Bury there are six 18-hole and one 9-hole course across seven sites. These are summarised in the table below.

Table 12.3: Summary of standard hole provision in Bury

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par ²¹	Yardage ²²			Slope rating
127	Bury Golf Club	18	70	6,063	5,738	5,152	118 - 122
128	Greenmount Golf Club	18	71	5,954	5,611	5,263	123 - 132
129	Whitefield Golf Club	18	69	5,992	5,714	5,023	122 - 127
130	Pike Fold Golf Club	18	72	6,252	5,978	5,211	120 - 132
131	Prestwich Golf Club	18	68	4,876	4,678	4,518	113
132	Lowes Park Golf Club	9	70	6,006	5,844	5,471	116 - 125
137	Stand Golf Club	18	72	6,318	6,157	5,433	129 - 132

Of the four courses, Stand Golf Club and Pike Fold Golf Club provides the longest offering, with Prestwich Golf Club providing the shortest. However, all courses are in the range of what you would expect from traditional provision. Shorter courses tend to offer some variety that may appeal more so to a defined market that would not feel comfortable playing lengthier provision e.g., beginner and/or casual golfers.

Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World (2021). The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that the courses in Bury are generally considered to be more difficult than the mean, with them collectively ranging from 113-132 (the slope rating varies depending on which tee is used).

²¹ Par is based on White tees yardage

²² White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

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Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game.

Driving range bays

Currently there are no driving ranges located in Bury. The closest driving ranges are located at Kearsley Golf Range and Trafford Golf Centre. 10 bays are located at Kearsley Golf Range and 53 bays located at Trafford Golf Centre. All bays are available for anyone to use on a pay and play basis and the provision is serviced by sports lighting to allow all-year round and late evening usage.

Trafford Golf Centre has 53 bays with TopTracer technology. Many driving range providers nationwide are updating their facilities with such technology in a bid to increase demand. This entertainment system allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback.

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England; members clubs, proprietary clubs and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

Table 12.4: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

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The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment.

In Bury, four golf clubs are private members clubs and Bury Golf Club, Greenmount Golf Club and Prestwich Golf Club are proprietary facilities.

Table 12.5: Summary of ownership/management in Bury

Site ID	Site name	Management type	Course type
127	Bury Golf Club	Proprietary	Parkland
128	Greenmount Golf Club	Proprietary	Parkland
129	Whitefield Golf Club	Private Members	Parkland
130	Pike Fold Golf Club	Private Members	Parkland
131	Prestwich Golf Club	Proprietary	Parkland
132	Lowes Park Golf Club	Private Members	Moorland
137	Stand Golf Club	Private Members	Parkland

Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past few years, many facilities have altered their pricing structures to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf has positively encouraged this as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, some now offer five and/or six day memberships (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over). In the past, it was common for many clubs to have waiting lists in place for membership, but this has become rare in the present day.

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England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £1086. In the North of England this drops down to an average of £930. In Bury, Stand Golf Club is the only club with a membership fee which is above the national average.

Lowes Park Golf Club has the cheapest green fees in Bury which is likely due to it only being a 9-hole course, this is followed closely by Greenmount Golf Club.

Bury Golf Club, Greenmount Golf Club and Prestwich Golf Club are the only site which an exact price for the joining fee is unavailable. The other four sites don't require a joining fee.

Table 12.6: Pricing structures at golf facilities within Bury

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Weekday fee	Weekend fee
127	Bury Golf Club	POA	£854	£30	£40
128	Greenmount Golf Club	N/A	£767	£23	£23
129	Whitefield Golf Club	POA	£895	£30	£30
130	Pike Fold Golf Club	N/A	£515	£25	£30
131	Prestwich Golf Club	POA	£575	£23	£28
132	Lowes Park Golf Club	N/A	£612	£20	£20
137	Stand Golf Club	N/A	£915	£30	£35

Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

Quality of the golf facilities in Bury is relatively good across the seven sites, no significant issues identified.

The ancillary facilities are also good across Bury, particularly at Bury Golf Club where the clubhouse is modern and caters for a wide variety. Golf clubs often need such revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This comes from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals.

From a golfing perspective, given the current importance on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g., by providing gender specific changing facilities.

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12.3: Demand

Around 2004, participation in golf began declining; however, recent signs show that the reduction has not only levelled off but that demand has started to increase, especially following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both 2020 and 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people have been able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf has provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g. by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses have reported a near doubling of usual demand compared to pre-pandemic levels, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to retain increased participation in the long-term.

Membership

England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, which is based on a central national handicap platform.

In Bury, the table below provides the most recent average membership numbers at the golf facilities within the Borough, based on latest England Golf affiliation data.

Table 12.7: Summary of golf membership within Bury

Site ID	Site name	2015 Average	2016 Average	2017 Average	2018 Average	2022 Average	2023 Average
127	Bury Golf Club	261	274	282	259	393	413 (5% increase)
128	Greenmount Golf Club						
129	Whitefield Golf Club						
130	Pike Fold Golf Club						
131	Prestwich Golf Club						
132	Lowes Park Golf Club						
137	Stand Golf Club						

All seven clubs with membership schemes are operating above the national average. Membership is based on all clubs being 18-hole facilities. The actual 18-hole average if you convert numbers at Lowes Park to an 18-hole equivalent is 445 which is a better reflection of golf member demand in Bury.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As such, unmet demand in Bury is minimal, with all of the sites offering a membership scheme actively looking for new members.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision. To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 2,207 people within Bury, this is 1% of the Borough's population.

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Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e., through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

In addition, England Golf has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility, with the population broken down into nine golfing segments.

These segments are defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ✦ Relaxed members
- ✦ Older traditionalists
- ✦ Younger traditionalists
- ✦ Younger fanatics
- ✦ Younger actives
- ✦ Late enthusiasts
- ✦ Occasional time pressed
- ✦ Social couples
- ✦ Casual fun

Across Bury, Pike Fold Golf Club has the largest potential demand, with 276,110 people falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time.

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from “younger traditionalists” (22,059 people), whilst the lowest is from “casual fun” (16,754 people).

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth.

In reality, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst many others will be open to growing by significantly more than 1.07%. In that regard, England Golf reports that many of the clubs are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and wider range of membership and playing options.

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is significant demand for golf within Bury and the demand cuts across all nine golfing profiles as set out by England Golf. This being said, there is no purpose built driving range facility in Bury, with the nearest located in neighbouring authority Manchester at Trafford Golf Centre.

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12.5: Conclusion

With six 18-hole and one 9-hole course golf facilities in Bury, supply is well placed to meet demand. This is especially the case given the various operational structures in place, with some facilities prioritising membership and others prioritising pay and play usage and with some offering a high price point and others offering a low price point. However, there is a lack of variety in the provision on offer given that there is only one 9-hole facility with the rest being 18-hole facilities, but all standard courses and there are no shorter courses, Par 3 courses and no driving ranges available. This leaves a big gap in the type of facilities which are more appealing to beginner golfers and in the longer term could therefore impact on the facilities offering more formal golf provision.

Emphases should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided, with options explored to increase demand to more sustainable levels but with consideration given to how the range of facilities available can be diversified. England Golf can assist in this regard, primary through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

Supply and demand summary

- ▶ **With six 18-hole and one 9-hole course golf facilities in Bury, supply is well placed to meet demand.**
- ▶ **In the meantime, emphasis should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided, with options explored to increase demand to more sustainable levels.**

Supply summary

- ▶ There are currently seven golf sites in Bury.
- ▶ In total across Bury there are six 18-hole and one 9-hole course across seven sites.
- ▶ Currently there are no driving ranges located in Bury. The closest driving ranges are located at Kearsley Golf Range and Trafford Golf Centre.

Demand summary

- ▶ In Bury, four golf clubs are private members clubs and Bury Golf Club, Greenmount Golf Club and Prestwich Golf Club are proprietary facilities.
- ▶ England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £1086. In Bury, membership at all of the member clubs is above this national average.
- ▶ Lowes Park Golf Club has the cheapest green fees in Bury, followed closely by Greenmount Golf Club.
- ▶ In terms of quality of the golf facilities, it is relatively good across Bury with no significant issues identified.
- ▶ England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, which is based on a central national handicap platform. All seven clubs with membership scheme are operating above the national average.
- ▶ Membership since 2015 has increased across all seven clubs by an average of 58%.
- ▶ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 2,207 people within Bury.
- ▶ England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth.

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PART 13: OTHER PITCH SPORTS

13.1: Croquet

Context

The Croquet Association is the national governing body for the sport of Croquet in England. The sport is continuing to grow in popularity with over 200 clubs now registered with the Croquet Association. A full sized croquet lawn measures 35 yards (32m) by 28 yards (26.6m).

Consultation

There is just one croquet club in the Borough; Bury Croquet Club which plays at both Whitehead Park and Coronation Park. The findings from which helped to inform this section of the report was found through internet research as the Club did not respond to consultation requests.

Supply

There are five full size croquet lawns in total across the two sites. Whitehead Park (Bury West Analysis Area) has three good quality full size lawns. Coronation Park (Radcliffe Analysis Area) accommodates two full size lawns rated as standard quality.

Management and ancillary facilities

Bury Croquet Club leases the lawns at Coronation Park and Whitehead Park from the Council. The Club's lease is until 2040 and details it having to maintain lawns at the two sites. There are supporting ancillary facilities at both Coronation Park and Whitehead Park which Bury Croquet Club can access. The ancillary facilities located at Whitehead Park have recently been refurbished and therefore good quality. The facilities at Coronation Park are assessed as standard quality.

Demand

Bury Croquet Club has roughly 60 playing members. The Club is a member of the North West Federation of Croquet Clubs.

All club demand this season has been accommodated across the full size lawns located at Coronation Park and Whitehead Park.

Bury Croquet Club is actively looking for new members through social media and the club website.

Supply and demand analysis

The Croquet Association recommends an average of 25 participants per lawn as a capacity guideline. Given that Bury Croquet Club currently has roughly 60 members and it presently has access to two lawns at Coronation Park and three lawns at Whitehead Park, this indicates that between both sites there is sufficient spare capacity.

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Conclusion

In conclusion, current supply of croquet lawns is sufficient to cater for current demand and offers sufficient capacity to accommodate club aspirations for future growth which remains the same as the previous PPOSS.

Croquet summary

- ◆ **Current supply of croquet lawns is sufficient to cater for current demand and offers sufficient capacity to accommodate club aspirations for future growth.**
- ◆ Bury Croquet Club is the only club in the Borough.
- ◆ It plays across two sites, Coronation Park (two lawns) and Whitehead Park (three lawns)
- ◆ Lawns at Coronation Park are rated as standard quality, though the three lawns at Whitehead Park are rated as good quality.
- ◆ The ancillary facilities located at Whitehead Park have recently been refurbished and therefore good quality. The facilities at Coronation Park are considered standard quality.
- ◆ Bury Croquet Club leases the lawns at Coronation Park and Whitehead Park from the Council.
- ◆ Bury Croquet Club has roughly 60 playing members. Croquet Association guidance indicates that three lawns would be required to meet this level of current demand. With five lawns available across Coronation Park and Whitehead Park demand is able to be met.

13.2: Rounders

Context

Rounders England is the national governing body for the sport of rounders in England. Its key role is to co-ordinate a development network, working through local delivery partners that provides a pathway and opportunities for aspiring players to progress to whatever level of play is right for them. In addition, it provides information about the game, run coaching and umpiring courses, tournaments, sell resources and promote the sport at all levels.

Rounders in Bury

The Bury Rounders League is the main driver of rounders across Bury, the season running from April through to August. It hosts a total of 52 teams in seven divisions. The League has declined in participation having previously had a total of 63 teams in the last PPOSS.

Supply

The League stipulates that teams must source their own venue to play home matches and that it must be in Bury. The table below lists sites used by Bury Rounders Clubs.

Table 13.1: Summary of venues

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club name
1	Ainsworth Hall Road (Bankfield Playing Fields)	Radcliffe	Ainsworth B, Ainsworth C
17	Bury Sports Club	Bury East	Swan Ladies, Bury Sports Buddies, Brocks XI C
22	Close Park	Radcliffe	Radcliffe Borough Ladies, Radcliffe Borough Ladies B, Close Encounters
31	Elton Vale Sports Club	Bury West	Elton Vale A, Elton Vale B, Elton Vale C

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club name
47	Hoyles Park	Bury East	Ladybird Saviours
51	Manchester Road Playing Fields	Bury East	Brown Cow A, Exodus A, Exodus B, Radcliffe Borough, Brown Cow B, Exodus Junior's
56	Openshaw Park	Bury East	Roach A, Chesham Ladies
85	Town Meadow	RT&NM	Tottington B
90	Wellington Barracks Playing Field	Bury West	Westbury, Westbury Gems
93	Whitehead Park	Bury West	All Saints B, All Saints A
98	Elton Primary School	Bury West	Bury West, St Mary's Junior's
101	Warth Fold Playing Field	Radcliffe	Redvales Derby A, Bury Felt, Redvales Derby B
102	Chesham Primary School	Bury East	Concept Ladies
103	Greenmount Primary School	RT&NM	Greenmount Ladies B
118	Ramsbottom Cricket Club	RT&NM	Ramsbottom Ladies
136	Radcliffe Primary School	Radcliffe	St Mary's A, St Mary's D

In total, 16 sites are regularly used for rounders with the majority of these (nine sites - 60%) Council owned. The remaining seven sites are split evenly between sports clubs and primary school sites. There is no league requirement for sites to have changing facilities or toilets; however, this would be beneficial for individual teams.

Conclusion

In conclusion, current supply of croquet lawns is sufficient to cater for current demand and offers sufficient capacity to accommodate club aspirations for future growth, on the basis that maintenance regimes are of the required quality to either sustain multi-sport use (where sharing with cricket particularly) or enable unmarked playing fields to be used for rounders which remains the same as the previous PPOSS.

Rounders in Bury is typically played on playing fields which are either used for other formal sports and are able to supplement rounders matches with a social offer and access to facilities onsite (e.g. Bury Sports Club, Elton Vale Sports Club), or on unmarked playing fields such as parks or primary school fields. Rounders participation in Bury is strong and focus should be on sustaining and further increasing participation, supported through facilities foremostly by access to toilet facilities as best practice from a welfare perspective.

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Rounders summary

- ◆ **Current demand for rounders can be sufficiently catered for through sustained level of access to a range of formal and non-formal sport or playing field sites presently used.**
- ◆ The Bury Rounders League is the main driver of rounders across Bury, the season running from April through to August. It hosts a total of 52 teams in seven divisions.
- ◆ The league has declined in participation having previously had a total of 63 teams in the last PPOSS.
- ◆ In total 16 sites are regularly used for rounders with the majority of these (nine sites - 60%) Council owned. The remaining seven sites are split evenly between sports clubs and primary school sites.
- ◆ There is need for high quality maintenance regimes to be in place where rounders shares pitch space with other sports. Rounders typically has this relationship with cricket, using outfielders which are cut short and conducive for rounders. Rounders shares will cricket at several sites in Bury and this additional use needs to be managed through high quality maintenance.

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APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Department of Media Culture and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
 - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
 - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
 - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
 - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
 - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
 - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
 - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

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Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

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

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

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

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

- ◀ 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.

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- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The FA: Survive. Revive. Thrive. (2020-24)

This new strategy aims to ensure the grassroots game in England will survive, revive, and thrive over the next four years.

The strategy outlines seven transformational objectives through to 2024:

- ✦ **Male Participation:** Modernised opportunities to retain and re-engage millions of male participants in the game.
- ✦ **Female Participation:** A sustainable model based on a world-class, modernised offer.
- ✦ **Club Network:** A vibrant national club network that delivers inclusive, safe local grassroots football and meets community needs.
- ✦ **Facilities:** Enhanced access to good quality pitches across grassroots football.
- ✦ **Grassroots Workforce:** A transformation in community football by inspiring, supporting and retaining volunteers in the game.
- ✦ **Digital Products and Services:** An efficient grassroots digital ecosystem to serve the administrative and development needs of players, parents, and the workforce.
- ✦ **Positive Environment:** A game that's representative of our diverse footballing communities, played in a safe and inclusive environment.

This strategy was launched as grassroots football was able to safely return after lockdown from Monday 29 March, it also identifies the immediate challenge, in light of COVID-19, to get grassroots football back on its feet.

The new strategy sets out a number of goals to revive the game by addressing the areas that require particular attention. This includes increasing opportunities to ensure girls have the same access as boys to football in schools and clubs, and improving quality of pitches, with the aim of seeing 5000 good quality pitches added to the current number by 2024.

The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ✦ Win a major tournament
- ✦ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ✦ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ✦ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ✦ A game free of discrimination
- ✦ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and BFAWSL

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ✦ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ✦ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ✦ Personalised and connected learning experiences

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- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***
 - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
 - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
 - ◀ Invest in club facilities
 - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
 - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ ***Inspire through elite teams***
 - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
 - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
 - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
 - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ ***Make cricket accessible***
 - ◀ Broaden cricket's appeal through the New Competition
 - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
 - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
 - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
 - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ ***Engage children and young people***
 - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
 - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
 - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ ***Transform women's and girls' cricket***
 - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
 - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
 - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
 - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ ***Support our communities***
 - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
 - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
 - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
 - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

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The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision, which is to achieve 'a successful and thriving game across England'. The strategy can be found [here](#).

It identifies four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives', to form priority focuses for the strategy. It believes that these objectives will make the greatest substantive improvements to the game and investment will be aligned to these areas.

Game objectives

- ✦ **Enjoyment** – Enable positive player experiences on and off the field.
- ✦ **Winning England** – Create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby.
- ✦ **Welfare** – Enhance players welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players.
- ✦ **Flourishing rugby communities** – Support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society.

Driving objectives

- ✦ **Diversity & inclusion** – Drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society.
- ✦ **Understand** – Build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game.
- ✦ **Connect** – Connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences.
- ✦ **Commercial & operational excellence** – Ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce.

A number of aims, identified as key to the achievement of these main objectives, are particularly relevant to facilities. The provision of good quality and suitable rugby union facilities will help to achieve these aims and in turn objectives:

- ✦ *Enjoyment* – Improve accessibility for women and girls across the game.
- ✦ *Enjoyment* – Make the game inclusive and attractive for 14 to 18 year olds.
- ✦ *Flourishing rugby communities* – Provide support to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets.
- ✦ *Diversity & Inclusion* – Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create an inclusive environment for all.

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

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

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

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

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

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

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017

Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment,

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delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021's ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants. The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development.

The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

England Netball

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:-

- ◀ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
- ◀ elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- ◀ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

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The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

Facility Development

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ✦ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ✦ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ✦ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.
- ✦ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- ✦ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- ✦ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ✦ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ✦ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ✦ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ✦ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

British Tennis Strategy (2019)

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

Vision: tennis opened up

Mission: to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

Objectives

- ✦ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.

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- ◀ More people playing more often:
 - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
- ◀ Increase the number of children playing once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

1. Visibility - Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

British Crown Green Bowling Association

Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England.

<http://bcgba.org.uk/index.html>

England athletics strategy plan 2021 – 2032: Athletics and runners at the heart – creating opportunities, enhancing experiences and powering potential.

This strategy ensures a robust and clearly defined future direction for the sport which places athletics and runners at the heart of everything we will do over the 12 year period to 2032.

England Athletics overarching purpose and visions are:

Purpose: 'To inspire more athletics and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport.'

Vision: 'For athletics to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.'

At the heart of this plan, and the focal point for everything England Athletics do, are the people and communities involved in athletics across the following five areas:

1. Clubs, Club Leaders and facilities
2. Competition

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3. Coaches and officials
4. Participation: young people and running
5. Talented athletes

Each has its own unique challenges and opportunities, yet also the opportunity to positively influence the success and growth of the other areas.

There are four key supporting activities that will be essential in enabling us to deliver the strategic priorities and ultimately achieve goals:

- Provide strong **leadership** that builds trust and respect by creating an open and positive culture.
- Embrace technology and reduce our environmental impact by putting **digital first** and encouraging innovation and creativity.
- Ensure greater **engagement** through sharing of high-quality insight, information and content.
- Develop **commercial minds** to maximise funding opportunities and diversify income.

Growing the Game of Golf in England (2017-2021)

In 2014, England Golf developed its first national strategy to help golf in England rise to some serious challenges. Membership was declining, many clubs were facing financial and business problems and the perception of the game was proving damaging. As such, it decided to set out recommendations for actions that would help “raise the game”.

The 2014 strategy helped achieve the following:

- ✦ 427,111 people being introduced to golf for the first time.
- ✦ 31,913 new members for England’s golf clubs from national initiatives.
- ✦ Over £25 million generated for golf clubs through new members.
- ✦ Four counties to merge their men’s and women’s unions associations.
- ✦ Support for 15,200 national, regional and county squad players.
- ✦ Over 150 championships and events organised across the country.

Following the above strategy, England Golf is now setting out to “grow the game” of golf through seven strategic objectives. Developed in consultation with the golfing community, six of these are developed from the previous work in 2014, whilst one (being customer focussed) is brand new and intends on boosting the impact of them all.

The objectives are:

- ✦ Being customer focussed
- ✦ Stronger counties and club
- ✦ Excellent governance
- ✦ Improve image
- ✦ More members and players
- ✦ Outstanding championships, competitions and events
- ✦ Winning golfers

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APPENDIX 3: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference:					Site Name:				
6 figure grid reference					Pitch ID(s):				
Number of football pitches on site:					Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini 5v5, 7v7)			
Availability					Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?				
					If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues				
Weather at time of visit & date of visit									
Pitch Issues:									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments	
Playing surface									
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%		Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch		
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No		See size chart below for recommended dimensions		
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe				
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short		Good 30mm-40mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less		
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage				
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)								Section total	
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No				
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No				
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/twice		No				
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
								Section total	
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.									
PITCH SCORE				0.0%	RATING	Poor			

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cricket pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Cricket																																					
Please complete one form per pitch																																					
Site reference				Site Name																																	
6 figure grid reference				No of Pitches:																																	
Pitch ID				No of wickets:	Natural		Non turf																														
Weather at time of visit:																																					
Availability																																					
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused																																					
General comments/observations																																					
<p>*You will need a cricket ball and ruler to assess wicket quality as indicated</p> <p>Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer).</p>																																					
Element	Rating				Guidance notes			Site comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)																													
About the cricket outfield																																					
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	<80% falls below the ECB basic standard																																	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Ideally 12mm - 25mm																																	
Evenness	Even		Uneven	Ball should run without deviation or ramp																																	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes		Immediate action required																																	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes		May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager																																	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes		e.g. informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager																																	
e.g. from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc may also wish to refer to user survey																																					
Artificial Wickets																																					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes		No	There should be no trip points																																	
Evenness of wicket	Even		Uneven	There should be no contours in surface levels																																	
Stump holes	Yes		No	Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball																																	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes		No	There should be none																																	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes		No	If "yes" contact site manager																																	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes		No	If "yes" contact site manager																																	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes		No																																		
Grass Wickets																																					
Presence of line markings	Yes		No																																		
Evidence of rolling	Yes		No	i.e. is wicket smooth and uniform																																	
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes		No	3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square																																	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes		No																																		
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes		No	Scale: 80%+ = Yes, 80% = No																																	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound/bounce?	Yes		No	Please note that <80% falls below the ECB basic standard																																	
Changing/ Pavilion																																					
Umpires provision	Yes		No																																		
Toilets	Yes		No																																		
Hot/cold water	Yes		No																																		
Heating	Yes		No																																		
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention																																		
Non Turf Cricket Practice Nets																																					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes		No																																		
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even		Uneven																																		
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes		No																																		
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes		No																																		
No rips or surface lifting	Yes		No																																		
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes		No																																		
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes		No																																		
Is the steel frame/ posts upright?	Yes		No	Ideally assessed with a spirit level but can be achieved by eye.																																	
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes		No																																		
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes		No																																		
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes		No																																		
Is appropriate safety/ supervisory signage present?	Yes		No																																		
Maximum score 180																																					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scoring</th> <th>Score</th> <th>Percentage Score</th> <th>Facility Present?</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Outfield</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Artificial Wickets</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grass Wickets</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Changing/Pavilion</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non Turf Practice</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall score</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>										Scoring	Score	Percentage Score	Facility Present?	Outfield	0	0%	No	Artificial Wickets	0	0%	No	Grass Wickets	0	0%	No	Changing/Pavilion	0	0%	No	Non Turf Practice	0	0%	No	Overall score	0	0%	
Scoring	Score	Percentage Score	Facility Present?																																		
Outfield	0	0%	No																																		
Artificial Wickets	0	0%	No																																		
Grass Wickets	0	0%	No																																		
Changing/Pavilion	0	0%	No																																		
Non Turf Practice	0	0%	No																																		
Overall score	0	0%																																			
Potential Rating: Poor																																					
section total																																					

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Rugby union pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference				Site Name					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s)					
Date of assessment				Pitch size	(Senior, Mini/Midi)				
Number of pitches on site				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
Availability				If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues					
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Weather at time of visit									
General comments/observations									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments	
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor		
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.		
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm		
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots				
GOALPOSTS									
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No						
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No						
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No						
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No						
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No						
ANCILLARY									
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No						
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No						
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below									
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never		
Pitch Maintenance Score									
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0
Natural (adequate) = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season Natural (inadequate) = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.									

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference				Site Name					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID					
Number of AGPs on site				Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)		
Availability									
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Type of pitch	{	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)		Short Pile 3G (40mm)			
		Sand Dressed		Sand Filled		Water based			
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments	
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate				Poor		
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate				Poor		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots	If no evidence, assume none.	
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate				Poor		
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate				Poor		
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate				Poor		
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate				No - not adequate		
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes						No		
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes						No		
Are there dug outs?	Yes						No		
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes						No		
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes						No		
Maximum score	93	Scoring:		Poor	<=50	Total Score		0	
				Standard	51-79	Potential Rating		Poor	
				Good	80+				

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Tennis court non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Courts									
KKPref									
Site name:									
Number of courts -		Tennis		Netball		Basketball		Five-a-side	
General Playground or specific sports court area?									
Court surface				Management				Community Use?	
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale				Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School				
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Comments		
About the courts									
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Changing Accomodation									
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No						
About the equipment									
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No						
Practice wall	Yes		No						

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Athletics Track non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks									
KKPref									
Site name:									
Track surface		Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify			Specify If 'Other'				
No. of Lanes		Length of track:		Community Use:					
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each track with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Comments		
About the track facilities									
Damage to the track surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Track edging	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Disabled access	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Floodlighting	Yes		No						
Is the track fenced?	Yes		No						
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump									
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No-but adequate		No-not adequate				
Take off boards	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Landing mats	Yes		No						
Surface of throwing areas - shot, discus, hammer	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins - throws	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Throwing cages	Yes		No						
Access to toilets									
Changing accommodation	Yes		No						
Changing accommodation - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Club room	Yes		No						
Car parking	Good		Adequate		Poor				
General Comments									
						ENTER Athletics	Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At_db !		

BURY PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Rugby league non-technical assessment

Non Technical Quality Assessment - Rugby League									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference					Site Name				
6 figure grid reference					Pitch ID(s)				
Number of rugby league pitches on site					Pitch size	(Senior, Junior, Primary)			
Availability?					Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?				
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Weather at time of visit									
Pitch Issues:									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments	Scores	
Playing surface									
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% Good <80% Poor	0	
Size of pitch	Preferred size		Meets minimum Size		No - not adequate		See RFL Pitch Size Guidance: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk	0	
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Good		Adequate		Poor			0	
Length of grass	Good		Adequate		Poor		20mm - 60mm: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/	0	
Evenness of pitch	Flat		Moderate		Severe			0	
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots			0	
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots			0	
Typical weekly usage (match equivalent sessions)	6 or less		7 - 9		10 plus		Refer to club surveys & other information gathered	0	
Does the maintenance schedule meet RFL requirements	Yes		In part		No		See RFL Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/	0	
Pitch ancillary facilities							Section total	0	
Are goalposts safe?	Yes				No			0	
Is the site secure or open	Secure				Open			0	
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes				No			0	
Is the pitch enclosed by perimeter fence?	Yes				No			0	
Is there a training area separate to match pitch(es)?	Yes				No			0	
Is there a covered stand?	Yes				No			0	
Ancillary facilities							Section total	0	
Is there a clubhouse on site?	Yes				No			0	
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes				No			0	
Adequacy of changing accommodation (exterior)?	Good		Adequate		Poor			0	
Adequacy of changing accommodation (interior)?	Good		Adequate		Poor			0	
Is there an officials room?	Yes				No			0	
Is there a dedicated medical room?	Yes				No			0	
Are accessible facilities provided?	Yes				No			0	
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes				No			0	
								Section total	0
Total score						0			
Maximum score						95			
Potential Rating						Poor			