



HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

FULL ASSESSMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd

Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF

T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@kkp.co.uk www.kkp.co.uk



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	3
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY	4
PART 2: FOOTBALL.....	15
PART 3: THIRD GENERATION ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (3G PITCHES)	48
PART 4: CRICKET.....	65
PART 5: RUGBY UNION	97
PART 6: HOCKEY	116
PART 7: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS	130
PART 8: BOWLS	133
PART 9: TENNIS	143
PART 10: NETBALL.....	163
PART 11: ATHLETICS.....	172
PART 12: GOLF.....	178
APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT	188
APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS.....	200

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
BAFA	British American Football Association
BC	Bowls Club
BE	Bowls England
CC	Cricket Club
CFA	County Football Association
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EFL	English Football League
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
GMA	Grounds Management Association
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
HBBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LRCF	Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LTC	Lawn Tennis Club
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NLS	National League System
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SE	Sport England
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned to undertake a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC). This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to ensure that the Council has a framework for the prioritisation, provision and development of sports facilities across the public, private and independent sectors.

This report is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment. It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across Hinckley & Bosworth. For playing pitch sports, it is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance. This details five stages for the developing the study:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the subsequent strategy document. Stage E references the ongoing work that will be required once the PPOSS has been approved and adopted. This Assessment and subsequent Strategy will run to 2041, in line with the emerging Local Plan.

For "non -pitch" sports, Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) is followed. This has a similar staged approach:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand.
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together.
- ◀ Application: Application of an assessment.

The PPOSS is being undertaken in conjunction with an Open Space Strategy. The inter-relationship between the Open Space Strategy and the PPOSS needs to be recognised as some sports covered by the PPOSS also use open space facilities for matches and training as well as informally.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Management arrangements

The 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. Its role is also to support, check and challenge the work of the project team. The Steering Group comprises representatives from the Council, Sport England, the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) and the Active Partnership (Active Together).

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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 of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study and ensure that the PPOSS is updated.

Why the Strategy is being developed

The PPOSS will replace the existing study for Hinckley & Bosworth which was originally completed in 2019 and is now out of date, whilst also now covering a wider scope and additional sports. The lifespan of a PPS/PPOSS is usually three years, although this can be extended if it is kept regularly up to date.

The revised PPOSS will deliver the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future playing pitch requirements. It will be part of a robust evidence base which will inform and shape planning policy either in an update to the current Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities policy or a new policy, as well as other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively and identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits and provide a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of playing pitch provision.

This PPOSS will be used as evidence to inform Hinckley & Bosworth's Local Plan review and therefore needs to provide a robust spatial analysis and assessment of the provision of sports facilities and playing pitches.

It will also meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the objectives of the NPPF is to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with paragraph 103 discussing 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.

In summary, the PPOSS will:

- ◀ Undertake an objective assessment of the number, type, quality and ownership of sports pitches and ancillary facilities across a range of sports including those which are currently disused or where use has lapsed.
- ◀ Provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future demand and needs for playing pitches for different sports including consideration of the changing nature of different sports focusing on quantity and quality issues broken down into districts and sub-areas.
- ◀ Provide both a strategic overview and a site-specific assessment of playing pitches and ancillary provision across the participating authority.
- ◀ Identify expected housing growth and projected changes in demographic structure including the impact on sport demand and spatial distribution of pitches.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Identify and inform which pitches and facilities require improvement. It will also identify where pitches are under-used or in such poor condition that release for other uses may be considered.

Local context

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) is preparing a new Local Plan to replace the Adopted Local Plan (2006-2026). In order to inform the development of policies to support sport and recreation facilities, it needs to review and update the Playing Pitch Strategy that was prepared in 2019.

HBBC's vision for the Borough is to be a place of opportunity which creates great place to live work and enjoy through three objectives set out in the Corporate Plan (2022-25):

- ◀ People: Helping people to stay healthy, active in work and protected from harm.
- ◀ Places: Creating clean, sustainable and attractive places to live and work.
- ◀ Prosperity: Encouraging sustainable economic and housing growth, attractive businesses, improving skills and supporting regeneration.

The current Local Plan is made up of four documents known as: Core Strategy (2009); Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan (2011); Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan (2014); Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (2016). As highlighted above, the Council is in the process of undertaking a new Local Plan and has undertaken the following stages:

- ◀ Scope, Issues and Options (January 2018 to February 2018).
- ◀ Directions for Growth Consultation (January 2019).
- ◀ Draft Local Plan (June 2021).
- ◀ Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation Document (February 2022 to March 2022).

Since the Regulation 19 Consultation took place in Spring 2022, there have been multiple changes in context and the Borough Council have returned to the Regulation 18 Consultation stage so that changes in circumstances at local and national level could be considered. The Borough Council consulted on the Local Plan Regulation 18 Version between 31st July and 27th September 2024. As the Local Plan progresses the Borough Council are continuing to review its existing evidence base to establish what requires updating and identify any evidence gaps.

The emerging Local Plan sets out an aspirational but realistic vision for the borough that encompasses an objective to ensure facilities for sports are accessible for all. The first Spatial Objective of the Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 version calls for 'healthy communities and places'. It looks to achieve this by enhancing the overall provision of community, sports and cultural facilities and improving access to existing facilities.

Core Strategy Policy 19: Green Space and Play Provision is the main policy hook in terms of open space requirements; however, the Open Space and Recreation Study (2016) updates the standards that are set out in the Policy. Policy DM8 of the Site Allocations supplements the Core Strategy by seeking to safeguard open space, sports and recreational facilities. At the time of developing the Adopted Local Plan, it was considered that the provision of facilities across the borough was generally sufficient, although the quality of them needed to improve.

Active Together

Active Together is one of 43 Active Partnerships in England. The organisation works across Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland with the aim of reducing inequalities in Physical Activity.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Active Together's vision is for "Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland to be a place where physical activity is part of daily life, leading to people living healthier and happier lives". The organisation has three overarching outcomes within its 2022-2031 Physical Activity Framework:

- ▶ 'More People' – regularly taking part in physical activity.
- ▶ 'Better Health' – improving physical and mental wellbeing, especially for our most inactive people.
- ▶ 'Connecting Communities' – where people and places connect and thrive through moving more and being active.

The organisation has three overarching Priorities to achieve these outcomes:

- ▶ 'Our People' – Engaging both inactive and active people and supporting the workforce are critical to building healthy, more active communities across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. Ensuring that changes are led by people in our communities and local organisations will help build the foundations leading to better access to local opportunities.
- ▶ 'Our Places' – We seek to recognise and respond to the assets and needs of our places. The places and spaces around us, and in which we live, travel and work, influence when, where and how we move and engage with being physically active. System partners, when supporting local people, must recognise their immediate local environment, and be agile to adapt to local circumstances, be that from a county, city, district, or neighbourhood perspective.
- ▶ 'Our Partnerships' – Our collective action to reduce the inequality of access that exists, and to increase the physical activity levels of our least active communities. Focusing resources and our energy on the dual challenge of reducing inequality and inactivity requires good leadership and changes in behaviour beyond badges, borders, egos and logo's.

National Planning Policy Framework 2024

One of the objectives of the NPPF is to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.

Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, stating that "planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate."

Paragraph 104 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

Paragraphs 106, 107, and 108 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Agreed scope

The scope of the PPOSS will focus geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Provision included within the project is as follows:

- ◀ Football pitches (grass, third generation turf (3G) and ancillary provision).
- ◀ Rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Cricket pitches.
- ◀ Hockey pitches (artificial grass pitches (AGPs)).
- ◀ Other grass pitch sports as relevant e.g., rugby league, lacrosse, baseball/softball and American football.
- ◀ Tennis courts (including padel and pickleball facilities).
- ◀ Bowling greens.
- ◀ Athletics tracks (and running).
- ◀ Netball courts.
- ◀ Golf courses.

In addition, a bespoke 3G pitch section is included within this report, mainly focusing on football activity but also taking into account other sports that can use the surface type (e.g., rugby union and rugby league). Furthermore, other grass pitch sports are also included within the study where supply and/or demand is identified (e.g. American football, baseball/softball).

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, both rugby codes, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified for inclusion. The ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

Study area

The study area comprises of the full local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Hinckley & Bosworth as a whole. These can be used to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

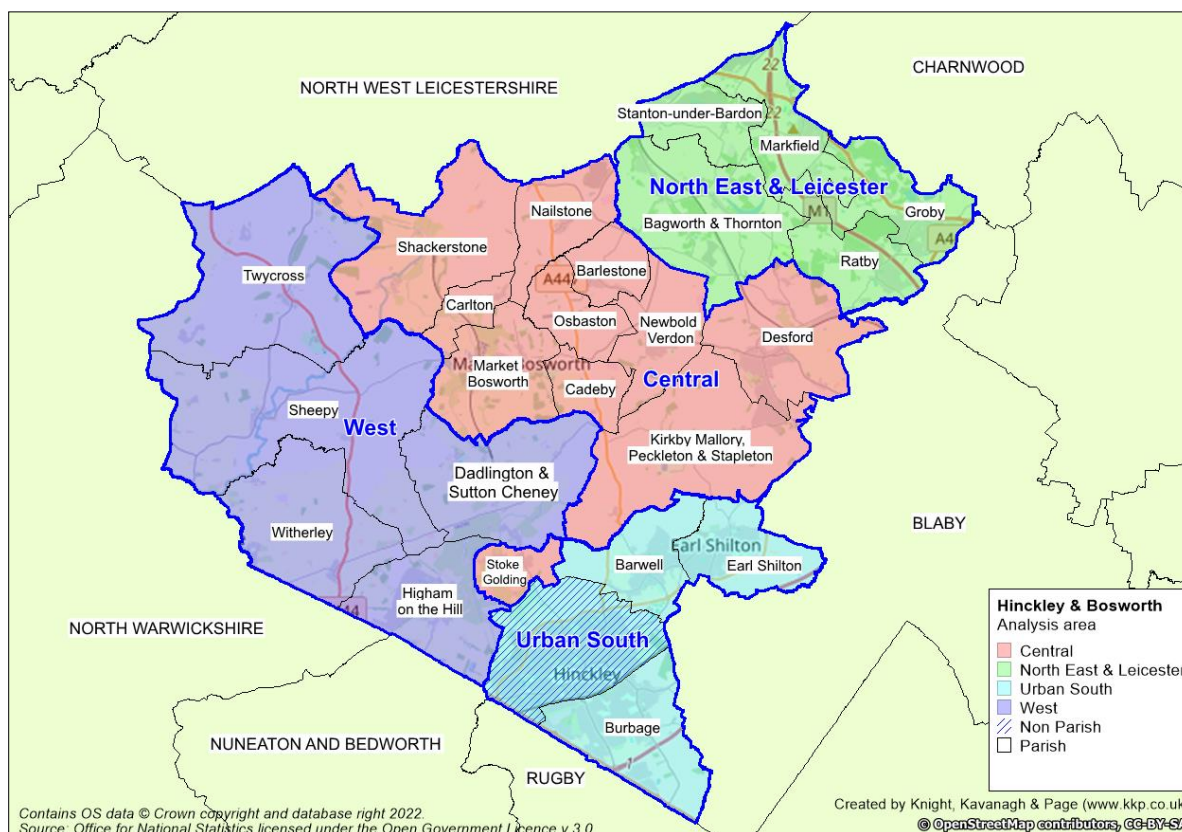
Hinckley & Bosworth is divided into four analysis areas to better reflect the population split within the Borough. Each analysis area is made up of the following Parishes:

- ◀ **Central Analysis Area-** Barlestone, Cadeby, Carlton, Desford, Kirkby Mallory, Peckleton & Stapleton, Market Bosworth, Nailstone, Newbold Verdon, Osbaston, Shackerstone and Stoke Golding.
- ◀ **North East & Leicester Analysis Area-** Bagworth & Thornton, Groby, Markfield, Ratby and Stanton-under-Bardon.
- ◀ **Urban South Analysis Area-** Barwell, Burbage and Earl Shilton. (Hinckley also falls within this sub-area which is non-parished).
- ◀ **West Analysis Area-** Dadlington & Sutton Cheney, Higham on the Hill, Sheepy, Twycross and Witherley.

For a map showing the analysis areas, please see below.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Figure 1.1: Map of Hinckley & Bosworth



Please note there is a non-parish area to the north of the Burbage parish that forms part of the Urban South Analysis Area. The non-parish area is the market town of Hinckley, and the main urban centre within the Borough.

Further to this, there is a level of imported demand and sports teams from outside the study area that use pitches within Hinckley & Bosworth. In addition, it is likely that sports teams from inside of Hinckley & Bosworth use facilities outside of the Borough, for example in including North West Leicestershire, Leicester, Charnwood, Blaby, North Warwickshire, Rugby and Nuneaton & Bedworth. This cross-boundary movement will be taken into consideration within each sports section where relevant following consultation with neighbouring authorities and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

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

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

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport across Hinckley & Bosworth 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 provision

Sport England’s guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field, as set out by the Government in the 2021 ‘Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order’:

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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

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, this report 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 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 included within the study is therefore assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - provision in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - provision that is available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - provision which as a matter of policy or practice is not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club sites along with some semi-professional club sites where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** - provision that has previously been used for sport but not currently used and not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

years, these fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 103 of the NPPF, with Sport England still likely to challenge a proposed loss which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a such a site is still that of a playing field until such time as its use is formally changed or it is developed for a non-sport use.

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 report 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 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").

Furthermore, technical assessments have also been provided, where undertaken, such as those carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA), which now provides technical assessments across football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket (known as PitchPower reports). PitchPower reports where carried out have informed the quality assessments for the PPOSS to ensure the findings align (unless there is a clear reason for a differential e.g., recent improvements).

Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for provision in Hinckley & Bosworth tends to fall within the following categories:

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

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Current and future demand for provision 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 (unless no such demand has been identified). Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision; it is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in 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 the growth of the competition.

In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available. Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues (as identified by the Council and NGBs) 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, telephone consultation or an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including all schools as well as further and higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. One method for calculating this is by using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth to provide an estimate of the likely future demand for relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth via the use of team/member generation rates. This involves using an existing participation ratio and applying it to predicted growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

Other information sources 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' activity.

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for Hinckley & Bosworth cover the period up until 2041, in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

The PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan (Stage D) will also contain several housing growth scenarios to test what additional demand will be generated throughout the Local Plan period.

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 Hinckley & Bosworth and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a 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

Sport	Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
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
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey AGPs	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports-lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-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 until they are improved or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to

be overcome through better utilisation of the existing stock, such as via quality improvements or through improving community access.

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

The Assessment Report, which is this document, is drafted and presented on a sport-by-sport basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. This focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It is agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.

Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included sport (or facility type). Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

1.5: Stage D: Develop the strategy

The Strategy follows the production of this Assessment Report, once it has been finalised and signed off by the Steering Group. It will feature:

- ◀ Headline findings.
- ◀ An overall vision and associated aims for the PPOSS.
- ◀ Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios.
- ◀ Strategic recommendations.
- ◀ A site-by-site and area-by-area action plan.
- ◀ Housing growth scenarios.

Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the PPOSS and keep it robust and up-to-date (Stage E).

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in Hinckley & Bosworth is Leicestershire & Rutland County FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaches and delivering national football schemes.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation (FF), which is a charity, linked to and funded by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England), that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game. The FF also acts on behalf of The FA as the strategic NGB for football in supporting development of a PPOSS.

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 playing formats and pitch sizes

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U13s-U16s	91 x 55 (U15-16s) and 82 x 50 (U13s-U14s)
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27

The playing season for grassroots community clubs generally runs from September to May.

Part 3 of this report captures supply and demand for third generation 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 (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which was completed in 2020. As part of this, an 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, DCMS and the FF) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Each LFFP draws on the PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game as well as including strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational/informal 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 football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

The LFFP for Hinckley & Bosworth 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. A LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

Consultation

A total of 39 affiliated football clubs are based in Hinckley & Bosworth with 17 responding to consultation requests. This equates to a team response rate of 77%. Most clubs that have not responded are small clubs fielding just one or two teams. Key clubs, which were consulted face to face as part of the study include:

- ◀ AFC Market Bosworth Juniors.
- ◀ Anstey Nomads FC.
- ◀ Desford & Caterpillar FC.
- ◀ FC Burbage.
- ◀ Hinckley Borough FC.
- ◀ Hinckley LRFC.
- ◀ Hinckley Town Juniors.
- ◀ Market Bosworth Town Juniors.
- ◀ Sporting Markfield FC.
- ◀ Stoke Golding FC.

It should be noted that in order to provide additional evidence, consultation has also been carried out with other key stakeholders for football in Hinckley & Bosworth. This includes HBBC, Leicestershire & Rutland County FA, local leagues and schools.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 149 pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth across 50 sites. Of these pitches, 134 are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used) across 42 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

The table overleaf shows the breakdown of the pitches which are available for community use. The Urban South Analysis Area has the most (56), followed by the North East and Leicester Analysis Area (38). The West Analysis Area has the fewest pitches with just two.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

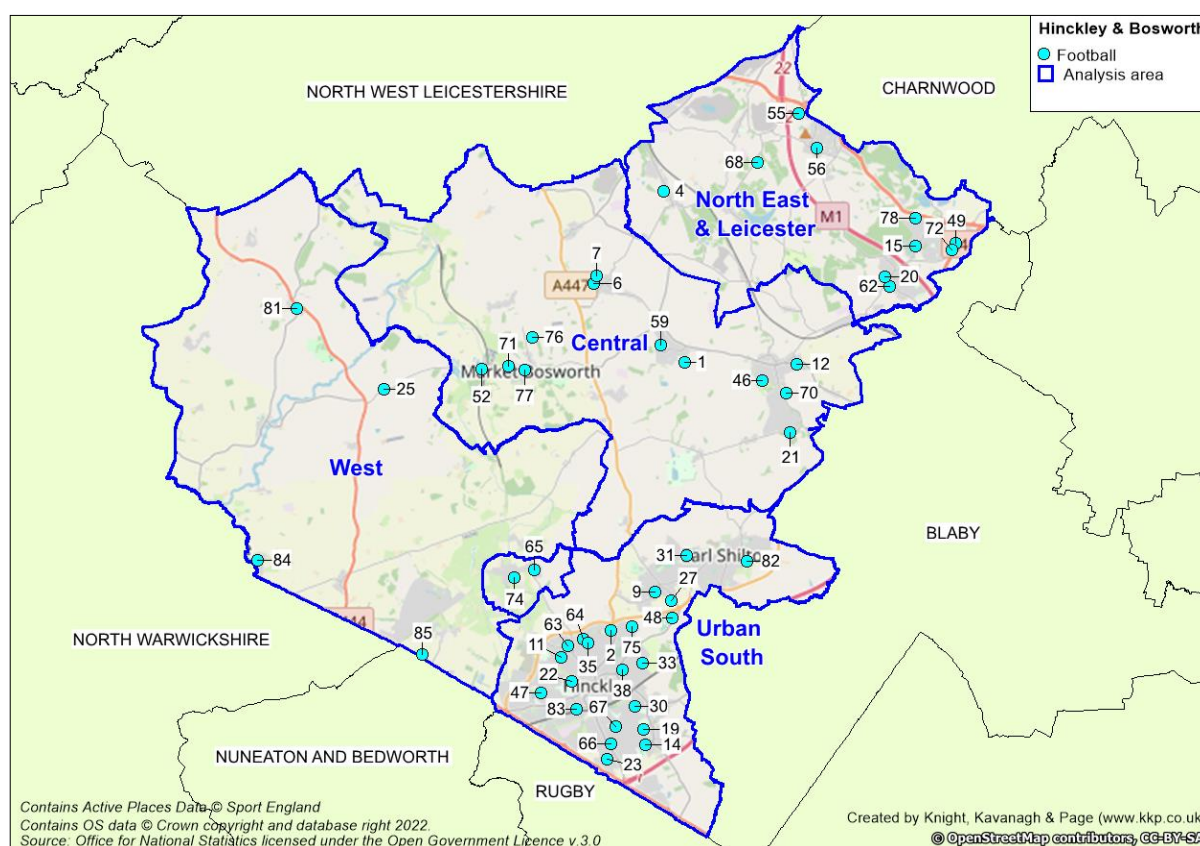
Table 2.2: Summary of grass football pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	10	8	6	8	5	37
North East and Leicester	4	5	6	11	11	38
Urban South	12	10	11	13	11	56
West	2	-	-	-	-	2
Total	28	23	23	32	27	134

As shown in the table above, the largest number of mini 7v7 pitches (32) is identified when compared to pitches of other sizes. By contrast, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 provision are the least represented (23 pitches). Nationally, many youth 11v11 teams play on adult pitches.

The location of the pitches servicing Hinckley & Bosworth can be seen in the figures below. For a key to the maps, see Table 2.21.

Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth



Changes from the previous study

Since the previous PPS study (2019) there has been an increase in the number of community available grass football pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth. Previously, 123 pitches were available for community use compared to 134 now being available, representing a 9% increase.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 2.3: Pitch comparison of community available grass football pitches

PPOSS Year	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
2024 (current study)	29	25	23	32	27
2019 (previous study)	28	24	24	27	20
Change	+1	+1	-1	+5	+7

The above broadly aligns with participation changes over the same time period, although the increase in pitches is not as significant as the number of teams (as shown in Table 2.12). The largest increase in pitches is on mini 5v5 provision (increase of seven pitches) in line with an increase of eight teams.

It is worth noting that there have been no playing fields established since the previous PPS. It is more the case that additional pitches have been marked on existing land which is available for community use.

Future provision

Consultation with Burbage Parish Council identifies an aspiration to create one adult football pitch and accompanying changing facilities at Rugby Road Recreation Ground. If realised, this will be marked out on the existing playing field. However, at this stage, no formal plans are in place.

There is a proposal in place for an 11v11 3G pitch at Britannia Road Recreation Ground, which would involve replacing some of the grass football pitches and the senior rugby pitch with the 3G pitch (see Part 3 for further information). Discussions are ongoing between Leicestershire FA and the Football Foundation to discuss funding opportunities and therefore a delivery date has yet to be decided.

Hinckley AFC has a long-standing aspiration to build its own stadium within Hinckley & Bosworth. The Club competes in the Midland Football League Division One at Step 4 of the football pyramid system.

Caterpillar Pitches is allocated in the development plan as an Outdoor Sports Facility (DES26) which seeks to protect playing fields from being built on. Paragraph 103 of the NPPF requires that existing playing fields should not be built on unless one of three criterion applies. In view of the shortfall of pitches identified in the area, any future proposals to build on these sites would need to demonstrate that criteria 103b) in the NPPF and exception 4 in Sport England's Playing Fields Policy is met. There is a need to retain the quantity of pitches within the Central Analysis Area.

A residential housing development is being developed in Earl Shilton (Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extensions). The development is to consist of 1,600 new dwellings, a minimum of 4.5 hectares a primary school, retail and community facilities. As part of this, planning applications (21/01511/OUT and 23/00330/OUT) have a committee resolution to approve subject to the signing of a S106 Agreement for a new four team changing pavilion, car park and improvements to the quality of grass football pitches at Weavers Springs Park.

Disused provision

A disused site is a site that has previously been used for sport but that is not currently being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either (often being unmarked).

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

There is one site; Earl Shilton Albion Football Club (sometimes known as Stoneycroft Sport & Social Club) identified as being disused that previously provided football pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth. The pitches were last marked out circa 2022.

The Strategy & Action Plan will include a scenario which analyses the impact of bringing these pitches back into use and how this will affect the current shortfalls and if they are deemed sustainable.

However, there are several sites that are still in use recreationally that previously provided formal football pitches but no longer do so. These are not classified as disused as they are still being accessed, although they are no longer marked out for affiliated football. The sites are:

- ◀ Bosworth Road Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Hinckley Road Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Higham on the Hill Playing Field.
- ◀ Thornton Playing Field.
- ◀ Keats Playing Field.
- ◀ Sheepy Playing Fields Association.
- ◀ Stamford Park.
- ◀ Thornton Community Sports Ground.

Townlands C of E Primary Academy also previously provided a mini 5v5 pitch but no longer does so.

Hammonds Park did previously provide grass pitches but has now been lost for the construction of ground mounted solar array (23/00368/FUL).

Management

Most community available pitches in the Borough are managed by education providers with this amounting to 44 pitches or 33% of all community accessible provision. In addition, 40 community available pitches are managed by parish councils (31%) 30 by sports clubs (22%) 12 by the Council (9%) and the remaining seven by other entities (5%).

Table 2.4: Management of community available pitches by pitch type

Pitch type	Council	Parish council	Education	Sports club	Other
Adult	4	7	6	8	3
Youth 11v11	1	6	13	3	-
Youth 9v9	2	7	10	3	1
Mini 7v7	4	8	10	9	1
Mini 5v5	1	13	5	6	2
Total	12	40	44	30	7

Security of tenure

A site is considered to have secure tenure if it has a long-term lease agreement in place or a guarantee exists that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. This protects sites from potential loss and is also generally required for clubs looking at site development, particularly from a funding perspective. As such, all local authority sites (including parish and town council sites) in Hinckley & Bosworth are considered to provide this as continued community use is ensured through an ongoing commitment to provide sports and leisure facilities.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

In contrast, security of tenure is not offered by sites which do not have a robust community use agreement in place or where existing arrangements are coming to an end as there is no guarantee that they will continue to be accessible in the future. For example, most education sites in Hinckley & Bosworth are not deemed to provide secure use as clubs only book the pitches on a weekly or monthly basis and as such do not have long term security of tenure. This applies to Bosworth Academy, which provides several grass football pitches.

Exceptions to the above are the following sites where community use agreements have been established for the use of its outdoor sports facilities.

- ◀ Hastings High School (2023/RegMa/0131/LCC).
- ◀ Redmoor Academy (23/01164/FUL).
- ◀ Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre (23/00477/FUL).

Notwithstanding the above, Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre does not currently let out its grass pitches for community use. The grass area in which the two youth 9v9 football pitches are marked out will be used for a temporary building block due to refurbishments on other school buildings, Once this is completed, it is assumed the grass pitches will be made available for community use.

Several sites are owned or operated by sports associations/trusts or commercial providers. These are considered to provide security of tenure as part of this arrangement, and this includes Leicester Road Stadium, Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields and Sport in Desford.

It should be noted that Caterpillar Pitches is a private site and is subject to a housing development in the future and therefore they do not have security of tenure.

Most sites operated by sports clubs have security of tenure, either via freehold or a lease arrangement. For example, Sporting Markfield report it has a 26-year lease agreement at Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields which commenced in September 2023.

FC Burbage report it would ideally like to extend the length of its lease agreement to 25 years as it currently only has a rolling yearly lease agreement such as at Colts Close Recreation Ground and Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground to allow the Club to apply for funding to improve provision.

Consultation with Hinckley AFC state it would like its own pitches within the Borough which would help the club to grow. A potential solution proposed has been the sharing of the grass football pitches at Leicester Road Stadium.

Generally, to carry out site development and/or attract external funding, clubs and sites need long-term security of tenure, with arrangements of at least 25 years often required (unless recently entered into). As an example, this is a requirement for Football Foundation investment (freehold or a lease of 21+ years is needed for funding over £100,000).

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Hinckley & Bosworth have been assessed via a combination of site visits (in January 2024) using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA, PitchPower assessments (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

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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 Hinckley & Bosworth. As seen, most pitches are assessed as standard with 54 (40%) being rated as such. Of the remaining pitches, 46 (35%) community available pitches assessed as standard quality and 33 (25%) are assessed as good quality.

Table 2.5: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	8	8	12
Youth 11v11	6	7	10
Youth 9v9	5	10	8
Mini 7v7	7	17	8
Mini 5v5	8	12	8
Total	33	54	46

Poor quality scores are generally a result of issues relating to natural drainage problems, basic maintenance regimes and signs of and wear and tear. Poor quality pitches are located across 20 sites and can be seen in Table 2.19. Many of these sites are operated by the Council and schools, where maintenance tends to be less dedicated than at sites managed by sports clubs.

In some instances, sites with poor quality pitches also provide good and standard quality pitches, this includes Alans Way Sports Field where the youth 11v11 and one of the youth 9v9 pitches are assessed as poor quality, but the remaining pitches are assessed as standard quality.

FC Burbage report the pitches at Britannia Road Recreation Ground and Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground have declined in recent seasons due to the heavy rain and the lack of opportunity to re-seed the pitches during the summer season, despite the good quality rating the pitches have received.

Similarly, Hinckley Borough FC report the quality of the pitches at Richmond Park has reduced in the past two seasons due to poor drainage, despite the pitches being rated as good quality.

FC Burbage also report issues with the pitch quality at Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground due to heavy usage from the club, despite its good quality rating.

It is worth noting that PitchPower reports have influenced the scores at Britannia Road Recreation Ground, Richmond Park and Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground resulting in poor scores.

Barlestone St Giles FC reports the pitches at Barlestone St Giles Football Club are in poor condition due to waterlogging issues. In addition, it reports the quality has decreased since last season due its mower not being reliable and not have the funds to replace it.

Anstey Nomads report the pitches at Ratby Sports Club are poor quality due to poor drainage. They also suffer issues due to dog fouling, vandalism and rabbit holes.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

In contrast, good quality pitches can be found at nine sites such as Dovecote Pavilion, Leicester Road Stadium, Market Bosworth Sports Club, Richmond Park and Sport in Desford and can be seen in Table 2.20. It is worth noting that Moulsham Athletic FC reports the pitches at Richmond Park are often under maintained, especially during the winter, despite their good quality.

Most of the good quality pitches have a rigorous maintenance programme in order to maintain high quality. As an example, Hinckley LRFC reports the pitches at Leicester Road Stadium have improved since last season, due to the Club following a 12-month pitch maintenance programme including cutting, reseeding and aeration.

Market Bosworth Town Juniors FC reports the pitches at Market Bosworth Sports Club have a maintenance regime at the site and states this is regular and frequent resulting in its good condition.

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 web 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 also required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of any grant funding application for FF 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 within the PPS guidance, 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. Organisations must carry out two assessments a year, with at least one in the November – March window.

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 FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the PPS/PPOSS capacity guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 2.6: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS rating	PPOSS quality rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

In Hinckley & Bosworth, 19 sites have received a PitchPower assessment and the findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in the table below. As evidenced, the findings align.

Table 2.7: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Youth (11v11)	Poor	Poor
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Youth (9v9)	Poor	Poor
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Youth (9v9)	Basic	Standard
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Mini (7v7)	Basic	Standard
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Mini (5v5)	Basic	Standard
7	Barlestone St Giles Football Club	Adult	Poor	Poor
7	Barlestone St Giles Football Club	Adult	Poor	Poor
7	Barlestone St Giles Football Club	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
14	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	Adult	Good	Good
14	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	Youth (11v11)	Advanced	Good
21	Caterpillar Pitches	Adult	Poor	Poor
21	Caterpillar Pitches	Adult	Poor	Poor
21	Caterpillar Pitches	Youth (9v9)	Poor	Poor
21	Caterpillar Pitches	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
21	Caterpillar Pitches	Mini (5v5)	Poor	Poor
22	Clarendon Park	Adult	Poor	Poor
22	Clarendon Park	Adult	Basic	Standard
23	Colts Close Recreation Park	Youth (9v9)	Basic	Standard
23	Colts Close Recreation Park	Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Adult	Advanced	Good
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Youth (11v11)	Advanced	Good
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Youth (9v9)	Advanced	Good
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Mini (7v7)	Advanced	Good
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Mini (5v5)	Advanced	Good
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Mini (5v5)	Advanced	Good
30	Hastings High School	Adult	Poor	Poor
30	Hastings High School	Youth (11v11)	Poor	Poor
30	Hastings High School	Youth (11v11)	Poor	Poor
30	Hastings High School	Youth (9v9)	Poor	Poor
30	Hastings High School	Youth (9v9)	Poor	Poor
46	Kirkby Road Playing Fields	Adult	Advanced	Good
46	Kirkby Road Playing Fields	Adult	Advanced	Good
47	Langdale Park	Adult	Basic	Standard
48	Leicester Road Stadium	Adult	Good	Good

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
48	Leicester Road Stadium	Adult	Good	Good
48	Leicester Road Stadium	Adult	Good	Good
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Adult	Good	Good
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Youth (11v11)	Good	Good
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields	Youth (11v11)	Good	Good
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields	Youth (9v9)	Basic	Standard
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields	Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields	Mini (5v5)	Basic	Standard
62	Ratby Sports Club	Youth (11v11)	Poor	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	Youth (9v9)	Poor	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	Mini (5v5)	Poor	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	Mini (5v5)	Poor	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	Mini (5v5)	Poor	Poor
64	Richmond Park	Youth (11v11)	Good	Good
64	Richmond Park	Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
64	Richmond Park	Youth (9v9)	Basic	Standard
64	Richmond Park	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
64	Richmond Park	Mini (7v7)	Basic	Standard
64	Richmond Park	Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
66	Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
66	Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
66	Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
66	Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground	Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
66	Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground	Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
66	Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground	Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
68	South Charnwood High School	Youth (11v11)	Good	Good
68	South Charnwood High School	Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
70	Sport in Desford	Adult	Advanced	Good
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Youth (11v11)	Poor	Poor
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Mini (5v5)	Poor	Poor
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Mini (5v5)	Poor	Poor

In addition to PitchPower, the FA has a general pitch improvement strategy, in partnership with the GMA. As part of this, it has a Pitch Advisory Service that can be utilised by clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice and practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. This is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise local authority-maintained sites.

Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)¹

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

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

Following a report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Once a PitchPower Grass Pitch Assessment Report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030.

If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then clubs can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have landowner permission (or be the free/lease holder) and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding pitches used for National League System play), leagues, County FAs, community organisations and charities. In 2023 the fund was also opened up to education organisations and town/parish councils as eligible applicants. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have permission of the landowner via service level agreement.

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini pitches may be marked onto senior pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, but it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

No pitches are overmarked in Hinckley & Bosworth.

¹ <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Ancillary facilities

In correlation with the process for pitch assessments, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across Hinckley & Bosworth has been undertaken on the basis of identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing (see Appendix 2 for the assessment criteria).

With specific reference to clubhouses and changing facilities, the following sites in Hinckley & Bosworth are considered to have poor quality provision, through KKP's non-technical quality assessment and consultation with clubs:

- ◀ Britannia Road Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Colts Close Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Ratby Sports Club.
- ◀ Richmond Park.
- ◀ Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground.

Table 2.8: List of sites providing poor quality ancillary provision

Site ID	Site name	Ancillary provision quality	Clubs and number of teams accessing
14	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	Poor	FC Burbage (three teams)
23	Colts Close Recreation Ground	Poor	FC Burbage (three teams)
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields	Poor	Sporting Markfield (four teams)
62	Ratby Sports Club	Poor	Anstey Nomads (14 teams)
64	Richmond Park	Poor	Hinckley Borough FC (21 teams) Athletico Duke (two teams)
67	Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground	Poor	FC Burbage (five teams)

These sites are serviced by dated facilities that would benefit from refurbishment or replacement and have clear signs of wear and tear.

The clubhouse at Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields (maintained by Markfield Parish Council) is currently poor quality and is outdated. Sporting Markfield FC echo this assessment and report the changing rooms are too small and require access to more changing facilities.

Anstey Nomads report the ancillary facilities at Ratby Sports Club are in poor condition and is not fit for purpose to service its club demand. There is a small portacabin on site but is unusable and only provides one shower and toilet. Significant refurbishment has been undertaken to the existing clubhouse facility, with the top floor now secure and water tight. However, the Club is reliant on investment in order to complete the full works to the clubhouse and there are plans to submit a planning application in order to undertake this.

FC Burbage reports the clubhouse at Britannia Road Recreation Ground is in poor condition, as the changing rooms are outdated and poorly maintained. The facilities include two official changing rooms with toilets and showers shared between the teams.

Barlestone St Giles FC report the facilities at its home site are in poor condition as the changing rooms are not adequate to meet its demand. The Club note the changing room flooring is not sealed and needs replacing in order to maintain good hygiene but do not have the funds to repair.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Desford & Caterpillar FC report the facilities at Sport in Desford are not currently adequate and insufficient to progress its senior men's team. It currently has two changing rooms.

Good quality ancillary facilities have been identified at Barwell Cricket and Sports Club, Leicester Road Stadium and Market Bosworth Sports Club where the sites are serviced by well-maintained facilities.

Hinckley LRFC report its ancillary facilities are in good condition, however, the number of changing rooms is not adequate to meet the Club's demand. Furthermore, it also reports issues with vandalism over the past season with plastic goals damaged and cable ties cut from the nets.

The facilities at Market Bosworth Sports Club include four changing rooms and two official changing rooms. The Club state the facility was built in 2015 and received funding from the Football Foundation as part of the development.

The ancillary provision at Barwell Cricket and Sports Club is rated as good quality with two changing rooms and accompanying toilets and a kitchen provided.

Away from clubhouse provision, car parking is reported as being a particular issue at the Barlestone St Giles Football Club and Swallows Green. Through consultation, Barlestone St Giles FC report it has to use the grass as an overflow car park due to the lack of spaces whilst Hinckley Town Juniors report no parking is available at Swallows Green.

Local Football Facility Plan

As with grass pitch improvements, the 2019 LFFP for Hinckley & Bosworth identifies sites considered as priority sites for clubhouse and changing facility improvements, although there may again be a need to amend and/or add to this list based on the findings of this study. It recommends that the following 11 sites should be a priority for ancillary refurbishment/replacement:

- ◀ Bosworth Academy.
- ◀ Brookvale Groby Learning Campus.
- ◀ Caterpillar Pitches.
- ◀ Clarendon Park.
- ◀ Hinckley Road Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Ratby Sports Club.
- ◀ Richmond Park.
- ◀ Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground.
- ◀ South Charnwood High School.
- ◀ Stoke Golding Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Weavers Spring Park.

National League System

The National League System (NLS) is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the Football League (from the National League at Step 1) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the system than at the top. The NLS has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation² requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements, and clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from regional feeder leagues. Please refer to the FA website³ for the full specifications for each.

The general principle for clubs in the NLS is that they must achieve the appropriate Stadium Accreditation grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, there are four clubs which play within the football pyramid structure as summarised in the following table.

Table 2.9: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Barwell FC	Southern League Premier Division Central	Step 3
Hinckley AFC	Midland Football League Division One	Step 4
Desford and Caterpillar FC	Everards Brewery Leicestershire Senior League Premier Division	Step 6
Hinckley LRFC Reserves	Everards Brewery Leicestershire Senior League Division One	Step 4

No current ground grading issues are identified, it is important to note that the jump from a Regional Feeder League to Step 6 is significant and that as a minimum, sites require a sports-lit pitch with hardstanding areas for fans as well as turnstiles for entry. For clubs within the regional feeder leagues, promotion is not always achievable due to these facility constraints.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System (WNLS) similar to the adult men's which provides structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier requiring differing Stadium Accreditation requirements.

Although women's clubs still require to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and four 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.

There is currently one team in Hinckley & Bosworth which plays within the Women's National League System, as seen in the table below.

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

Team	League	Level
Desford & Caterpillar Ladies FC	East Midlands Regional Division One North	Tier 6

² <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

³ <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

2.3: Demand

Through the assessment and affiliation data from the 2023/2024 season, 273 teams from within 37 clubs are identified as playing within Hinckley & Bosworth. This comprises of 36 adult men's, four adult women's, 119 youth boys', 14 youth girls' and 100 mini teams and is further summarised in the following table.

Table 2.11: Summary of number of competitive teams currently playing in Hinckley & Bosworth

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Central	15	22	15	15	9
North East & Leicester	5	10	19	20	6
Urban South	20	38	29	26	24
West	-	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	40	70	63	61	39

The Urban South Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 129, whilst the West Analysis Area has no teams. There are more youth 11v11 teams (70) when compared to other formats of play, with mini 5v5 teams being the least represented (39 teams).

Additional demand

In addition to the demand identified above, several futsal, walking football and disability teams field demand within the Borough. This includes one disability team and five futsal teams from Hinckley Borough FC, one team from Hinckley Walking Football and two walking football teams from Sporting Markfield.

Some of the above teams (one disability and three walking football) are thought to access 3G pitches within the Borough for training demand and therefore have been incorporated into the supply and demand analysis. As such, there have been included in the training demand figures in the 3G supply and demand analysis (see section 3.4 for further information).

Participation trends (changes since the previous study)

Across the clubs playing matches within Hinckley & Bosworth there are currently 48 more teams affiliated when compared to the 2019 study, based on data collected in the 2018/19 season. This equates to a growth of 61 youth teams and six mini 7v7 teams, although there has been a reduction of 18 adult teams.

Table 2.12: Demand comparison

PPOSS Year	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
2024 (current study)	40	70	63	61	39	273
2019 (previous study)	58	37	35	55	43	225
Change	-18	+33	+28	+6	-4	+48

Women's and girls' demand

The FA's current four-year strategy, 'Time for Change' has a focus on providing all girls with equal access to football by 2024. This focus will be a key objective of any facility investment to ensure that facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

As indicated above, there are currently 18 dedicated female teams playing within Hinckley & Bosworth representing 10% of the total number of teams which is considered to be a high level of demand. There are also additional female participants within mixed mini teams.

In addition, Wildcat centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, providing opportunities for girls aged 5-11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment and Squad sessions for 12-16 year olds follow the same format. All organisations delivering Wildcat centres or Squad sessions receive a £900 grant over two years and equipment in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, there is currently one Wildcat Centre operating in Hinckley & Bosworth, at Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground with sessions taking place on Thursday evenings at 17:30. Hinckley Borough FC has previously run sessions at Richmond Park but no longer do so due to a lack of coaches.

Exported/imported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of Hinckley & Bosworth despite being registered to the local authority. This is normally because pitch requirements cannot be met.

Some clubs otherwise based in Hinckley & Bosworth export match play demand to outside of the Borough state that this is due to a lack of capacity on existing pitches, although some also cite quality issues at sites formerly accessed.

Eight teams are identified as exporting demand outside of the Borough into neighbouring authorities, with this consisting of one adult, two youth 11v11 and five mini 5v5 teams.

The level of exported demand is significantly low compared to the number of teams that play within the Borough.

Table 2.13: Summary of exported match play demand into other local authorities

Club	Exported demand (teams)	Venue	Surface	Local authority
Conny United FC	1 x adult	Sapcote Recreation Ground	Grass	Blaby
Hinckley AFC	1 x youth 11v11	Rugby Borough Football Club	Grass	Rugby
Hinckley Town Juniors FC	1 x youth 11v11	Stoney Stanton War Memorial Playing Fields	Grass	Blaby
Hinckley Town Juniors FC	3 x mini 5v5	Beauchamp College	3G	Oadby & Wigston
Sporting Markfield FC	2 x mini 5v5	Maplewell Hall School	Grass	Charnwood

As shown in the table above, Hinckley Town Juniors FC and Sporting Markfield both field some demand outside of Hinckley & Bosworth, in Blaby & Oadby & Wigston for the former and in Charnwood for the latter due to a lack of pitch capacity within the Borough. This consists of one youth 11v11 and three mini 5v5 teams for Hinckley Town Juniors and two mini 5v5 teams for Sporting Markfield. Both clubs report aspirations to access match playing venues within Hinckley & Bosworth. However, only the teams which play within Hinckley & Bosworth have been factored into the demand figures.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

As seen in the table above, Hinckley AFC exports its youth 11v11 team into Rugby due to a lack of pitch capacity within the Borough. Similarly, Conny United exports its adult team into Blaby.

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision; it is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in 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 the growth of the competition.

Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available.

Of the clubs that responded to consultation, four report levels of latent demand and provide reasoning. This is summarised in the following table.

Table 2.14: Summary of unmet/latent demand

Club	Comments
Anstey Nomads	The Club reports it could field more teams if given access to more or better ancillary provision
Barwell United FC	The Club reports it would like to grow its youth section but is unable due to a lack of pitch availability.
FC Burbage	Could field additional teams across all its age groups if it had access to more pitches. Furthermore, it could field more teams if given access to more or better ancillary provision.
Hinckley Borough FC	Could field additional teams across all its age groups if it had access to more pitches on site.
Hinckley LRFC	The Club reports it could field more teams if given access to more or better ancillary provision
Market Bosworth FC	Could field additional teams across all its age groups if it had access to more pitches.

Given the relatively high level of future demand noted in the section below, it is considered that this latent demand will also be absorbed by participation increases and population growth. As such, the quantifiable figures should be merged rather than being considered separately (all clubs identifying latent demand also have future demand aspirations).

Some latent and unmet demand is also reported because of a lack of training capacity. This is further explored within Part 3 of this report.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in several ways, such as through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan document that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand for football that could from housing development plans across the Borough.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2041 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

Furthermore, the ONS projections do not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the Borough, as will be proposed in the review of the Local Plan. This will therefore also be subject to scenarios in Strategy document and/or via future assessment work undertaken by the Council.

For reference, total current population in Hinckley & Bosworth of 113,591 is projected to increase to 137,765 by 2041. The table below shows the number of new teams that are forecasted to be generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions that this will require.

Table 2.15: Borough-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions ⁴
Adult Mens (18-45)	1:536	6.2	6	3
Adult Womens (18-45)	1:5,055	0.7	1	0.5
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:49	9.6	10	5
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:197	2.2	2	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:30	8.4	8	4
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:130	1.9	2	1
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:44	10.5	11	5.5
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:69	6.7	7	3.5

As seen, it is anticipated that there will be a likely growth of 47 additional teams, consisting of seven adult, 12 youth 11v11, 10 youth 9v9, 11 mini 7v7 and seven mini 5v5 teams. When used on analysis area basis, the growth is outlined in the table below. The growth is projected across the Central, North East & Leicester and Urban South analysis areas.

Table 2.16: Future demand from population growth by analysis area in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	1.5	2	1.5	1.5	1	7.5
North East & Leicester	0.5	1	1.5	1.5	0.5	5
Urban South	1.5	3	2	2.5	2	11
West	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	3.5	6	5	5.5	3.5	23.5

⁴ 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.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Notwithstanding the above, it must also be noted that team generation rates do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, they cannot account for specific development work within certain areas or focused on certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. For example, the current focus on developing women's and girls' football nationally is likely to lead to there being more female teams in the future and, thus, further increased pitch demand.

Participation increases

Based upon consultation respondents, eight clubs report aspirations to increase their number of teams, equating to growth of 35 teams, broken down as six adult teams, 10 youth 11v11 teams, seven youth 9v9 teams, seven mini 7v7 teams and three mini 5v5 teams.

Table 2.17: Future demand aspirations reported by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
AFC Market Bosworth Juniors	Central	1 x Men's	Adult	0.5
AFC Market Bosworth Juniors	Central	1 x Mini	Mini 5v5	0.5
Anstey Nomads FC	North East & Leicester	2 x Youth boys	Youth 11v11	1
Anstey Nomads FC	North East & Leicester	2 x Youth boys	Youth 9v9	1
Anstey Nomads FC	North East & Leicester	2 x Mini	Mini 7v7	1
FC Burbage	Urban South	1 x Women's	Adult	0.5
Hinckley AFC	Urban South	1 x Youth boys	Youth 11v11	0.5
Market Bosworth Juniors FC	Central	1 x Women's	Adult	0.5
Market Bosworth Juniors FC	Central	1 x Youth girls	Youth 11v11	0.5
Market Bosworth Juniors FC	Central	1 x Youth girls	Youth 9v9	0.5
Hinckley LRFC	Urban South	2 x Men's	Adult	1
Hinckley LRFC	Urban South	1 x Women's	Adult	0.5
Hinckley LRFC	Urban South	4 x Youth boys	Youth 11v11	2
Hinckley LRFC	Urban South	2 x Youth girls	Youth 11v11	1
Hinckley LRFC	Urban South	2 x Youth boys	Youth 9v9	1
Hinckley LRFC	Urban South	2 x Mini	Mini 7v7	1
Hinckley LRFC	Urban South	2 x Mini	Mini 5v5	1
Hinckley LRFC Juniors	Urban South	2 x Mini	Mini 7v7	1
Hinckley LRFC Juniors	Urban South	1 x Mini	Mini 5v5	0.5
Sporting Markfield FC	North East & Leicester	2 x Youth girls	Youth 9v9	1
Sporting Markfield FC	North East & Leicester	2 x Mini	Mini 7v7	1

The total future demand reported by clubs amounts to 17.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 2.18: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	2.5
North East & Leicester	-	1	2	2	-	5
Urban South	2	3.5	1	2	1.5	10
West	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	3	5	3.5	4.5	1.5	17.5

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because should club aspirations be realised, this would absorb the future demand identified via population growth, rather than it being judged separately and therefore double counted. Furthermore, given the volume of demand expressed by clubs, it is unclear as to how viable such increases are. This is, thus, considered aspirational compared to the potential growth identified linked to population increases. As such, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational.

Predicted club future demand is dealt with via the incorporation of a scenario that considers the impact on existing pitch stock were stated aspirations to be realised. The housing growth scenario will estimate additional need for football arising from proposed developments as this could further increase demand in the relevant areas as well as other potential growths scenarios (e.g., if recent growth trends continued).

2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment. 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 current quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used:

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

Table 2.19 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Match equivalent sessions

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

One team accessing one pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches, the current usage of such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in less grass pitch use).

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extra-curricular activity.

For education sites which are available for community use, current play has been increased on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

Informal use

A number of football pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth are on open access sites, especially those managed by the parish and town councils. This often results in informal use in the form of, for example, unorganised sport (including football) and exercise groups. An example of this is found at Burroughs Park, which is utilised for match play by Ratby Sunday FC.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Hinckley & Bosworth, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for all pitch types.

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 the majority of 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.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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 way actual spare capacity is represented in Table 2.19 is as follows:

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 pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	If the cell has a dash in it, this means that the pitch is unavailable at peak time. If it was available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch is 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.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 2.19: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Available for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Central	LE9 9LB	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	5	1	4	0	Overplayed
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Central	LE9 9LB	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	1	Actual spare capacity
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Central	LE9 9LB	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Central	LE9 9LB	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
2	Ashby Sports Club	Urban South	LE10 1SU	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
2	Ashby Sports Club	Urban South	LE10 1SU	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity
4	Bagworth Colliery Sports Ground	North East & Leicester	LE67 1BJ	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
6	Barlestone C of E Primary School	Central	CV13 0EP	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
7	Barlestone St Giles Football Club	Central	CV13 0EP	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	2	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed
7	Barlestone St Giles Football Club	Central	CV13 0EP	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
9	Barwell C of E Academy	Urban South	LE9 8DS	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
9	Barwell C of E Academy	Urban South	LE9 8DS	Yes-unused	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
11	Battling Brook Primary School	Urban South	LE10 0EX	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
12	Bosworth Academy	Central	LE9 9JL	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
12	Bosworth Academy	Central	LE9 9JL	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
12	Bosworth Academy	Central	LE9 9JL	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Standard	3	12	9	3	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
14	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	Urban South	LE10 2HF	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1	3	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity
14	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	Urban South	LE10 2HF	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	North East & Leicester	LE6 0GE	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Standard	5	6	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	North East & Leicester	LE6 0GE	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	3	Standard	6	6	0	0	Played to capacity
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	North East & Leicester	LE6 0GE	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Standard	6.5	12	5.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	North East & Leicester	LE6 0GE	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Standard	5	12	7	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
19	Burbage Junior School	Urban South	LE10 2AD	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use

⁵ Match equivalent sessions

⁶ Match equivalent sessions; based on pitch quality - the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

⁷ Red indicates overplay, green indicates potential spare capacity and amber indicates at capacity.

**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Available for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance ⁷	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
20	Burroughs Park	North East & Leicester	LE6 0XZ	Yes	Local Authority	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
21	Caterpillar Pitches	Central	LE9 9JT	Yes	Commercial	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
21	Caterpillar Pitches	Central	LE9 9JT	Yes	Commercial	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
21	Caterpillar Pitches	Central	LE9 9JT	Yes	Commercial	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure.
21	Caterpillar Pitches	Central	LE9 9JT	Yes	Commercial	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure.
21	Caterpillar Pitches	Central	LE9 9JT	Yes	Commercial	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure.
22	Clarendon Park	Urban South	LE10 0UE	Yes	Local Authority	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	4	2	2	0	Overplayed
22	Clarendon Park	Urban South	LE10 0UE	Yes	Local Authority	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	2	1	1	0	Overplayed
23	Colts Close Recreation Park	Urban South	LE10 2HH	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Good	1.5	8	6.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
25	Dixie Grammar Junior School	West	CV13 6PA	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use
25	Dixie Grammar Junior School	West	CV13 6PA	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Urban South	LE9 8EX	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	0	3	3	1	Actual spare capacity
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Urban South	LE9 8EX	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	4.5	4	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Urban South	LE9 8EX	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Urban South	LE9 8EX	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	3	6	3	0	Played to capacity at peak time
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Urban South	LE9 8EX	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Good	1.5	12	10.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
30	Hastings High School	Urban South	LE10 2QE	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
30	Hastings High School	Urban South	LE10 2QE	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	6	2	4	0	Overplayed
30	Hastings High School	Urban South	LE10 2QE	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
31	Heath Lane Academy	Urban South	LE9 7PD	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	Urban South	LE10 1LE	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use
35	Hinckley Club for Young People	Urban South	LE10 0DZ	Yes	Trust	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1	Actual spare capacity
38	Hinckley Parks Primary School	Urban South	LE10 1LP	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
38	Hinckley Parks Primary School	Urban South	LE10 1LP	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	3.5	4	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality
46	Kirkby Road Playing Fields	Central	LE9 9JG	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	1	Actual spare capacity
46	Kirkby Road Playing Fields	Central	LE9 9JG	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity

**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Available for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance ⁷	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
47	Langdale Park	Urban South	LE10 0TX	Yes	Local Authority	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity
48	Leicester Road Stadium (stadia pitch)	Urban South	LE10 3DR	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5		Spare capacity discounted due to being a stadia pitch
48	Leicester Road Stadium	Urban South	LE10 3DR	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	2	Good	2	6	4	2	Actual spare capacity
49	Marina Park	North East & Leicester	LE6 0EE	Yes	Local Authority	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	0	8	8	2	Actual spare capacity
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Central	CV13 6PD	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	1	Actual spare capacity
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Central	CV13 6PD	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Central	CV13 6PD	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Central	CV13 6PD	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	2	6	4	0	Played to capacity at peak time
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Central	CV13 6PD	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	2	6	4	0.5	Actual spare capacity
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields	North East & Leicester	LE67 9PX	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields	North East & Leicester	LE67 9PX	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields	North East & Leicester	LE67 9PX	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	0	6	6	2	Actual spare capacity
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields	North East & Leicester	LE67 9PX	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	0	4	4	0	Played to capacity at peak time
56	Mercenfield Primary School	North East & Leicester	LE67 9WG	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use
59	Newbold Verdon Primary School	Central	LE9 9NG	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	LE6 0LE	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	LE6 0LE	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	3	1	2	0	Overplayed
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	LE6 0LE	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	5	Poor	3.5	10	6.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	LE6 0LE	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Poor	0	6	6	3	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
63	Redmoor Academy	Urban South	LE10 0EP	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	1	0	Overplayed
63	Redmoor Academy	Urban South	LE10 0EP	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	3	2	1	0	Overplayed
63	Redmoor Academy	Urban South	LE10 0EP	Yes	Education	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
64	Richmond Park	Urban South	LE10 0DZ	Yes	Local Authority	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
64	Richmond Park	Urban South	LE10 0DZ	Yes	Local Authority	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time
64	Richmond Park	Urban South	LE10 0DZ	Yes	Local Authority	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time
64	Richmond Park	Urban South	LE10 0DZ	Yes	Local Authority	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	1	6	5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
64	Richmond Park	Urban South	LE10 0DZ	Yes	Local Authority	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time

**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Available for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance ⁷	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
64	Richmond Park	Urban South	LE10 0DZ	Yes	Local Authority	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	4.5	6	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
65	Saint Martin's Catholic Academy	Central	CV13 6BF	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	3	Standard	3	6	3	3	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
66	Sketchley Hill Primary School	Urban South	LE10 2DY	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time
67	Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground	Urban South	LE10 2PP	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Good	2.5	18	15.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
67	Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground	Urban South	LE10 2PP	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Good	0	18	18	3	Actual spare capacity
68	South Charnwood High School	North East & Leicester	LE67 9TB	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	2	Poor	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
70	Sport in Desford	Central	LE9 9JU	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
71	St Peter's CE Primary Academy	Central	CV13 0NP	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use
72	Stamford Park	North East & Leicester	LE6 0YD	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity
72	Stamford Park	North East & Leicester	LE6 0YD	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Standard	0	12	12	3	Actual spare capacity
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Central	CV13 6EA	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0	Overplayed
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Central	CV13 6EA	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Central	CV13 6EA	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	1	4	3	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
75	Swallows Green	Urban South	LE10 1UH	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	2	8	6	0	Played to capacity at peak time
75	Swallows Green	Urban South	LE10 1UH	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Standard	0	8	8	2	Actual spare capacity
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	Central	CV13 0LQ	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	1	4	3	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	Central	CV13 0LQ	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	1	4	3	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use
77	The Market Bosworth High School	Central	CV13 0JT	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality
78	The Old Quarry Playing Fields	North East & Leicester	LE6 0BX	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
81	Twycross House School	West	CV9 3PL	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	1	4	3	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use
82	Weavers Springs Park	Urban South	LE9 7AE	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Poor	0	2	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
82	Weavers Springs Park	Urban South	LE9 7AE	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	4	1	3	0	Overplayed
82	Weavers Springs Park	Urban South	LE9 7AE	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity
83	Westfield Junior School	Urban South	LE10 0LT	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time
83	Westfield Junior School	Urban South	LE10 0LT	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time

**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Available for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play ⁵	Carrying capacity ⁶	Capacity balance ⁷	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
84	Witherley Memorial Playing Field	West	CV9 3NA	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality
85	Ywans The Kings Lodge	West	CV10 0TZ	Yes	Commercial	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Hinckley & Bosworth totalling 25.5 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 38 pitches at 19 sites.

Table 2.20: Actual spare capacity site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES per week)
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Central	Youth (9v9)	2	1
2	Ashby Sports Club	Urban South	Mini (7v7)	1	1
14	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	Urban South	Adult	1	0.5
14	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	Urban South	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
20	Burroughs Park	North East & Leicester	Adult	1	0.5
21	Caterpillar Pitches	Central	Adult	1	0.5
23	Colts Close Recreation Park	Urban South	Youth (9v9)	2	0.5
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Urban South	Adult	1	1
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Urban South	Mini (5v5)	2	0.5
35	Hinckley Club for Young People	Urban South	Mini (5v5)	1	1
46	Kirkby Road Playing Fields	Central	Adult	1	1
46	Kirkby Road Playing Fields	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
47	Langdale Park	Urban South	Adult	1	0.5
48	Leicester Road Stadium	Urban South	Adult	2	2
49	Marina Park	North East & Leicester	Mini (7v7)	2	2
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Central	Adult	1	1
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Central	Mini (5v5)	1	0.5
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields	North East & Leicester	Youth (9v9)	1	1
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields	North East & Leicester	Mini (5v5)	1	2
64	Richmond Park	Urban South	Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
67	Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground	Urban South	Mini (7v7)	3	0.5
67	Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground	Urban South	Mini (5v5)	3	0.5
70	Sport in Desford	Central	Adult	1	0.5
72	Stamford Park	North East & Leicester	Mini (7v7)	1	1
72	Stamford Park	North East & Leicester	Mini (5v5)	3	3
75	Swallows Green	Urban South	Mini (5v5)	2	2
-	-	-	-	38	25.5

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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 mini 5v5 pitches and in the Urban South Analysis Area. The West analysis area does not have any level of actual spare capacity identified.

Table 2.21: Actual spare capacity summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult pitches	Youth 11v11 pitches	Youth 9v9 pitches	Mini 7v7 pitches	Mini 5v5 pitches
Central	3	0.5	1	-	0.5
North East & Leicester	0.5	-	1	3	5
Urban South	4	0.5	0.5	2	4
West	-	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	7.5	1	2.5	5	9.5

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 Hinckley & Bosworth, 16 pitches across nine sites are overplayed by a combined total of 20.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.22: Overplay site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES per week)
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	4
7	Barlestone St Giles Football Club	Central	Adult	2	0.5
22	Clarendon Park	Urban South	Adult	1	2
22	Clarendon Park	Urban South	Adult	1	1
27	Dovecote Pavilion	Urban South	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
30	Hastings High School	Urban South	Youth (11v11)	2	4
30	Hastings High School	Urban South	Youth (9v9)	2	1
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	Youth (9v9)	1	2
63	Redmoor Academy	Urban South	Youth (11v11)	1	1
63	Redmoor Academy	Urban South	Youth (9v9)	2	1
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Central	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
82	Weavers Springs Park	Urban South	Youth (11v11)	1	3
-	-	-	-	16	20.5

Overplay is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the following table. The highest level of overplay is identified on youth 11v11 pitches (13 match equivalent sessions per week) and in the Urban South Analysis Area (13.5 match equivalent sessions per week).

Most pitches are overplayed due to the impact of being assessed as poor or standard quality. However, the exception to this is the youth 11v11 pitch at Dovecote Pavilion.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 2.23: Overplay summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult pitches	Youth 11v11 pitches	Youth 9v9 pitches	Mini 7v7 pitches	Mini 5v5 pitches
Central	0.5	4.5	-	-	-
North East & Leicester	-	-	2	-	-
Urban South	3	8.5	2	-	-
West	-	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	3.5	13	4	-	-

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.

In order to give an accurate representation of future demand, only future growth from population increases has been considered in the supply and demand analysis below. This, however, cannot be broken down by individual analysis areas and as a result has been accredited to the overall capacity for each pitch type within Hinckley & Bosworth.

Adult pitch capacity

The table above shows that there is some spare capacity of adult pitch provision amounting to four match equivalent sessions per week. The spare capacity is evident in the Central, North East & Leicester and Urban South analysis areas whilst the West Analysis Area is played to capacity.

When considering future demand from population growth, adult pitches have some spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Spare capacity still remains in the Central Analysis Area although this is reduced and the North East & Leicester and West Analysis Areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.24: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	3	0.5	2.5	1.5	1
North East & Leicester	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	0
Urban South	4	3	1	1.5	0.5
West	-	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	7.5	3.5	4	3.5	0.5

Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 pitch capacity amounting to 12 match equivalent sessions per week. The shortfalls are evident in the Central and Urban South analysis areas, with the North East & Leicester and West analysis areas played to capacity.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

When factoring in future demand, the overall shortfall increases to 18 match equivalent sessions per week. A shortfall of one match equivalent session per week is created in the North East & Leicester Analysis Area, whilst the shortfalls in the Central and Urban South analysis areas increase.

Table 2.25: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	0.5	4.5	4	2	6
North East & Leicester	-	-	-	1	1
Urban South	0.5	8.5	8	3	11
West	-	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	1	13	12	6	18

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

Overall, the current picture shows that there is a shortfall of youth 9v9 pitch capacity amounting to 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Shortfalls are evident in the North East & Leicester and Urban South Analysis Area with the exception of the West Analysis Area which is played to capacity.

When factoring in future demand, the overall shortfall increases to 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week. A shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week is created in the Central Analysis Area, whilst the shortfalls in the North East & Leicester and Urban South analysis areas increase.

Table 2.26: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	1	-	1	1.5	0.5
North East & Leicester	1	2	1	1.5	2.5
Urban South	0.5	2	1.5	2	3.5
West	-	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	2.5	4	1.5	5	6.5

Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Mini 7v7 pitch capacity has actual spare capacity amounting to five match equivalent sessions per week.

When factoring in future demand, a shortfall is created to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. A shortfall is created in the Central and Urban South analysis areas, whilst spare capacity still exists in the North East & Leicester Analysis although it is reduced.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 2.27: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	-	-	-	1.5	1.5
North East & Leicester	3	-	3	1.5	1.5
Urban South	2	-	2	2.5	0.5
West	-	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	5	-	5	5.5	0.5

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity has actual spare capacity amounting to 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

When factoring in future demand, actual spare capacity still exists although this is reduced amounting to five match equivalent sessions per week. Spare capacity still exists in the North East & Leicester and Urban South analysis areas, whilst a shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week is established in the Central Analysis Area.

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

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	0.5	-	0.5	1	0.5
North East & Leicester	5	-	5	0.5	4.5
Urban South	4	-	3	2	1
West	-	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	9.5	-	9.5	3.5	6

2.6: Conclusion

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

Table 2.29: Summary of supply and demand in match sessions per week

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	7.5	3.5	4	3.5	0.5
Youth 11v11	1	13	12	6	18
Youth 9v9	2.5	4	1.5	5	6.5
Mini 7v7	5	-	5	5.5	0.5
Mini 5v5	9.5	-	9.5	3.5	6

It is determined that there is currently a shortfall of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch capacity, with actual spare capacity on adult and mini pitches. When factoring in future demand, shortfalls worsen on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches whilst they are created on mini 7v7 pitches.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

There is little overall peak time capacity on youth pitches, and this coupled with overplay, results in youth 11v11 football having the greatest shortfall.

In addition to the above, it must also be recognised that some latent demand is expressed by clubs, and this would worsen the picture for all pitch types, and create shortfalls in some instances, if fully realised. The impact of this will be further explored in the subsequent Strategy document.

Football – supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Hinckley & Bosworth totalling 25.5 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 39 pitches at 18 sites.
- It is determined that there is currently a shortfall of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch capacity, with actual spare capacity on adult and mini pitches.
- When factoring in future demand, shortfalls worsen on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches whilst they are created on mini 7v7 pitches.

Football – supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 149 pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth across 50 sites. Of the pitches, 133 are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used) across 41 sites.
- Future provision could be established at Rugby Road Recreation Ground to provide one adult football pitch and accompanying changing pavilion, although no formal plans are in place.
- Caterpillar Pitches is allocated in the development plan as an Outdoor Sports Facility (DES26) which seeks to protect playing fields from being built on. Paragraph 103 of the NPPF requires that existing playing fields should not be built on unless one of three criterion applies. In view of the shortfall of pitches identified in the area, any future proposals to build on these sites would need to demonstrate that criteria 103b) in the NPPF and exception 4 in Sport England's Playing Fields Policy is met. There is a need to retain the quantity of pitches within the Central Analysis Area.
- Most pitches are provided by education sites (44 pitches), 40 by parish councils, 30 by sports clubs sites, 12 by the Council and the remaining seven by other entities.
- Of the pitches that are available for community use, 33 are assessed as good quality, 54 as standard quality and 46 as poor quality.
- Britannia Road Recreation Ground, Colts Close Recreation Ground, Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields, Ratby Sports Club, Richmond Park and Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground are serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.
- There are two clubs who play within the football pyramid structure, with AFC Barwell operating at Step 3, playing in the Southern League Premier Division Central and Hinckley LRFC operating at Step 6 playing in the Midland League Division One and Desford & Caterpillar FC playing in a regional feeder league. Whilst one team (Desford & Caterpillar Ladies FC) compete in the women's national league structure at Tier 6.

Football – demand summary

- Through the audit and assessment, 273 teams from within 37 clubs are identified as playing within Hinckley & Bosworth. This comprises of 36 adult men's, four adult women's, 119 youth boys', 14 youth girls' and 100 mini (mixed) teams.
- There has been a large increase in demand since 2019, with 38 additional teams now identified.
- In addition, several futsal, walking football and disability teams field demand within the Borough. This includes one disability team and five futsal teams from Hinckley Borough FC, one team from Hinckley Walking Football and two walking football teams from Sporting Markfield.
- Eight teams are identified as exporting demand outside of the Borough into neighbouring authorities, with this consisting of one adult, two youth 11v11 and five mini 5v5 teams.
- A total of four clubs identify latent demand in that they express they could field more teams if they had more capacity and three report that they could field additional demand should ancillary provision improve.
- Future demand from population growth projects an increase of 47 teams, whilst a total of 15 clubs quantify growth aspirations, with this amounting to 35 teams.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA 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 compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity. Other sports that are known to use 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse.

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

3.2: Supply

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

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered, e.g., a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPOSS for any new 3G artificial grass pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Based on the above specification, there are four 11v11 3G pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth across four sites. All the pitches are serviced by sports lighting and available for community use, as summarised in the following table.

Table 3.1: Summary of 11v11 3G pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)	FA registered?
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	LE9 8FG	Urban South	Yes	Yes	105 x 50	Yes
12	Bosworth Academy	LE9 9JL	Central	Yes	Yes	100 x 65	Yes
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	LE10 3DR	Urban South	Yes	Yes	100 x 65	No
68	South Charnwood High School	LE67 9TB	North East and Leicester	Yes	Yes	100 x 65	Yes

Of the pitches, two are located in the Urban South Analysis Area and one each in the Central and North East & Leicester analysis areas. No pitches are provided in the West Analysis Area.

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

Analysis area	11v11 3G pitches available for community use
Central	1
North East and Leicester	1
Urban South	2
West	-
Total	4

As well as the 11v11 pitches, there are also six smaller size 3G pitches across five sites in Hinckley & Bosworth. Two of these have sports lighting and are available for community use. Whilst the pitch at Bosworth Academy and Alans Way Sports Field are available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting, as summarised below.

The pitches at Battling Brook Primary School and Dorothy Goodman School are unavailable for community use and without sports lighting.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G provision

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
1	Alans Way Sports Field	LE9 9LB	Central	Yes	No	35 x 35
11	Battling Brook Primary School	LE10 0EX	Urban South	No	No	30 x 20
12	Bosworth Academy	LE9 9JL	Central	Yes	Yes	37 x 35
35	Hinckley Club for Young People	LE10 0DZ	Urban South	Yes	Yes	25 x 18
35	Hinckley Club for Young People	LE10 0DZ	Urban South	Yes	Yes	35 x 35

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

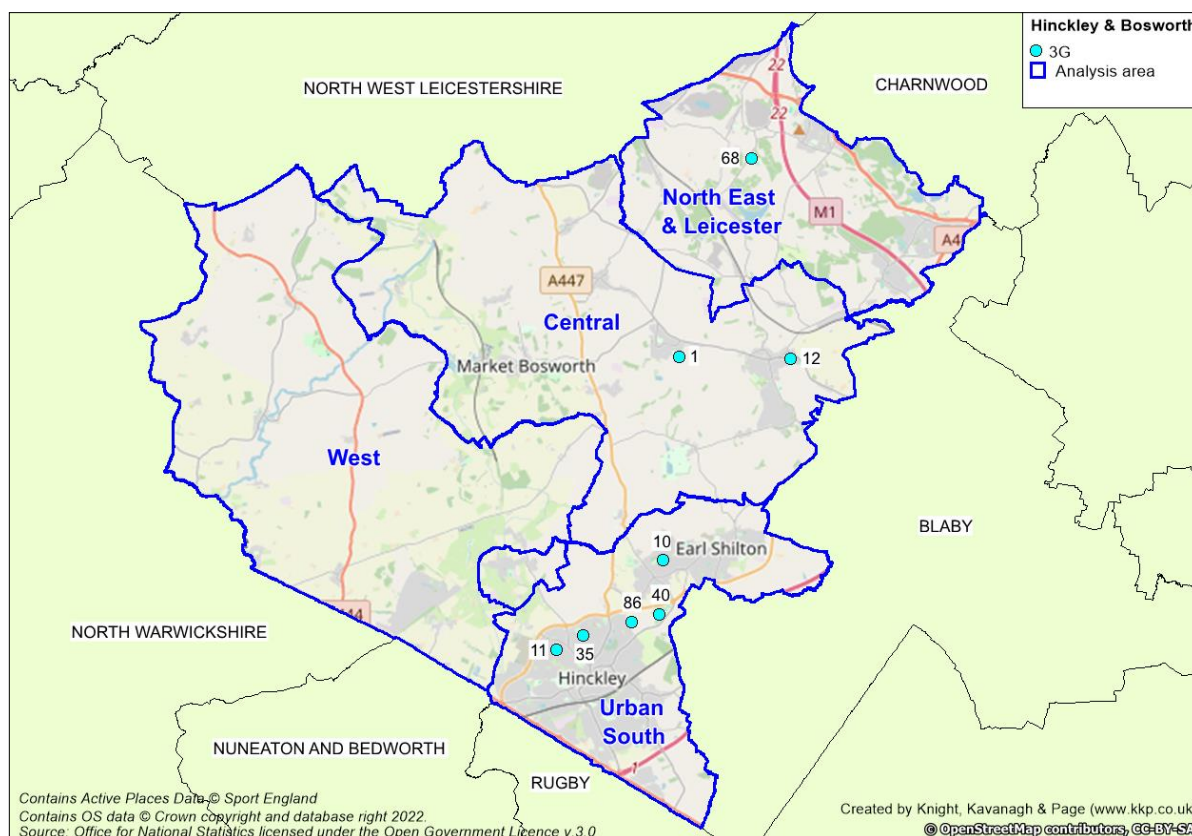
Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
86	Dorothy Goodman School	LE10 1SS	Urban South	No	No	35 x 35

Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller sized provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are on the FA Pitch Register, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas. The FA's recommended pitch size for youth football varies from 91 x 55 metres to 73 x 46 metres depending on age, whilst it is 55 x 37 metres for mini 7v7 play and 37 x 27 metres for mini 5v5 play.

Notwithstanding the above, smaller size pitches are more commonly used to accommodate training and recreational activity. However, for training, they are not always conducive to demand, with many being too small for purposeful activity or too tight if pitch barriers are in place. This is the case at sites in Hinckley & Bosworth such as Alans Way Sports Field and Bosworth Academy.

Figure 3.1 identifies the location of all 3G pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth, regardless of size.

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth



Changes since the previous study

Compared to the previous study, which was last updated in 2019, there has been an increase of three 11v11 3G pitches and one smaller size 3G pitch. The 11v11 3G pitch increase is attributed to the creation of one 11v11 3G pitch each at Barwell Cricket & Sports Club, Bosworth Academy and South Charnwood High School. The smaller size pitch is located at Alans Way Sports Field.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Future provision

The Hinckley & Bosworth LFFP (2019) identifies sites considered as priority sites for 3G pitch development, although there will likely be a need to amend and/or add to the LFFP list based on the findings of this study. In summary, the 2019 plan has the following outstanding recommendations for new 3G pitch development:

- ◀ Bosworth Academy - new 11v11 pitch.
- ◀ Market Bosworth School - new smaller size pitch.

As seen above, the 11v11 pitch development at Bosworth Academy has now been delivered, which was completed in 2021.

Linked to the above list, a planning application has been submitted for a sand-dressed AGP (24/00403/FUL) for multi-sports use at Market Bosworth School. As part of the proposal, upgrading the grass football pitches is also included.

The LFFP further identifies a need for an 11v11 size 3G pitch in the following area catchments:

- ◀ Groby.
- ◀ Hinkley/Burbage.
- ◀ Barwell.

Linked to the above and previously mentioned, there is a proposal in place for a 11v11 3G pitch at Britannia Road Recreation Ground. This is being led by Burbage Parish Council which is working closely with the Football Foundation and could accommodate teams within the Burbage area including FC Burbage.

In line with the above list and identified in the LFFP, Leicestershire FA reports that it is exploring the opportunity to convert the sand-based pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus to a 3G surface, given the shortfall in the North East & Leicester Analysis Area (see section 3.4 for further information). Due to the conversion of the sand-based pitch at Soar Valley in Leicester, the pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus is being utilised by Panthers HC (three senior teams) and Half Century HC (one senior team). Therefore, at this time, England Hockey will object to any proposal regarding the resurface unless an appropriate solution is sought.

Hinckley Borough FC has an aspiration for a 11v11 3G pitch at Richmond Park. It is, however, worth noting that no formal plans have been submitted. Anstey Nomads FC reports an aspiration for its own 11v11 3G pitch.

Hinckley LRFC reports it has obtained planning permission (22/00224/FUL) for a smaller size 3G pitch with sports lighting at Leicester Road Stadium to be used for match play by its mini teams. As part of the permission, a condition includes requiring a community use agreement.

In addition, Hinckley LRFC has an aspiration to develop a second 11v11 3G pitch at the site with sports lighting to accommodate its growing demand. However, neither of the 3G pitches are supported by Leicestershire FA or the Football Foundation due to them not being a strategic priority due to the proximity of an existing 11v11 3G pitch at Hinckley Rugby Football Club.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Linked to the above, planning permission has recently been granted for the replacement of the 3G pitch at Hinckley Rugby Football Club (24/00017/FUL) with a shock pad to allow for rugby union use. The decision note includes a condition on the need for a CUA.

FA 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 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.

For pitches used by affiliated grassroots football clubs (below regional feeder level) and clubs in the Women's Football Pyramid (Tier 3), the minimum requirement of testing is the FA Register Test. However, matches played at Step 1 to 6 of the Men's National League System must follow more stringent testing, with this including a minimum pitch size of 100 x 64 metres, a run-off area of between 1.83 metres (Step 2-6) and 2.25 metres (Step 1), a consistent playing surface shade of green and line markings must be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. In addition, FA testing must take place annually rather than every three years.

As for 3G pitches used in the Women's Football Pyramid; at Tier 1, matches cannot be played on a 3G pitch, whilst existing 3G pitches at Tier 2 must be accredited to the FIFA Recommended Quality performance 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 accredited, 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 (steps 1-6).

In Hinckley & Bosworth, the 11v11 size 3G pitches at Barwell Cricket & Sports Club, Bosworth Academy and South Charnwood High School are all FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. The accreditation at the former is due to expire in 2024, whilst the remaining two sites are due to expire in 2026. At this point, re-testing will be required to ensure that this remains the case.

The 11v11 3G pitch at Hinckley Rugby Football Club is not currently on the FA pitch register and is unable to currently host competitive matches and neither are any of the smaller size pitches.

Table 3.4: Summary of pitches on the FA register

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Size (metres)	Registered?	Certification expiry
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	Urban South	1	100 x 64	Yes	31/05/2024
12	Bosworth Academy	Central	1	100 x 64	Yes	31/05/2026

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Size (metres)	Registered?	Certification expiry
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	Urban South	1	100 x 65	No	-
68	South Charnwood High School	North East and Leicester	1	100 x 64	Yes	31/05/2026

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate contact training and competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby 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 includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, there are no World Rugby compliant pitches. The nearest are in nearby authorities such as Blaby at Leicester Forest Rugby Club.

Planning permission has recently been granted for the replacement of the 3G pitch at Hinckley Rugby Football Club (24/00017/FUL) with a shock pad to allow for rugby union use. This will allow for contact training activity by Hinckley RUFC. This would not impact on football use for training and match play and would continue to be accommodated but allow for contact rugby union training.

Management

For the 11v11 provision, the pitches at Bosworth Academy and South Charnwood High School are managed internally by the schools themselves. The 11v11 3G pitch at Barwell Cricket & Sports Club is managed by a sports club.

Of the smaller size provision, three are managed by schools, one by the Council (Alans Way Sports Field) and the remaining two at Hinckley Club for Young People are managed by a charity.

Availability (opening hours)

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this, the opening hours at each site with a 11v11 pitch is summarised in the table below, based on there being a potential of 18 hours of peak time availability during midweek and 16 hours at weekend.

Please note that the table below only refers to overall availability and opening hours, rather than considering current capacity, which is instead accounted for within the demand part of this section. A pitch may theoretically be open throughout the peak period but may currently be operating at capacity, especially during peak times, based on existing usage levels.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 3.5: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch opening hours in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Availability (opening hours)	Midweek opening hours in the peak period (hours)	Weekend opening hours in the peak period (hours)
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	Urban South	Monday- Friday 08:00 to 22:00 Saturday-Sunday 09:00 to 20:00	18	16
12	Bosworth Academy	Central	Monday- Friday 17:00 to 22:00 Saturday 07:30 to 18:00 Sunday 08:00 to 19:30	18	16
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	Urban South	Monday 09:00 to 22:00 Tuesday- Friday 09:00 to 21:00 Saturday 09:00 to 18:00 Sunday 09:00 to 20:00	18	16
68	South Charnwood High School	North East and Leicester	Monday- Friday 17:00 to 21:00 Saturday-Sunday 09:00 to 18:00	18	16

As seen, each pitch has relatively extensive opening hours, with all the pitches fully open throughout the peak periods.

The availability of smaller size pitches is summarised below.

Table 3.6: Summary of smaller size 3G pitch opening hours in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Availability (opening hours)	Midweek opening hours in the peak period (hours)	Weekend opening hours in the peak period (hours)
1	Alans Way Sports Field	Central	Monday- Friday 08:00 to 22:00 Saturday-Sunday 09:00 to 20:00	18	16
11	Battling Brook Primary School	Urban South	Unavailable for community use	0	0
12	Bosworth Academy	Central	Monday- Thursday 17:00 to 21:45 Friday 17:00 to 20:30 Saturday 07:30 to 16:30 Sunday 08:00 to 18:30	18	15.5
35	Hinckley Club for Young People	Urban South	Monday- Friday 08:00 to 22:00 Saturday-Sunday 09:00 to 20:00	18	16
86	Dorothy Goodman School	Urban South	Unavailable for community use	0	0

For the smaller size pitches, the non-school pitches are generally available throughout each day, whereas the pitch at Bosworth Academy has good availability outside curricular times (apart from the two school-based pitches which are unavailable for community use).

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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 refurbishment beyond this period.

The pitches at Barwell Cricket and Sports Club, Bosworth Academy and South Charnwood High School are all assessed as good quality having all been installed in the last three years.

The pitch at Hinckley Rugby Football Club has been assessed as standard quality. It is within its recommended lifespan, although the carpet at Hinckley Rugby Football Club is starting to show signs of wear and tear as it approaches its lifespan.

Consultation with Hinckley RUFC found it has applied for Football Foundation funding to resurface the pitch. Planning permission has been granted (24/00017/FUL) for the replacement of the pitch with a shock pad to allow rugby union use.

Table 3.7: Age and quality of 11v11 3G pitches

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	1	2022	Good
12	Bosworth Academy	1	2021	Good
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	1	2014	Standard
68	South Charnwood High School	1	2021	Good

Regarding the smaller size provision, Alans Way Sports Field is assessed as good quality, two as standard quality and the remaining three as poor quality.

Table 3.8: Age and quality of small size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
1	Alans Way Sports Field	1	2021	Good
11	Battling Brook Primary School	1	2006	Poor
12	Bosworth Academy (covered)	1	2011	Poor
35	Hinckley Club for Young People	1	2008	Poor
35	Hinckley Club for Young People	1	2019	Standard
86	Dorothy Goodman School	1	2019	Standard

Ancillary facilities

Desford & Caterpillar FC report the 3G pitch at Bosworth Academy needs a pavilion with changing rooms and toilets to support the clubs' ambitions. It is also within Hinckley & Bosworth's LFFP and on the County FA's radar to support this development.

At the remaining 3G provision sites, no significant issues are identified with regard to ancillary facilities, although as many pitches are located at school sites, provision is generally not dedicated to the supply. Nevertheless, this is not considered to be a major issue given that most use is for training and recreational football, with users therefore tending to show up ready to play rather than relying on good access to changing rooms.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

3.3: Demand

Despite extensive opening hours, 3G pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth are reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This applies not only to midweek capacity but also to weekend capacity on account of all three of the 11v11 3G pitches being FIFA/FA approved to host competitive matches.

Any spare capacity that remains on the provision is often at times deemed unfavourable by clubs such as on midweek evenings between 17:00 and 18:00, which is difficult to arrange logistically, or on Mondays and Fridays, which are deemed too close to competitive fixtures. Also, any capacity remaining at the weekend is generally outside of peak time for match play such as on Sunday afternoons.

Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, although some rugby union activity is identified at Hinckley Rugby Football Club. Most of the capacity is being taken up by football clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a strong presence of recreational football activity taking place (e.g., via unaffiliated groups).

For the smaller size pitches, those at Alans Way Sports Field and Hinckley Club for Young People are identified as being used for formal football training activity. All remaining usage is via recreational and casual demand.

The pitch at Barwell Cricket & Sports Club is fully booked and has no capacity to take on additional users, resulting in it regularly having to turn away demand. AFC Barwell is the anchor club attached the site, with most of the training and competitive demand taken up by them, particularly during the week.

Bosworth Academy, Hinckley Rugby Football Club and South Charnwood High School both note issues with capacity, although the pitches do have some remaining availability on Saturday and Sunday afternoons for match play. However, weekday evening sessions are fully booked all year round, meaning that sports clubs and other user groups are again having to be turned down on a regular basis.

Demand is further detailed in the table below on a site-by-site basis, with current usage compared against peak time availability for each 11v11 pitch. For this, the hours of availability have been multiplied by four for midweek capacity based on most pitches being divided into quarters for training demand, with capacity then considered to exist if at least a quarter of a pitch is currently unused for at least a one-hour slot. Weekend availability is unaltered as full pitch hire is more likely to be required i.e., for adult and youth 11v11 match play.

Table 3.9: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch demand site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Midweek peak period (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend peak period (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)	Comments
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	72	72	16	16	Used to capacity midweek and weekends.
12	Bosworth Academy	72	72	13	13	Used to capacity midweek but six slots remain on weekends.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Midweek peak period (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend peak period (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)	Comments
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	72	72	16	12	Used to capacity midweek but four slots remain on weekends.
68	South Charnwood High School	72	72	13	13	Used to capacity midweek but six slots remain on weekends.

Unmet/latent demand

Unmet/latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of playing pitch facilities (and ancillary provision) was available.

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many football clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at sports lit facilities, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, six clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents some unmet demand. Four of the clubs are currently training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all of their teams, or do not have access at preferred times. The remaining two clubs (AFC Market Bosworth Juniors and Barlestone St Giles FC) are not training on 3G pitches at all and are instead using sand-based pitches at The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground.

The clubs expressing this demand and sites presently used are summarised in the following table.

Table 3.10: Current training facilities of clubs reporting unmet/latent demand

Club name	Site ID	Site used	Surface
AFC Market Bosworth Juniors	76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	Sand-based
Barlestone St Giles FC	76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	Sand-based
Barwell United FC	10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	3G
Desford & Caterpillar FC	12	Bosworth Academy	3G
Hinckley Borough FC	10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	3G
Hinckley Borough FC	35	Hinckley Club for Young People	3G
Hinckley Borough FC	40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	3G
Sporting Markfield FC	68	South Charnwood High School	3G

For rugby union, Burbage RUFC report that access to a 3G pitch specific for rugby union would help to alleviate grass pitch overuse.

No unmet demand for any other sports is identified.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Exported/imported demand

Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice. This therefore includes Hinckley & Bosworth-based demand that travels outside of the Borough to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the Borough (imported demand).

Anstey Nomads and Hinckley AFC report they currently export some training demand outside of Hinckley & Bosworth primarily due to a lack of capacity on the 3G pitches within the Borough. The following sites are reportedly accessed:

- ◀ Beaumont Park (in Leicester).
- ◀ Kirby Muxloe Football Club (in Blaby).
- ◀ University of Warwick (in Coventry).

No training demand on 3G pitches is identified as being imported into the Borough.

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, there is an anticipated increase of 47 football teams by 2041 based on population projections. If this growth was realised, and if all additional teams wanted to train on 3G provision, it will increase the number of 3G pitches required. This is factored into the supply and demand analysis below. However, it should also be noted that the ONS projections do not account for the potential for future demand to be higher, which could be the case particularly if recent growth trends continue. Further increases will be subject to scenarios in Strategy document.

Further to this, future demand identified via club consultation (35 football teams) which is more aspirational will also be tested for additional need within the Strategy and Action Plan report.

Away from football, there is also anticipated growth of five rugby union teams. It is likely that a partial amount of this demand will require access to World Rugby complaint 3G pitch provision for training/competitive demand, although this considered marginal and therefore less likely to increase the overall need for 3G pitches (above and beyond current requirements for football).

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football training

To quantify demand, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). 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).

Its aim is that all teams will train at least once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based artificial pitches; grass pitches and smaller sized 3G pitches to ensure their sustainability.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets 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.

For the model, in addition to full size pitches being included, some smaller sized pitches can also be incorporated as nationally many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. In the case of Hinckley & Bosworth, the pitches in question are the smaller sized pitches at Hinckley Club for Young People. However, these pitches do not have any reported affiliated training demand nor are they a suitable size for training demand within the Borough. As such, they are not considered to be appropriate and are discounted.

Although, 273 teams have been included in the football demand figures (see Table 2.11), it is thought that four additional teams (one disability and three walking football) and the current eight exported teams (the remaining teams from Hinckley Town Juniors and Sporting Markfield play within the Borough) and access 3G pitches in the Borough and have therefore been incorporated into the below table.

Based on the above, there are 285 teams currently from Hinckley & Bosworth (including exported demand), at least 7.5 11v11 3G pitches are required, meaning there is a potential need for 3.5 additional 11v11 3G pitches to meet all current training demand as shown below.

Table 3.11: Current demand for 3G pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current demand (number of teams)	11v11 3G requirement ⁸	Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
285	7.5	4	3.5

When considering future demand for an additional 47 teams (based on population growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is potential demand for nine pitches overall (rounded up from 8.73) which means a theoretical future shortfall of five pitches.

Table 3.12: Future demand for 3G pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	11v11 3G requirement ⁹	Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
332	9	4	5

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required on the assumption that every team (including additional and exported demand) is to train within the respective analysis area that they play matches in (although it is noted that some teams may play outside of their preferred area due to a lack of pitch availability). This not only identifies where the potential need may exist across Hinckley & Bosworth, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

⁸ Rounded to the nearest whole number

⁹ Rounded to the nearest whole number

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 3.13: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area for training demand

Analysis area	Current demand	Current 3G requirement ¹⁰	Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
Central	76	2	1	1
North East and Leicester	66	2	1	1
Urban South	143	4	2	2
West	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	285	8	4	4

Broken down this equates to a shortfall of two pitches in the Urban South Analysis Area and one each in the Central and North East & Leicester analysis areas.

As there are no affiliated teams playing or 3G provision within the West Analysis Area, this is the reason as to why no 3G requirement or shortfall is recorded in the above table.

Overall, the current number of 3G pitches required within the sub area modelling is higher than the broader analysis of provision across Hinckley & Bosworth. This is due to how the figures are rounded. Despite this, it is known that clubs will travel to neighbouring analysis areas to access provision if required, especially if pitches are strategically located in close proximity, meaning that the wider analysis is a more accurate tool for determining overall need. The analysis area approach is, however, beneficial in determining where new pitches should be located to overcome the shortfalls.

When factoring in future demand by population growth to 2041 and by analysis area, the shortfalls for all analysis areas remain the same when accounting for future demand.

Table 3.14: Future demand for 3G pitches by analysis area for training demand

Analysis area	Future demand	Future 3G requirement ¹¹	Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
Central	91	2	1	1
North East and Leicester	76	2	1	1
Urban South	165	4	2	2
West	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	332	8	4	4

It must also be noted that the deficits identified relate only to affiliated football training need. As there is expressed demand from other sports for use of 3G pitch provision, there may be a case for additional pitches over and above what is outlined within this section.

Notwithstanding the above, it must also be noted that the modelling assumes that all teams will want and can afford to access 3G provision, which in reality may not be the case. The emphasises the need for pitches to be priced fairly to ensure community use can be attracted and maximised.

¹⁰ Rounded to the nearest whole number

¹¹ Rounded to the nearest whole number

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

The role of sand/water-based pitches

The above section assumes that all football teams should train on 3G pitches. However, in practice, there is a national need for a proportion of football training demand to be retained on hockey suitable AGPs in order to maintain the financial and commercial sustainability of such provision.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, this is especially the case on full size AGPs at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus and The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground, where football demand is somewhat high. However, in contrast, the full size AGPs at the remaining hockey sites are extremely well used for hockey, and the transfer of supplementary football usage away from these sites to 3G pitches may aid capacity issues.

The table below summarises the level of football and hockey use at each full size hockey suitable AGP against peak time availability. This can be used to identify which pitches rely more heavily on hockey activity and therefore could be more likely to become unsustainable without it.

Table 3.15: Summary of usage of full size hockey suitable pitches

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Availability in the peak period (hours)	% of hockey usage	% of football usage	Hockey club users
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	1	26	20%	80%	Bedouins HC Horizon HC South Wigston HC Panthers HC (imported) Half Century HC (imported)
31	Heath Lane Academy	1	12	0%	100%	-
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	1	0	-	-	-
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	1	34	0	100%	-
81	Twycross House School	1	0	-	-	-

The pitches at Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre and Twycross House School are unavailable for community use due to issues with safeguarding.

For further information, please see Part 6: Hockey.

Football match play

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. One substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches (with another being the use of hybrid pitches), providing that the pitch is FA/FIFA approved, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

In Hinckley & Bosworth, three of the 11v11 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches and 42 teams are registered as using the provision to accommodate competitive demand. As an example, the main club users of the pitches include Desford & Caterpillar FC (two youth 11v11, four youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5) and Sporting Markfield (one youth 11v11, seven youth 9v9, six mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 teams).

In addition, whilst 42 teams is a relatively large number for match play when accounting for how many pitches are provided, there may be opportunities to increase it further, particularly if testing could be carried out at Hinckley Rugby Football Club.

Given the grass pitch shortfalls identified in Part 2 of this report, the number of teams utilising 3G pitches could potentially increase moving forward as this will 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 should be fully supported.

The use of 3G pitches for matches also emphasises the importance of maintaining good quality pitches. Should pitches become poor quality, they will likely lose accreditation to accommodate fixtures. This will then result in all teams using the provision needing to transfer to grass pitches, adding to their usage, reducing their capacity and further diminishing their quality.

This will be further explored in the proceeding Strategy document via a range of scenarios for transferring play.

Rugby union

As mentioned previously, there are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within Hinckley & Bosworth, although the pitch at Hinckley Rugby Football Club is accessed for non-contact training activity by Hinckley RUFC.

Given the grass rugby union pitch shortfalls evident in Part 5 of this report, the provision of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch could offer a means to eradicating the deficits. However, grass pitch improvements may also provide a solution, and this will be tested further in the Strategy and Action Plan report to follow.

The grass pitch rugby union shortfalls evidenced are predominately generated by training demand, amounting to a total of 6.75 match equivalent sessions per week, rather than there being an insufficient level of provision to accommodate match play. As such, the focus of any World Rugby compliant pitches should first and foremost be transferring training activity from match pitches.

Other sports

No demand for access to 3G provision has been identified from any other sports in Hinckley & Bosworth and therefore, at this moment in time, no further consideration is required.

3.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is an insufficient supply of 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet current demand based on the FA training model in the Borough. As such, it is determined that an increase in provision is required.

On a Borough-wide level, there is a current shortfall of 3.5 11v11 3G pitches. This increases to four when reviewing need by individual analysis area.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

In the future (2041) the overall predicted need will be five pitches regardless of a borough-wide approach of through analysis area calculations.

To ensure that current supply and any future supply is of 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.

For rugby union, the 3G pitch at Hinkley RUFC will now be able to better accommodate specific rugby union demand through it being certified for contact rugby union sessions and match play as planning permission has been granted (24/00017/FUL) for the replacement of the pitch with a shock pad to allow rugby union use.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

3G – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is a clear shortfall of 3G provision to meet requirements, as evidenced through the unmet demand identified, particularly in respect of football.
- ◀ The FA training model suggest a current shortfall of 3.5 11v11 3G pitches, increasing to five when factoring in future demand.
- ◀ However, as identified in Table 3.13, the shortfall increases to four 11v11 3G pitches when analysed on a local analysis area basis.
- ◀ For rugby union, the 3G pitch at Hinkley RUFC will now be able to better accommodate specific rugby union demand through it being certified for contact rugby union sessions and match play as planning permission has been granted (24/00017/FUL) for the replacement of the pitch with a shock pad to allow rugby union use.
- ◀ No demand for access to 3G provision has been identified from any other sports in Hinckley & Bosworth suggesting that no other demand currently requires consideration.

3G – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are four 11v11 3G pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth, which are available for community use and serviced by sports lighting. There are six smaller size 3G pitches, two of these have sports lighting and are available for community use. Whilst the pitch at Bosworth Academy and Alans Way Sports Field are available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ The Hinckley & Bosworth LFFP has three outstanding projects for the creation of new 11v11 3G pitches (the 11v11 pitch development at Bosworth Academy has now been delivered, which was completed in 2021). Whilst aspirations also exist across several other sites.
- ◀ Plans and/or aspirations exists regarding establishing provision at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus, Britannia Road Recreation Ground, Leicester Road Stadium and Richmond Park.
- ◀ Three of the 11v11 3G pitches are either FA or FIFA certified and can therefore be used to host competitive matches.
- ◀ No pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth are World Rugby compliant, although the pitch at Hinckley Rugby Football club is used for non-contact activity and there are plans to certify it in the future.
- ◀ For the 11v11 3G pitches, three are assessed as good quality (Barwell Cricket and Sports Club, Bosworth Academy and South Charnwood High School) having all been resurfaced in the last three years. Whilst the pitch at Hinckley Rugby Football Club as standard quality with the carpet starting to show signs of wear and tear as it approaches its lifespan. Consultation with Hinckley RUFC found that funding has been obtained to resurface the carpet to good quality.
- ◀ Three of the smaller size pitches have exceeded their recommended lifespans and have been assessed as poor quality.

3G – demand summary

- ◀ The 3G pitches currently servicing Hinckley & Bosworth are reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- ◀ This applies not only to midweek capacity but also to weekend capacity on account of three of the 11v11 3G pitches being FIFA/FA approved to host competitive matches.
- ◀ It is considered that most of the community activity is football related, although some rugby union use has been identified on the pitch at Hinckley Rugby Football Club for non-contact activity.
- ◀ Demand is received from football clubs not only for training demand but also for match play, with 38 teams currently using 3G provision for this purpose.
- ◀ Unmet demand for 3G provision is expressed, with six responding football clubs as well as Burbage RUFC identifying that their training requirements are not currently being met.
- ◀ Several football clubs also currently export some training demand outside of Hinckley & Bosworth primarily due to a lack of capacity on the 3G pitches within the Borough.
- ◀ If future demand predications are realised, this will further increase 3G requirements for both football and rugby union.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation (LRCF) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including Hinckley & Bosworth. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs as well as other appropriate agencies. 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 area. It is also currently working with the ECB on delivering its Strategy, Inspiring Generations, which is currently in the process of being refreshed.

For senior cricket in Hinckley & Bosworth, there are three main offerings (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket), whilst the youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are generally played mid-week, although Sunday activity is also common. In addition, there is also a presence of recreational and unaffiliated cricket taking place. This results in there being demand for cricket across the Borough all-year round (rather than just during summer months).

County Facilities Strategy

The Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Foundation (LRCF) is currently undertaking a County Facilities Strategy. These are being produced by individual county cricket boards across the Country, unique to their geographic areas and based upon inputs from diverse representation. They are viewed as long-term plans and involve engagement with key stakeholders, including clubs, leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England.

The County Facilities Strategy (CFS) is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment for cricket; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. It cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

To inform the strategies, the ECB has set guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered in development:

- ◀ Traditional facilities (pitches, outfielders, pavilions, practice areas).
- ◀ Non-traditional facilities (multi-use games areas, tapeball/softball spaces, courts/cages).
- ◀ Indoor facilities (multi use halls, cricket specific halls, match play venues).

The strategies will be used to shape investment priorities, ensuring that decision-making processes are clearly explained before a list of priority projects is produced. To inform this process, each strategy will utilise findings from PPOSS-related work, where in place, as a 'high quality' evidence base.

Consultation

There are 10 affiliated cricket clubs identified as playing within Hinckley & Bosworth. Of these, seven responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 70%.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 4.1: List of affiliated clubs with analysis area

Clubs	Analysis area	Responded?
Bombay United CC	Urban South	Yes
Barwell CC	Urban South	Yes
Burbage & Stoke Golding CC	Central	Yes
Earl Shilton CC	Urban South	No
Hinckley Amateur CC	Urban South	Yes
Hinckley Town CC	Urban South	No
Newbold Verdon CC	Central	Yes
Ratby Town CC	North East & Leicester	Yes
Stapleton CC	Central	Yes
Twycross CC	West	No

The unresponsive clubs are Earl Shilton, Hinckley Town and Twycross cricket clubs. However, LRCF also supplied its own consultation findings with clubs from its County Facilities Strategy to provide context for these as well as providing further detail regarding clubs that did respond.

4.2: Supply

There are 15 grass wicket squares in Hinckley & Bosworth across the same number of sites. All squares are available for community use.

Of the community available squares, the Urban South Analysis Area accommodates seven grass wicket squares, the Central Analysis Area provides four, the North East & Leicester and West analysis areas provide two squares each. This is further summarised in the table below.

Table 4.2: Summary of grass wicket squares available for community use in Hinckley & Bosworth

Analysis area	No. of community available grass squares
Central	4
North East and Leicester	2
Urban South	7
West	2
Total	15

Notwithstanding the above, the square at Stoke Golding Recreation Ground is currently unused by the community.

Market Bosworth CC previously accessed the provision at Market Bosworth Sports Club but has since folded. Similarly, Stoke Golding CC has merged with Burbage CC and utilises the provision at Hinckley Road Recreation Ground to field its teams.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Changes from the previous study

The previous study identified a total of 17 grass cricket squares of which 15 were available for community use. Therefore, the total number of grass cricket squares has decreased by two. This is due to educational sites Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre and Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground no longer maintaining grass wicket squares (this is further explored in the disused section). However, it should be noted these were both unavailable for community use.

Non-turf pitches

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 and to accommodate recreational activity, which is particularly important in Hinckley & Bosworth due to the high demand for these participation types.

In addition to the grass wicket supply, there are 13 non-turf pitches (NTPs) across Hinckley & Bosworth. Of these, five accompany grass wicket squares and the remaining eight are standalone wickets.

Six NTPs are unavailable for community use. All of these are standalone and located at educational sites. These are mostly concentrated in the Central Analysis Area, although the North East & Leicester and Urban South analysis areas has some provision as well.

The NTPs are summarised in the table overleaf.

Table 4.3: Summary of NTPs in Hinckley & Bosworth

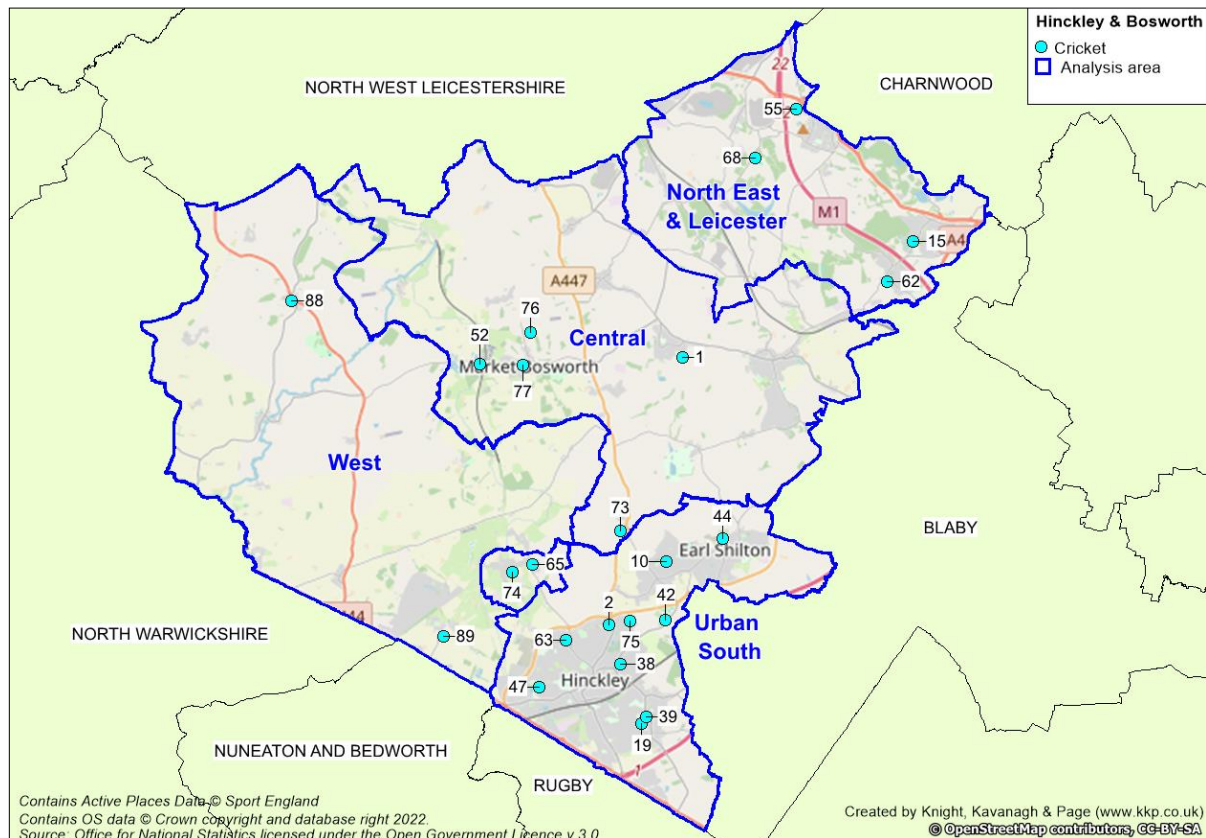
Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Number of NTPs	Position
1	Alan Way Sports Field	Central	Yes	1	Square
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	North East & Leicester	No	1	Standalone
19	Burbage Junior School	Urban South	No	1	Standalone
38	Hinckley Parks Primary School	Urban South	No	1	Standalone
42	Hinckley Town Cricket Club	Urban South	Yes	1	Square
44	Keats Lane Playing Field	Urban South	Yes	1	Square
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	Yes	1	Square
63	Redmoor Academy	Urban South	No	1	Standalone
65	Saint Martin's Catholic Academy	Central	Yes-unused	1	Standalone
68	South Charnwood High School	North East & Leicester	Yes-unused	1	Standalone
73	Stapleton Village Cricket Club	Central	Yes	1	Square
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	Central	No	1	Standalone
77	The Market Bosworth High School	Central	No	1	Standalone

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

From a school perspective, NTPs provide a reliable cricket offer, without the need for specific cricket preparation to be taken on natural turf playing field land. In many instances, schools do not have the resource or expertise to prepare natural turf wickets so NTPs provide a resource to ensure cricket can remain a key element of curricular sport.

For the location of all grass wicket and NTP cricket provision, see Figure 4.1 below. For a key to the map, refer to Table 4.4.

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket squares within Hinckley & Bosworth



HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 4.4: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Users?	No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets
1	Alan Way Sports Field	Central	Yes	1	Newbold Verdon CC	9	1
2	Ashby Road Sports Club	Urban South	Yes	1	Hinckley Amateur CC	9	-
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	Urban South	Yes	1	Barwell CC	15	-
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	North East & Leicester	No	1	-	-	1
19	Burbage Junior School	Urban South	No	1	-	-	1
38	Hinckley Parks Primary School	Urban South	No	1	-	-	1
39	Hinckley Road Recreation Ground	Urban South	Yes	1	Burbage & Stoke Golding CC	10	-
42	Hinckley Town Cricket Club	Urban South	Yes	1	Hinckley Town CC Barwell CC	10	1
44	Keats Lane Playing Field	Urban South	Yes	1	Earl Shilton CC	10	1
47	Langdale Park	Urban South	Yes	1	Bombay United CC	8	-
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Central	Yes	1	Atherstone Town CC (imported)	7	-
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Field	North East & Leicester	Yes	1	Cropston CC (imported)	4	-
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	Yes	1	Ratby Town CC	5	1
63	Redmoor Academy	Urban South	No	1	-	-	1
65	Saint Martin's Catholic Academy	Central	Yes-unused	1	-	-	1
68	South Charnwood High School	North East & Leicester	Yes-unused	1	-	-	1
73	Stapleton Village Cricket Club	Central	Yes	1	Stapleton Village CC Newbold Verdon CC	9	-
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Central	Yes	1	-	8	-
75	Swallows Green	Urban South	Yes	1	Hinckley Amateur CC	5	-
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	Central	No	1	-	-	1
77	The Market Bosworth High School	Central	Yes-unused	1	-	-	1
88	Twycross Cricket Club	West	Yes	1	Twycross CC	11	-
89	Higham Village Cricket Club	West	Yes	1	Ambleside CC (imported)	6	-

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Disused provision

Playing fields which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as disused. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Comparably an unused site is land that continues to be accessible as open space but no longer has pitches marked.

There are no disused sites containing cricket squares in Hinckley & Bosworth. However, as previously mentioned, there are two educational sites (Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre and Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground) that previously provided formal grass wicket squares but no longer do so (albeit these were not available for community use). These sites are not classified as disused each sites playing field is still actively used for curricular purposes, but in this instance, for alternate sports.

Future provision

A planning application has been submitted and permission has been granted for 225 dwellings including public open space, landscaping and vehicle access on Desford Lane in Ratby (21/01295/OUT). The proposed housing development does not have a prejudicial impact on the use of Ratby Sports Club; however, the s106 agreement does secure monies for off-site outdoor sports facilities or improvements off-site outdoor sports facilities within a one km radius of the development in Ratby.

Management and security of tenure

All clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth have security of tenure at their primary venue, mainly via long-term arrangements. The table below identifies tenure arrangements for all the affiliated clubs.

Where provision is rented from the Council or parish/town councils the tenure agreement is considered secure as it is expected to be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

Table 4.5: Summary of security of tenure for Hinckley & Bosworth cricket clubs

Site ID	Site	Club	Arrangement	Tenure
1	Alan Way Sports Field	Newbold Verdon CC	25 year agreement via the wider club	Secure
2	Ashby Road Sports Club	Hinckley Amateur CC	Rolling 10-year lease agreement via the wider club	Secure
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	Barwell CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure
39	Hinckley Road Recreation Ground	Burbage & Stoke Golding CC	Leased from the Council	Secure
42	Hinckley Town Cricket Club	Hinckley Town CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure
44	Keats Lane Playing Field	Earl Shilton CC	Leased from Earl Shilton Town Council	Secure
47	Langdale Park	Bombay United CC	Leased from the Council	Secure
62	Ratby Sports Club	Ratby Town CC	Leased from Wolfdale School (25 years)	Secure
73	Stapleton Village Cricket Club	Stapleton CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure
88	Twycross Cricket Club	Twycross CC	Leased from Twycross House School	Secure

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

All clubs that have security of tenure on the sites they use are through long term lease agreements or they have arrangements with the Council or parish/town councils, where future access is deemed to be secure. It should, however, be noted that the agreements for some clubs are relatively close to expiry such as Hinckley Amateur CC. This can be problematic particularly if clubs are looking to develop their sites or apply for external funding. Many funding bodies require lease agreements of over 25 years in order for applicants to be successful.

In addition, three of the 10 clubs also access secondary venues due to their size and a lack of capacity on their main square/s. These venues are most commonly through short-term rental agreements where tenure is inevitably less secure. That being said, no clubs report an issue with this as they do not always want to be tied into longer term arrangements when their requirements may not always necessitate access to these sites.

The following table identifies clubs that use secondary venues and the sites accessed.

Table 4.6: Summary of secondary venues

Club	Site/s accessed
Barwell CC	Hinckley Town Cricket Club
Hinckley Amateur CC	Swallows Green
Newbold Verdon CC	Stapleton Village Cricket Club

In addition, several clubs such as Ambleside and Cropston cricket clubs access sites within Hinckley & Bosworth, which are otherwise based outside of the Borough. See imported demand section for further information.

Pitch quality

Cricket pitch quality 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 on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

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, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to nearby players.

The quality of a cricket square is assessed by considering factors such as evidence of the wicket being rolled, the wicket being correctly cut, evidence of cover usage, evidence of maintenance and the presence of line markings. Comparatively, an outfield is assessed on the provisions grass length, quantity of weeds, evenness of the surface, level of undulations, damage to the surface and evidence of dog fouling.

The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Hinckley & Bosworth found three (20%) to be good quality, 10 (67%) of standard quality and two (13%) as poor quality.

Table 4.7: Summary of quality of grass wicket squares

Good	Standard	Poor
3	10	2

This is further summarised site-by-site in the following table.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 4.8: Quality ratings community available grass wickets (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
1	Alan Way Sports Field	Central	1	Standard
2	Ashby Road Sports Club	Urban South	1	Standard
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	Urban South	1	Good
39	Hinckley Road Recreation Ground	Urban South	1	Standard
42	Hinckley Town Cricket Club	Urban South	1	Good
44	Keats Lane Playing Field	Urban South	1	Good
47	Langdale Park	Urban South	1	Poor
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Central	1	Standard
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Field	North East & Leicester	1	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	1	Standard
73	Stapleton Village Cricket Club	Central	1	Standard
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Central	1	Standard
75	Swallows Green	Urban South	1	Standard
88	Twycross Cricket Club	West	1	Standard
89	Higham Village Cricket Club	West	1	Standard

There are two poor quality squares at Langdale Park and Markfield Jubilee Playing Field. Langdale Park has a poor quality square that is uneven and has little evidence of rolling and preparation for matches. The site has a basic set of covers for its provision.

Bombay United CC report the quality at Langdale Park has also declined since the 2023 cricket season and states this is due to the ground staff, which is managed by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, and not having the sufficient time to prepare the pitch as well as not having mobile covers to protect the wickets from the elements.

Similarly, the square at Markfield Jubilee Playing Field is assessed as poor quality due to worn wickets, poor grass coverage on the squares and undulating outfield. The site is also an open access site which exacerbates the issues. The site is used by Cropston CC which import demand into the area.

Burbage & Stoke Golding CC report it has recently taken over the maintenance of the cricket square and outfield at Hinckley Road Recreation Ground which has resulted in its improved quality.

Newbold Verdon CC report the square at Ashby Road Sports Club has declined in quality since the previous season due to football teams playing on the outfield (it has been assessed as standard quality). This has resulted in bare patches and this is further exacerbated by the site being public open space and experiences issues with dog fouling.

Barwell CC report its pitch at Barwell Sports & Social Club has improved in quality since the last season (assessed as good quality) and state this is due to it spending more money on maintenance of the square.

Stapleton CC report its square has improved in quality since the previous season due to regular maintenance and renovation it carries out, albeit it is still assessed as standard quality overall.

Ratby Town CC report its square at Ratby Sports Club has improved in quality significantly since the last season (assessed as standard quality).

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

The Club state this is due to investing more money into the ground maintenance. However, it does report the outfield is in poor condition due to the site frequently flooding due to a new local housing development and a high water table.

Performance Quality Standards

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 standards, which are benchmarked by the Ground Maintenance Association (GMA).

Table 4.9: Performance Quality Standard ratings

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

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports 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.

PitchPower Assessment

As mentioned in Part 2: Football, The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 for football and re-launched in 2022 with functionality for cricket, rugby league and rugby union pitches, the app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

The web app is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

The functionality of the app for cricket was trialled in 2023 and it set to become more commonly used in 2024. It is also unknown how the PitchPower assessments will be implemented into the PPOSS process moving forward, however, it is likely they will supersede non-technical assessments as they are more comprehensive and can provide detailed strategic recommendations on how facilities can be improved.

As a result, quality scores for cricket and recommendations within the PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan should be reviewed and updated as part of the Stage E process to reflect new technical assessments evidence and information when available.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Non-turf wickets

NTP provision is generally of a good or standard quality rating, with very few issues reported at club sites. Although the NTP's at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus, Saint Martin's Catholic Academy and The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground are rated as poor quality due to a lack of regular maintenance, which has resulted in quality deterioration.

Changes from the previous study

In the previous PPS (2019), there were two (11%) good quality, eight (53%) standard quality and seven (41%) poor quality grass wicket squares. The number of good and standard quality squares have increased by one each, although there has been a slight increase of poor quality squares. However, as previously mentioned, there has been a decrease in two squares at educational sites.

Ball strike

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

Ancillary facilities

The extent of ancillary facilities required differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas this is often not required for junior and short format senior matches, where the need is more for access to suitable changing and/or toilet facilities.

Quality and access to required match day and preparatory facilities across the Borough is varied, with clubs playing at privately managed or sports club sites generally better served than those playing at community managed provision.

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high quality ancillary facilities is a key aspect of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls, South Asian and BAME communities and All Stars and Dynamos cricket (detailed later in the section).

The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in Hinckley & Bosworth determines that five (33%) are accompanied by good quality provision, six squares (40%) are accompanied by standard quality provision and four (26%) are serviced by poor quality provision.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 4.10: Quality ratings for ancillary facilities servicing community available squares

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Ancillary facility quality
1	Alan Way Sports Field	Central	1	Standard
2	Ashby Road Sports Club	Urban South	1	Standard
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	Urban South	1	Good
39	Hinckley Road Recreation Ground	Urban South	1	Standard
42	Hinckley Town Cricket Club	Urban South	1	Good
44	Keats Lane Playing Field	Urban South	1	Good
47	Langdale Park	Urban South	1	Standard
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Central	1	Good
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Field	North East & Leicester	1	Poor
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	1	Poor
73	Stapleton Village Cricket Club	Central	1	Standard
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Central	1	Poor
75	Swallows Green	Urban South	1	Poor
88	Twycross Cricket Club	West	1	Good
89	Higham Village Cricket Club	West	1	Standard

The facilities at Markfield Jubilee Playing Field, Ratby Sports Club and Stoke Golding Recreation Ground are assessed as poor quality.

The clubhouse at Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields (maintained by Markfield Parish Council) is currently poor quality and is outdated. The site is currently unused by any of the 10 affiliated cricket clubs in the Borough, however Cropston CC imports demand into the Borough and utilises the provision. See imported demand section for further information.

Ratby CC report the ancillary facilities at Ratby Sports Club are in poor condition and not fit for purpose to service its club demand. There is a small portacabin on site but it is unusable and only provides one shower and toilet. The Club report it has an aspiration to refurbish the facility and is currently sourcing funding for this.

Despite being unused by an affiliated cricket club, the ancillary provision at Stoke Golding Recreation Ground is assessed as poor quality. This is due to it showing signs of age and becoming outdated.

Hinckley Amateur CC report it does not have access to a clubhouse at Swallows Green, although it does have access to two changing rooms and toilets. However, these are in poor condition and are outdated and in need of refurbishing.

The ancillary provision at Barwell Cricket and Sports Club is also rated as good quality with two changing rooms and accompanying toilets and a kitchen provided.

Bombay United CC reports the ancillary provision at Langdale Park is of standard quality, however, it has experienced issues with vandalism in the last year with damage to the outside of the pavilion.

In terms of good quality ancillary provision, there are good quality facilities at Market Bosworth Sports Club which includes four changing rooms and two official changing rooms and are rated as good quality having been built in 2015 and received funding to support the development. However, the site is not currently used for affiliated cricket, it was previously accessed by Market Bosworth CC who played at the site but have recently folded.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Hinckley Town CC report that its ancillary facilities are good quality. The facilities include five sets of changing rooms with accompanying toilets, a bar area, kitchen and social space. The Club reports it has plans to improve and modernise its clubhouse to better cater for its women's and girls' demand.

No sites in Hinckley & Bosworth provide dedicated female ancillary/changing room facilities for cricket. This is likely to be affecting the potential growth of women's and girl's cricket and future demand, if it is not addressed.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences, whilst during the season, outdoor training provision supplies most of the use.

In addition, given the high level of recreational demand taking place in Hinckley & Bosworth outdoor practice nets can also help to accommodate such activity.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, the table below summarises the sites that currently contain fixed practice nets. In total, there are seven sites supplying 15 bays.

Table 4.11: Summary of practice nets in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Available for community use?	No. of nets/bays
2	Ashby Road Sports Club	Central	Yes	2
10	Barwell Cricket & Sports Club	Urban South	Yes	2
42	Hinckley Town Cricket Club	Urban South	Yes	2
44	Keats Lane Playing Field	Urban South	Yes	2
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	Yes	2
88	Twycross Cricket Club	West	Yes	3
89	Higham Village Cricket Club	West	Yes	2

Based on consultation feedback, the following clubs report demand for new, improved and/or additional training facilities. These are:

- ◀ Barwell CC.
- ◀ Burbage & Stoke Golding CC.
- ◀ Hinckley Amateur CC.
- ◀ Newbold Verdon CC.
- ◀ Stapleton CC.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 4.12: Summary of demand for additional training facilities

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
1	Alan Way Sports Field	Newbold Verdon CC	The Club would like permanent non-turf nets as this would help it to train away from the square and outfield.
2	Ashby Road Sports Club	Hinckley Amateur CC	The Club aspires to refurbish the non-turf net facilities as they are currently in a poor condition.
10	Barwell Cricket & Sports Club	Barwell CC	The Club would like to install more practice nets.
39	Hinckley Road Recreation Ground	Burbage & Stoke Golding CC	The Club wishes to have a mobile cage.
47	Langdale Park	Bombay United CC	The Club would like a mobile cage practice wicket.
73	Stapleton Village Cricket Club	Stapleton Village CC	The Club reports that it requires practice nets.

All remaining responsive clubs report that they are satisfied with their current practice provision, although several report a need for access or improved access to indoor facilities for winter training purposes. Whilst this falls outside the remit of this study, it is something that should be considered moving forward, with many clubs reporting that they do not have access to sports halls or must access them at undesirable times. This is generally due to year-round block bookings being given priority.

Indoor facilities

Whilst the PPOSS regards outdoor playing pitches, the cricket training programme includes accessing indoor net facilities over winter months in preparation for the start of the season. As such indoor training facilities have been discussed in the following section.

In total, seven responding clubs report accessing indoor provision for winter net pre-season training sessions, with the following sites in Hinckley & Bosworth utilised:

- ◀ Bosworth Academy.
- ◀ Brookvale Groby Learning Campus.
- ◀ Heath Lane Academy.

In addition, three responding clubs (Burbage & Stoke Golding, Hinckley Amateur and Newbold Verdon) report accessing indoor facilities outside of the Borough. The sites are as follows:

- ◀ City Cricket Academy (in Leicester).
- ◀ Higham Lane School (in Nuneaton).
- ◀ Loughborough Indoor Centre (in Loughborough).

4.3: Demand

There are 10 clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth which collectively provide 41 teams. This equates to 22 senior men's, two senior women's and 17 junior boys' teams.

As seen in the table below, most teams are based in the Urban South Analysis Area (27 teams) based on large clubs such as Hinckley Amateur and Newbold Verdon cricket clubs.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Whereas there are only two affiliated teams in the West Analysis Area which aligns with it having the least provision.

Table 4.13: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior men	Senior women	Junior teams
Central	3	-	2
North East & Leicester	4	-	3
Urban South	13	2	12
West	2	-	-
Total	22	2	17

Club makeup is mixed. Clubs such as Barwell, Hinckley Amateur, Newbold Verdon and Ratby Town are large and provide a significant number of teams within several formats. However, some are small and run only one or two teams, including Stapleton and Twycross cricket clubs. This is summarised club-by-club in the following table.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 4.14: Current summary of teams by club and a comparison to the previous study

Club	Analysis area	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams	Total	Team % change from previous study
Bombay United CC	Urban South	2	-	-	-	2	100%
Barwell CC	Urban South	3	-	3	-	6	20%
Burbage & Stoke Golding CC	Urban South	1	-	1	-	2	-
Earl Shilton CC	Urban South	1	-	2	-	3	40%
Hinckley Amateur CC	Urban South	4	2	3	-	9	-
Hinckley Town CC	Urban South	1	-	3	-	4	20%
Newbold Verdon CC	Central	4	-	2	-	6	25%
Ratby Town CC	North East & Leicester	3	-	3	-	6	20%
Stapleton CC	Central	1	-	-	-	1	-
Twycross CC	West	2	-	-	-	2	50%
Total (2024 season)	-	22	2	17	-	41	15%
2019 Total	-	31	-	17	-	48	-

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Changes from the previous study

As seen in the table above, there has been a slight decrease at most clubs since the previous study in 2019. This equates to an overall decrease in demand of 15% with the number of teams declining from 48 to 41.

The 2019 study predicted, through population growth projections to 2036, there would be an increase of two junior teams. However, this has yet to be realised as the number of junior teams remain the same as the previous study.

In addition, since the previous study, Market Bosworth CC and Higham CC have folded due to issues with demand numbers. This, in part, is one of the key factors as to why adult demand figures have declined.

Conversely, Bombay United CC is now included in the audit due to fielding both its teams in the Borough and classes itself as Hinckley & Bosworth based. The Club was previously not included in the previous study, due to previously being in the neighbouring authority of Leicester.

Similarly, Burbage and Stoke Golding cricket clubs have become a merged club since the previous study. This is due to both clubs experiencing a decline in membership.

Imported demand

Imported demand is demand from neighbouring authorities accessing pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth to play competitive matches.

Ambleside CC imports two senior men's teams into the Borough playing at Higham Village Cricket Club. Whilst Cropston CC import one senior men's team into the Borough and plays at Markfield Jubilee Playing Fields.

Atherstone Town CC imports its 3rd XI team into the Borough and plays at Market Bosworth Sports Club.

The above clubs consider themselves not to be Hinckley & Bosworth based and utilise sites within the Borough due to a lack of capacity and availability in Nuneaton & Bedworth for the former and Charnwood for the latter.

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of the study area, despite being registered in Hinckley & Bosworth.

It is believed that there is some perceived exported demand out of the Borough for residents. This is due to the close boundary to Blaby, Charnwood and Nuneaton and Bedworth. Clubs in these neighbouring authorities are thought to service some residential demand from Hinckley & Bosworth due to being in proximity to the authority boundary.

Notwithstanding the above, none of the clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth report exporting any teams outside of the Borough.

Women's and girls' cricket

The ECB's refreshed strategy called "Inspire Generations" was announced in January 2019 and it builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position than it is in 2019. The Strategy has six key priorities and activities including to increase the representation of women and girls in every level of cricket by:

- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ◀ Investing in girls' county age group cricket.
- ◀ Delivering a girls' secondary school programme.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, Hinckley Amateur CC is the only club in the Borough which fields dedicated women's teams. There are no junior girls' teams in the Borough.

Consultation with the LRCF report a project is being undertaken at Barwell CC, Earl Shilton CC, Hinckley Amateur CC and Hinckley Town CC to grow junior girls' activity. LRCF reports that there is work to be done to put established Hinckley & Bosworth clubs on par with their counterparts across Leicestershire in relation to offering more comprehensive women's and girls' offering.

Linked to the above, it is imperative that existing provision adapts to better accommodate women's and girls' demand. For example, no cricket site currently provides dedicated female changing facilities, which will deter any future demand that may exist. Many existing clubhouses are dated and provide unsegregated changing areas as well as communal showers that are unsuitable for mixed gender access.

Additional activity

The ECB is currently running a number of initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable for matches during these periods. This can mean no availability on one or two nights a week.

All Stars cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth can register to become an ECB All Stars cricket centre. Once registered, they 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 has 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/play the game.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, seven clubs currently deliver All Stars activity (see Table 4.15 for the clubs).

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Dynamos cricket

Dynamos provides the next step for all those graduating from All Stars cricket, thus developing a pathway to retain juniors who progress, as well as being an introduction for all 8-11 year olds new to the sport. 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 softball format as competitive progression with a view to transition through to hardball cricket.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, six clubs currently take part in the Dynamos initiative (see Table 4.15 for the clubs).

Softball cricket

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

Two clubs field women's softball demand in Hinckley & Bosworth. The below table summarises which clubs host softball, All Stars and Dynamos activity.

Table 4.15: Hinckley & Bosworth clubs involved in ECB initiatives

Club name	All Stars	Dynamos	Women/girls
Bombay United CC	No	No	No
Barwell CC	No	No	Yes
Burbage & Stoke Golding CC	Yes	Yes	No
Earl Shilton CC	Yes	Yes	No
Hinckley Amateur CC	Yes	No	No
Hinckley Town CC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Newbold Verdon CC	Yes	Yes	No
Ratby Town CC	Yes	No	No
Stapleton CC	No	No	No
Twycross CC	No	No	No
Total	6/10 (60%)	4/10 (40%)	2/10 (20%)

Across the Borough, only Hinckley Town CC offers all three cricket initiatives.

In addition, the following clubs all specifically state aspirations through consultation to develop or further develop both women/girls and junior demand. This could be via new or increased future involvement in the initiatives. They are as follows:

- ◆ Barwell CC.
- ◆ Burbage & Stoke Golding CC.
- ◆ Hinckley Amateur CC.
- ◆ Newbold Verdon CC.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Last Man Stands

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

LMS does not currently operate in Hinckley & Bosworth. However, it does in Leicester, with one midweek league located at Evington Park. It is likely that some Hinckley & Bosworth demand is being accommodated within this.

Street cricket

Street cricket is an ECB initiative run through the Chance to Shine Programme. Chance to Shine Street brings cricket to thousands of young people in urban areas.

It uses the game to increase aspiration, promote social cohesion and create opportunities in diverse communities. It's a fast-paced version of the game played with a tapeball - a tennis ball wrapped in electrical tape - in small, enclosed spaces, often courts or indoor sports halls. With six players per team and 20 balls per innings.

No Street cricket sessions currently take place in Hinckley & Bosworth.

Informal demand

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

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in several ways, such as through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan document that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand for cricket that could come from housing development plans across the Borough.

Notwithstanding the above, the ECB's five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024 includes 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. Together, significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPOSS and the impact should therefore be reviewed over coming years.

Population forecasts

For population projections, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass wicket cricket squares that will arise from forecasted growth. This uses the current population within each relevant age group together with current participation levels to establish team generation rates that are applied to future population projections.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Based on population projections to 2041 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass wicket cricket squares that will arise from forecasted growth. This uses the current population within each relevant age group together with current participation levels to establish team generation rates that are applied to future population projections.

Furthermore, the ONS projections do not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the Borough, as will be proposed in the review of the Local Plan. This will therefore also be subject to scenarios in Strategy document and/or via future assessment work undertaken by the Council.

For reference, total current population in Hinckley & Bosworth of 113,591 is projected to increase to 137,765 by 2041. The table below shows the number of new teams that are forecasted to be generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions that this will require.

Using the above, it is predicted in Hinckley & Bosworth there will be a growth of four senior men's and three boys teams to 2041 – the date selected to align the PPOSS with the Council's emerging Local Plan. This is shown in the table below.

Table 4.16: Future demand via population growth (2041)

Age group	Current population per sport age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population ¹²	Peak time	Average games for age group	Match equivalent session per season ¹³
Men (18-55yrs)	25,968	1:1,129	3.94	4	Saturday	12	48
Women (18-55yrs)	27,208	1:13,604	0.3	0	Sunday	12	0
Boys (7-18yrs)	8,241	1:515	2.74	3	Midweek	6	18
Girls (7-18yrs)	7,754	0	0	0	Midweek	6	0

Although no women and girls' teams are predicted to be created via population growth alone, consultation with the ECB and LCRF suggests that further development of female cricket in Hinckley & Bosworth is likely as it is currently a national priority to increase women and girls' participation. It is therefore important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams in some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would ordinarily suggest. This also applies to a likely growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

Linked to the above, it must be noted that the ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country by 2026, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand in Hinckley & Bosworth.

Furthermore, the demand identified is based solely upon current levels of formal demand from community-based cricket clubs and does not capture informal or recreational activity.

¹² Rounded to the nearest whole number

¹³ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Participation increases

Of the clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth, five indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation in the future. This amounts to a total predicted growth of 11 teams; four senior men's, one senior women's and six junior teams.

Table 4.17: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Barwell CC	Urban South	1	-	2
Bombay United CC	Urban South	1	-	-
Burbage & Stoke Golding CC	Central	1	1	2
Earl Shilton CC	Urban South	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Hinckley Amateur CC	Urban South	-	-	-
Hinckley Town CC	Urban South	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Newbold Verdon CC	Central	-	-	2
Ratby Town CC	North East & Leicester	-	-	-
Stapleton CC	Central	1	-	-
Twycross CC	West	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
-	Total	4	1	6

This is summarised by analysis area below. The most future demand is evident in the Urban South Analysis Area with this equating to six teams.

Table 4.18: Summary of future demand aspirations by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Central	2	1	2
North East & Leicester	-	-	-
Urban South	2	-	4
West	-	-	-
Total	4	1	6

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward at this stage, with this equating to four senior men's and three junior boys' teams, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational.

Linked to the above, it must be noted that the ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country by 2026, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand in Hinckley & Bosworth. Based on this, one senior women's and one junior girls' team has been incorporated into the overall supply and demand analysis.

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if clubs aspirations are realised.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

4.4: Supply and demand 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 the level of play was not made clear through the consultation process, 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.

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

Please note that NTPs have been discounted from the analysis by means of not distorting the findings. This is because no NTPs are currently being used more than their recommended capacity, which is 60 match equivalent sessions per season (0 match equivalent sessions when poor quality). With no NTPs being overused, this translates to overall actual spare capacity for junior play.

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

However, this is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior weekend cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Hinckley & Bosworth is Saturday, although a good proportion of teams are also fielded on a Sunday, including the two senior women's teams in the authority, as well as midweek in shorter formats of the game. In addition, peak time is midweek for junior cricket, albeit that some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Based on the above, capacity across Saturday's, Sunday's and midweek requires consideration, which the following analysis looks to provide. This involves factoring in the overall capacity level at each site and current usage levels across each relevant period.

Spare capacity

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 4.20 and the actual spare capacity identified in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and midweek).

Table 4.19: Spare capacity examples

Potential spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
No	If the cell has a "no" it means that the pitch is played to capacity within this period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
Yes	If the cell has a "yes" that is not highlighted it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period; however, this is discounted due to unsecure tenure, poor pitch quality, the pitch not being available for community use or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed so it cannot accommodate any additional demand.
Yes	If the cell has a "yes" and is also highlighted in green it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT**

Table 4.20: Capacity analysis of cricket squares in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Formal users	No. of squares	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)
1	Alan Way Sports Field	Central	Yes	Secure	Newbold Verdon CC	1	Standard	9	36	28	8	No	Yes	Yes
2	Ashby Road Sports Club	Urban South	Yes	Secure	Hinckley Amateur CC	1	Standard	9	36	57	21	No	No	No
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	Urban South	Yes	Secure	Barwell CC	1	Good	15	75	39	36	No	Yes	Yes
39	Hinckley Road Recreation Ground	Urban South	Yes	Secure	Burbage & Stoke Golding CC	1	Standard	10	40	11	29	No	Yes	Yes
42	Hinckley Town Cricket Club	Urban South	Yes	Secure	Hinckley Town CC Barwell CC	1	Good	10	50	31	19	No	No	Yes
44	Keats Lane Playing Field	Urban South	Yes	Secure	Earl Shilton CC	1	Good	10	50	13	37	No	No	Yes
47	Langdale Park	Urban South	Yes	Secure	Bombay United CC	1	Poor	8	0	22	22	No	No	No
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	Central	Yes	Secure	Atherstone Town CC (imported)	1	Standard	7	28	9	19	Yes	Yes	Yes
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Field	North East & Leicester	Yes	Secure	Cropston CC (imported)	1	Poor	4	0	8	8	No	No	No
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	Yes	Secure	Ratby Town CC	1	Standard	5	20	45	25	No	No	No
73	Stapleton Village Cricket Club	Central	Yes	Secure	Stapleton Village CC Newbold Verdon CC	1	Standard	9	36	19	17	No	Yes	Yes
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	Central	Yes-unused	Secure	-	1	Standard	8	32	0	32	Yes	Yes	Yes
75	Swallows Green	Urban South	Yes	Secure	Hinckley Amateur CC	1	Standard	5	20	12	8	No	No	Yes
88	Twycross Cricket Club	West	Yes	Secure	Twycross CC	1	Standard	11	44	21	23	No	Yes	Yes
89	Higham Village Cricket Club	West	Yes	Secure	Ambleside CC (imported)	1	Standard	6	24	19	5	No	No	Yes

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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.

Saturday cricket spare capacity

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

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

In Hinckley & Bosworth, there are two squares across the same number of sites that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand, as shown in the following table.

Table 4.21: Summary of actual spare capacity for Saturday cricket

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	19	Used by one team on a Saturday; spare capacity for one additional team
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	32	Site is currently unused; capacity exists for two Saturday teams

In total, actual spare capacity equates to 51 match equivalent sessions per season. This is found in the Central Analysis Area. In comparison, none of the remaining three analysis areas have no actual spare capacity for Saturday cricket.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 4.22: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Central	51
North East & Leicester	-
Urban South	-
West	-
Total	51

Sunday cricket spare capacity

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 six squares across the same number of sites in Hinckley & Bosworth that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand, as shown in the following table.

Table 4.23: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	36	Used by one team on a Sunday; spare capacity for one additional team
39	Hinckley Road Recreation Ground	29	Used by one team on a Sunday; spare capacity for one additional team
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	19	Unused on a Sunday; capacity exists for two Sunday teams.
73	Stapleton Village Cricket Club	27	Unused on a Sunday; capacity exists for two Sunday teams.
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	32	Site is currently unused; capacity exists for two Sunday teams.
88	Twycross Cricket Club	23	Unused on a Sunday; capacity exists for two Sunday teams.

In total, actual spare capacity equates to 166 match equivalent sessions per season. This is predominantly found in the Central Analysis Area with 78 match equivalent sessions identified. The Urban South Analysis Area has 65 match equivalent sessions identified and the West Analysis Area has 23 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.

Table 4.24: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Central	78
North East & Leicester	-
Urban South	65
West	23
Total	166

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Midweek cricket spare capacity

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

For a square to have actual spare capacity for midweek cricket, it must 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 this into consideration, there are seven squares across the same number of sites in Hinckley & Bosworth have potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek.

Table 4.25: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek (junior) cricket

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
1	Alan Way Sports Field	8	Used by three midweek teams; capacity exists for three midweek teams
10	Barwell Cricket and Sports Club	36	Used by two midweek teams; capacity exists for four midweek teams.
39	Hinckley Road Recreation Ground	29	Unused midweek; capacity exists for six midweek teams
42	Hinckley Town Cricket Club	19	Unused midweek; capacity exists for six midweek teams
44	Keats Lane Playing Field	37	Unused midweek; capacity exists for six midweek teams
52	Market Bosworth Sports Club	19	Site is currently unused; capacity exists for six midweek teams.
73	Stapleton Village Cricket Club	27	Unused midweek; capacity exists for six midweek teams
74	Stoke Golding Recreation Ground	32	Site is currently unused; capacity exists for six midweek teams.
75	Swallows Green	8	Unused midweek; capacity exists for six midweek teams
88	Twycross Cricket Club	23	Unused midweek; capacity exists for six midweek teams
89	Higham Village Cricket Club	5	Unused midweek; capacity exists for six midweek teams

A total of 254 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity per season is identified for midweek cricket, with most existing in the Urban South Analysis Area (129 match equivalent sessions). In comparison, the North East & Leicester Analysis Area has no actual spare capacity for midweek cricket.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 4.26: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Central	86
North East & Leicester	-
Urban South	129
West	28
Total	243

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. Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a reduction in play is recommended on overplayed squares to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, four sites are overplayed by a total of 76 match equivalent sessions per season, as summarised below.

Table 4.27: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (Matches per season)
2	Ashby Road Sports Club	Urban South	21
47	Langdale Park	Urban South	22
55	Markfield Jubilee Playing Field	North East & Leicester	8
62	Ratby Sports Club	North East & Leicester	25
-	-	Total	76

The overplay is predominately found in the Urban South Analysis Area, with this amounting to 43 match equivalent sessions per season, followed by the North East & Leicester Analysis Area with 33 match equivalent sessions per season. There is no overplay evident in the Central and West analysis areas.

Ratby Sports Club has the highest amount of overplay, with this amounting to 25 match equivalent sessions per season. This is due to the amount of teams that Ratby Town CC which uses the site fields albeit the square is assessed as standard quality so there is also some potential to increase capacity.

In addition, Ashby Road Sports Club has 21 match equivalent sessions per season of overplay and this is predominantly due to the quantity of demand being accommodated on the square. However, the overplay identified at Langdale Park (22 MES) is due to the site having a poor quality square, meaning all demand taking place is contributing towards the overplay.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 4.28: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions a season)
Central	-
North East & Leicester	33
Urban South	43
West	-
Total	76

Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Saturday)

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket.

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). Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for senior Saturday teams, six matches for Sunday teams and four matches for junior teams).

In order to give an accurate representation of future demand, future demand is considered based on team generation rates which are driven by population increases, with this equating to five senior men's and three junior boys' teams.

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday).

Table 4.29: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	36	-	36	-	0
North East & Leicester	-	33	33	-	0
Urban South	-	43	43	-	0
West	-	-	0	-	0
Total	36	76	40	48¹⁴	88

As seen in the table above, there is a current shortfall for Saturday cricket in Hinckley & Bosworth, amounting to 40 match equivalent sessions.

When future demand is accounted for, the overall shortfall increases by 48 match equivalent sessions a season (four senior men's teams) to total 88 match equivalent sessions per season.

¹⁴ Future demand is based on the growth of four senior men's team identified through the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Sunday)

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.

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 Sunday teams (six) 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.

Table 4.30: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Sunday)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	36	-	36	-	0
North East & Leicester	-	33	33	-	0
Urban South	12	43	28	-	0
West	12	-	12	-	0
Total	60	76	16	12	28

There is an overall shortfall amounting to 16 match equivalent sessions for Sunday cricket, with two of the four analysis areas showing a deficit. The Central Analysis Area has the highest amount of actual spare capacity, with this equating to 36 match equivalent sessions.

As mentioned previously, no senior women's teams were projected through population growth, however the ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country by 2026, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand in Hinckley & Bosworth. Therefore, one senior women's has been applied to the above table. This results in the overall shortfall increases by 12 match equivalent sessions a season (one senior women's team) to total 28 match equivalent sessions per season.

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 Dynamo's Cricket.

Table 4.31: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for junior cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central	95	-	95	-	0
North East & Leicester	-	33	33	-	0
Urban South	96	43	33	-	0
West	30	-	30	-	0
Total	221	76	145	24	121

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

There is an overall current spare capacity amounting to 145 match equivalent sessions per season for midweek cricket, with only the North East & Leicester Analysis Area showing a shortfall.

When future demand is accounted for, one junior girls' team has been applied to the above table. This means that total actual spare capacity remains but at a reduced level equating to 121 match equivalent sessions per season.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that for midweek cricket there is a stock of NTPs that can be used to accommodate some of the excess demand via the transfer of play and greater utilisation.

4.5: Conclusion

In summary, the broad position in Hinckley & Bosworth is there is insufficient capacity for current demand across Saturday and Sunday cricket. This is a consequence of the 73 match equivalent sessions per season of overplay identified across four sites.

As previously stated, Ratby Sports Club has the highest amount of overplay, with this amounting to 25 match equivalent sessions per season. This is due to the number of teams using the square (Ratby Town CC) coupled with it being standard quality.

In addition, Ashby Road Sports Club has 21 match equivalent sessions per season of overplay and this is predominantly due to the quantity of demand being accommodated on the square. However, the overplay identified at Langdale Park (22 match equivalent sessions per season) is due to the poor quality square, meaning all demand taking place is contributing towards the overplay.

There is, however, a sufficient amount of provision to accommodate all current midweek demand that has been identified, notwithstanding the isolated shortfalls in the North East & Leicester Analysis Area.

Future demand worsens shortfalls for Saturday and Sunday cricket; however, actual spare capacity remains for midweek demand in the future.

The table below summarises this further.

Table 4.32: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares across Hinckley & Bosworth

Peak time period	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	48	76	28	48	76
Sunday	60	76	16	-	16
Midweek	221	76	145	18	127

A scenario exploring how future demand, through club aspirations of three senior men's, one senior woman's and four junior teams will affect the future capacity analysis will be included in the proceeding Strategy document.

It will also consider how current and future shortfalls can potentially be accommodated.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity is identified at peak time for senior men's cricket (Saturday and Sunday) and midweek cricket. This amounts to 48 match equivalent sessions on a Saturday, 60 match equivalent sessions on a Sunday and 213 match equivalent sessions exist midweek.
- In total, four sites are overplayed by a total of 76 match equivalent sessions a season.
- Overall, there is insufficient capacity for current demand across Saturday and Sunday cricket. There is, however, a sufficient amount of provision to accommodate all current midweek demand that has been identified.

Cricket – supply summary

- In total, there are 15 grass wicket squares in Hinckley & Bosworth across the same number of sites. All squares are available for community use.
- One square is currently unused by the community, with this located at Stoke Golding Recreation Ground.
- In addition to the grass wicket supply, there are 12 non-turf pitches (NTPs). Of these, five accompany grass wicket squares and the remaining eight are standalone wickets.
- There are no disused cricket squares. However, as previously mentioned, there are two educational sites (Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre and Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground) that are still in use recreationally that previously provided formal grass wicket squares but no longer do so. These are not classified as disused as they are still being accessed, although they are no longer marked out for affiliated cricket.
- The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Hinckley & Bosworth found three (20%) to be good quality, 10 (67%) of standard quality and two (13%) as poor quality.
- The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in Hinckley & Bosworth determines that five (33%) are accompanied by good quality provision and five squares (33%) are accompanied by standard quality provision and five (33%) are serviced by poor quality provision.
- There are seven sites supplying 15 bays, whilst five clubs report demand for new, improved and/or additional training facilities.

Cricket – demand summary

- There are 10 clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth which collectively provide 41 teams. This equates to 22 senior men's, two senior women's and 17 junior boys' teams.
- There has been a slight decrease in demand over recent years.
- For female cricket to grow further in Hinckley & Bosworth, it is imperative that existing provision adapts to better accommodate women's and girls' demand. For example, no cricket site currently provides dedicated female changing facilities, which will deter any future demand that may exist. Many existing clubhouses are dated and provide unsegregated changing areas as well as communal showers that are unsuitable for mixed gender access.
- A total of six clubs undertake All Stars cricket, whilst four host Dynamos and two have women's softball demand.
- Future demand from population forecasts equates to the predicted growth of four senior men's and three junior boys' (up to 2041), whereas five clubs indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation amounting to a total predicted growth of eight teams.
- Linked to future demand from population projections, it must be noted that the ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country by 2026, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand in Hinckley & Bosworth. Based on this, one senior woman's and one junior girls' team has been incorporated into the overall supply and demand analysis.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: 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 for clubs across Hinckley & Bosworth.

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

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

Consultation

There are three rugby union clubs identified as playing within Hinckley & Bosworth, all of which, responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 100%.

Table 5.1: Summary of rugby club consultation

Club	Responded?
Burbage RUFC	Yes
Hinckley RUFC	Yes
Market Bosworth RUFC	Yes

5.2: Supply

Within Hinckley & Bosworth, there are 24 grass rugby union pitches identified across nine unique sites, with 22 pitches available for community use across seven sites. The remaining two pitches are unavailable for community use, located at Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre and The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground.

Of the pitches available for community use, 12 are senior and 10 are mixed age grade pitches. Most are identified in the Urban South Analysis Area (12 pitches) whilst the fewest are located in the North East & Leicester Analysis Area (three pitches). The West Analysis Area does not have any community available pitches.

Table 5.2: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of age grade pitches	Total
Central	6	1	7
North East and Leicester	3	-	3
Urban South	3	9	12
West	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	12	10	22

The audit generally only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches that are serviced by goalposts (as dictated by RFU). However, it should also be noted that included within the supply figures are seven unposted pitches at Hinckley Rugby Football Club.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

This is because these are capable of accommodating significant demand, particularly from age grade mixed (mini) teams. It should be noted that such provision will not be eligible to receive funding from the RFU at present.

For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see the table below.

Table 5.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ¹⁵
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

Changes from the previous study

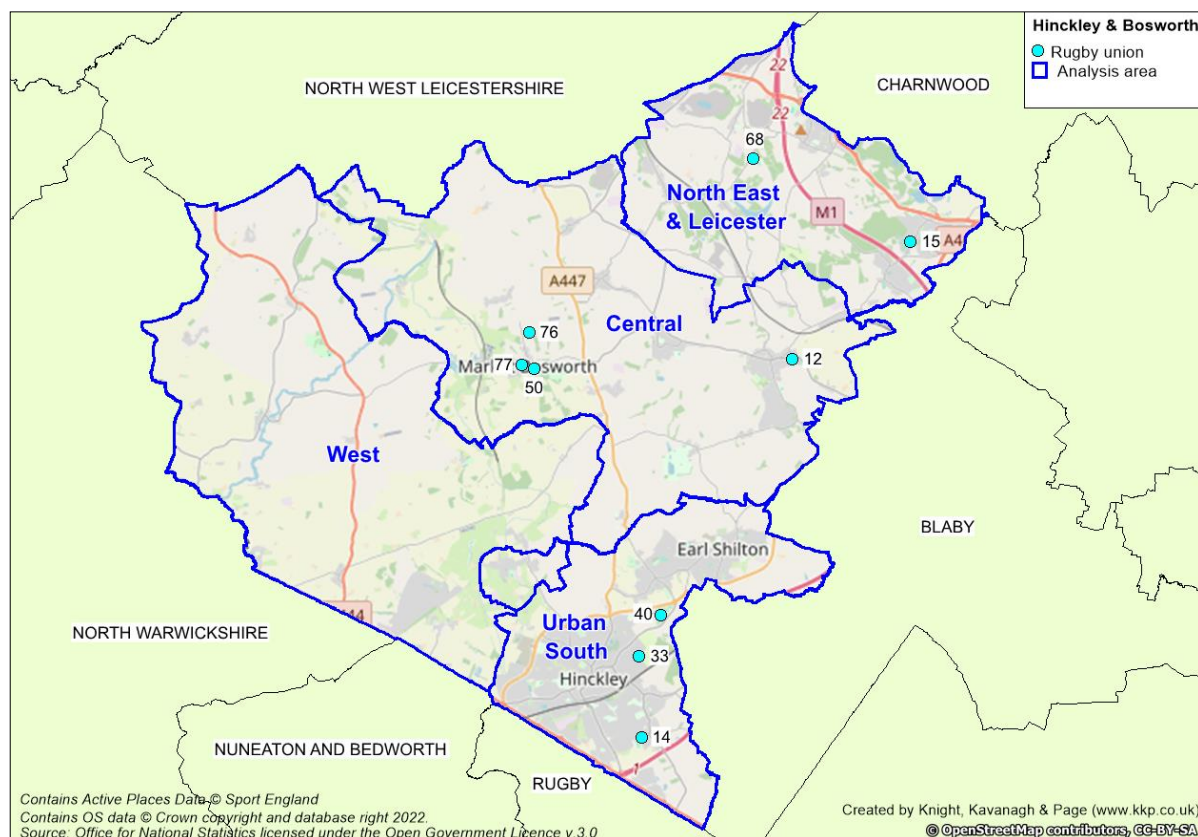
There is an increase of two senior pitches identified compared to the previous study, which was last updated in 2019. This has come from Bosworth Academy and South Charnwood High School, which were previously unavailable for community use.

Figure 5.1 overleaf identifies all grass rugby union pitches currently servicing Hinckley & Bosworth. For a key to the map, see Table 5.9.

¹⁵ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Hinckley & Bosworth



Disused provision

There are two disused senior rugby union pitches at Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre. Although the goalposts are still in place, they were last used in circa 2019. This is mainly due to the pitches being located a distance from the main building.

Future provision

As mentioned in Part 3 of this report, there is a proposal in place for the creation of a 3G pitch at Britannia Road Recreation Ground. The proposal would see Burbage RUFC's senior grass pitch replaced by the 3G and the grass pitch would be moved further south of the site, which is thought to have better drainage.

The 11v11 3G pitch at Hinckley Rugby Football Club has been constructed to an appropriate grade and is used regularly for training activity by Hinckley RUFC for non-contact rugby. There are, however, ongoing plans to resurface the pitch to be World Rugby compliant.

Management and security of tenure

Of the 24 pitches provided, seven are operated by education providers, with five of these available to the community. The remaining pitches are all available, with 16 supplied at sports club sites, and the remaining one pitch provided by Burbage Parish Council. This is summarised in the table below.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 5.4: Rugby union pitches by management type

Community use	Parish Council	Education	Sports club
Available	1	5	16
Unavailable	-	2	-
Total	1	7	16

In relation to clubs, tenure of the sites they use is generally secure. A site is thought to have secure tenure if a club has either freehold or a long-term lease agreement in place, whilst council sites are also considered to be secure as part of a long-term commitment to provide leisure facilities.

Both Hinckley RUFC and Market Bosworth RUFC own the freehold of their venues and therefore are considered to have security of tenure.

Burbage RUFC's home ground at Britannia Road Recreation Ground is owned by Burbage Parish Council and is considered to have secure tenure (as its facilities are deemed to be safeguarded for future sporting use). Its current lease agreement has 19 years remaining.

Table 5.5: Summary of tenure for rugby union clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth

Club	Site/s used	Agreement	Tenure
Burbage RUFC	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	Leased	Secure
Hinckley RUFC	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	Freehold	Secure
Market Bosworth RUFC	Market Bosworth Rugby Football Club	Freehold	Secure

Away from clubs, the majority of the unused school sites do not provide security of tenure for access to their rugby provision, even where community availability is offered.

Pitch quality

The quality of rugby pitches across Hinckley & Bosworth have been assessed via a combination of site visits (in January 2024) using non-technical assessments as determined by RFU and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor.

The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken, with the definitions of these shown in the table below.

Table 5.6: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Minimal or no maintenance is undertaken
M1	Regular maintenance is undertaken that extends beyond a basic regime
M2	A sophisticated, regular and dedicated maintenance regime is undertaken

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether or not drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 5.7: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Drainage is natural but inadequate
D1	Drainage is natural and adequate
D2	A pipe drainage system is installed (at 5-metre centres and within the last eight years)
D3	A pipe and slit drainage system is installed (at 1-metre centres in the last five years)

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated on a scale of good, standard and poor as shown below.

Table 5.8: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

The above was calculated for each pitch within Hinckley & Bosworth following site assessments, with findings then checked and challenged against user consultation and NGB assessments/ knowledge. This has then allowed an 'agreed quality rating' to be established.

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

Of pitches that are available for community use, 13 are assessed as good quality, four as standard and five as poor quality.

The unavailable pitch at Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre is assessed as poor quality whilst the pitch at The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground as good quality.

A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in the table overleaf.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESMENT

Table 5.9: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	Management	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Posted?	Sports lit?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
-	Club pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	LE10 2HF	Urban South	Secure	Parish Council	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	No	M1/D0	Poor
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	LE10 3DR	Urban South	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	2	Senior	Yes	Yes	M2/D2	Good
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	LE10 3DR	Urban South	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	2	Age grade	Yes	No	M2/D2	Good
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	LE10 3DR	Urban South	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	7	Age grade mixed	No	No	M2/D2	Good
51	Market Bosworth RFC	CV13 0BA	Central	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
51	Market Bosworth RFC	CV13 0BA	Central	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	2	Senior	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
51	Market Bosworth RFC	CV13 0BA	Central	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	No	M2/D1	Good
51	Market Bosworth RFC	CV13 0BA	Central	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Age grade	Yes	No	M2/D1	Good
-	School pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Bosworth Academy	LE9 9JL	Central	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	LE6 0FP	North East & Leicester	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Yes	No	M0/D1	Poor
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	LE10 1LE	Urban South	Unsecure	School	No	1	Senior	Yes	No	M1/D0	Poor
68	South Charnwood High School	LE67 9TB	North East & Leicester	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	2	Senior	Yes	No	M0/D1	Poor
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	CV13 0LQ	Central	Unsecure	School	No	1	Senior	Yes	No	M2/D1	Good
77	The Market Bosworth High School	CV13 0JT	Central	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Yes	No	M0/D0	Poor

Poor quality pitches are found at the following sites:

- ✦ Britannia Road Recreation Ground (Burbage RUFC).
- ✦ Brookvale Groby Learning Campus.
- ✦ Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre.
- ✦ South Charnwood High School.
- ✦ The Market Bosworth High School.

The pitch at Britannia Road Recreation Ground is assessed as poor quality, due to it not being maintained by Burbage Parish Council to a rigorous enough standard for it to meet M1 criteria and suffers from waterlogging due to the natural drainage system in place.

Conversely, the good quality pitches are provided at:

- ✦ Hinckley Rugby Football Club (Hinckley RUFC).
- ✦ The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground.

The two senior pitches located at The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground have been assessed as good quality due to the presence of a drainage system and a rigorous level of maintenance that is in place. Although, these pitches are not let out for community use in order to preserve the pitches for curricular use.

Both the senior and age grade pitches at Hinckley Rugby Football Club have also been assessed as good quality due to the sophisticated maintenance regime that takes place and pipe drainage system in place.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Performance Quality Standards (PQS)

The RFU is currently working with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) to carry out detailed site assessments at rugby union sites across the Country and there are ongoing internal discussions at the RFU on how best these will be implemented within PPOSS work moving forward.

In Hinckley & Bosworth the pitches servicing Hinckley RUFC and Market Bosworth RUFC at their own sites have undergone assessments. At the former the two senior pitches are identified as “good” and the two age grade pitches as “good”. At the latter, one of the senior pitches is identified as “good” and the remaining senior pitches are identified as “basic” whilst the junior pitch is identified as “good”.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for rugby clubs as they can assist with income generation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women’s and girls’ demand.

In Hinckley & Bosworth all clubs have access to some form of ancillary provision at their respective home grounds, but their quality varies. The table below identifies the findings for the sites that are actively utilised by clubs across the Borough with one serviced by good quality, one serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities and one by poor quality ancillary facilities.

Table 5.10: Summary of ancillary provision quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club user	Ancillary facility quality
14	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	Urban South	Burbage RUFC	Poor
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	Urban South	Hinckley RUFC	Good
51	Market Bosworth RFC	Central	Market Bosworth RUFC	Standard

The poor quality facilities are identified at Britannia Road Recreation Ground. The ancillary facilities servicing Burbage RUFC include two changing rooms with accompanying toilets, although this is only in a temporary portacabin. However, the Club reports they are dated and in need of a refurbishment and would like its own permanent clubhouse and looking to source the funding to support this.

Market Bosworth RUFC has standard quality ancillary provision. The clubhouse includes four changing rooms and accompanying toilets. It also provides a bar area and kitchen and sizeable social area. A planning application has been submitted to extend the clubhouse to provide dedicated women and girl’s changing facilities to realise its future growth ambitions to increase women and girl’s participation.

Hinckley RUFC report that its ancillary facilities are good quality. The facilities include five sets of changing rooms with accompanying toilets, a bar area, kitchen and social space. The Club report two of its changing rooms cater for its women and girls’ demand and states this is currently sufficient to meet its demand. It’s one issue is that is a lack of car parking on site which can be a particular issue on match days.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

5.3: Demand

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

For competitive play, demand is split between adult rugby, age grade boys/girls' rugby (previously junior) and age grade mixed rugby (previously mini). Age grade runs from U13 to U18 level, whilst age grade mixed is for U7 to U12 level. In addition, new girls' age bands have been established, with the new age bands being at U12, U14, U16 and U18 level.

Competitive play

There are three rugby clubs considered to be based in Hinckley & Bosworth collectively providing 35 teams collectively. As a breakdown, this consists of seven senior men's, two senior women's, 9 age grade boys', three age grade girls' and 13 age grade mixed teams.

Hinckley and Market Bosworth rugby clubs are relatively large and provide several senior, age grade and mixed teams, however, Burbage RUFC only fields two senior men's teams.

Demand for each club is summarised in the following table.

Table 5.11: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	Senior men (19+)	Senior women (19+)	Age grade boys (13-18)	Age grade girls (13-18)	Age grade mixed (6-12)
Burbage RUFC	Urban South	2	-	-	-	-
Hinckley RUFC	Urban South	3	1	5	1	7
Market Bosworth RUFC	Central	2	1	4	2	6
Total	-	7	2	9	3	13

As seen in the table above, senior women's teams are provided at Hinckley RUFC and Market Bosworth RUFC, with the former fielding one age grade girls and the latter fielding two.

Of the club-based demand, the Urban South Analysis Area caters for the largest number of teams (19), whereas there are no teams in the North East & Leicester and West analysis areas.

Table 5.12: Summary of number of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mini
Central	2	1	4	2	6
North East and Leicester	-	-	-	-	-
Urban South	5	1	5	1	7
West	-	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	7	2	9	3	13

Participation trends (changes since the previous study)

Since the 2019 study, five additional teams are now registered, with increases associated with youth and mixed age grade level rugby. There are four additional junior teams and one additional age grade mixed teams.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Notwithstanding the above, Hinckley and Burbage rugby clubs all report a decrease in the number of their senior teams.

Training demand

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

In Hinckley & Bosworth, one sports lit pitch is provided at Market Bosworth RFC which it uses to accommodate all of its training demand. Its senior men's teams utilise this for two hours every Tuesday and every Thursday, with age grade activity taking place for one hour each on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday's.

Two sports lit pitches are provided at Hinckley Rugby Football Club, although the pitches are not used for training demand with the club accessing the 11v11 3G pitch on site for all its training activity. Although, the pitch is not currently World Rugby compliant and therefore cannot be used for contact training. See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Burbage RUFC does not generally use match pitches for training and uses portable lighting on its match pitches, although it reports this is not ideal.

The training activity for each club is summarised in the table below.

Table 5.13: Summary of rugby union club facility use for evening training

Club	Site	Training demand	Match equivalent sessions on grass pitches
Burbage RUFC	Brittania Road Recreation Ground	Portable sports lighting on a senior pitch amounting to one match equivalent session per week	1 match equivalent session per week
Hinckley RUFC	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	The Club utilise a 3G pitch at its home ground for training, although it is not World Rugby compliant and as such cannot (or should not) be used for full contact activity. In addition, an unposted pitch accommodates some age grade training.	1.25 match equivalent sessions per week (age grade training)
Market Bosworth RUFC	Market Bosworth RFC	One sports lit senior pitch is used for training, amounting to 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	4.5 match equivalent sessions per week

Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union.

A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match and training demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, there are currently no World Rugby compliant pitches. Although, the pitch at Hinckley Rugby Football Club has plans to be accredited soon to enable use for contact rugby. The nearest certified pitch is in Blaby at Leicester Forest Rugby Club.

See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Touch demand

Touch (also known as Touch Football or Touch Rugby) is a variant of rugby organised and administered globally by the Federation of International Touch and nationally by the England Touch Association, which affiliates to the RFU and in some areas assists in the delivery of the Touch Union programme.

Touch is essentially a variation of rugby league with the tackling of opposing players replaced by a touch. It is able to be played on natural turf and 3G pitches, with the field of play measuring 70 metres in length from score line to score line (excluding touchdown areas of an additional 5 metres at each end) and 50 metres in width (excluding the interchange areas). On field teams are made up of six players each, with up to eight substitutes permitted per team. Touch also allows for mixed sex participation at all levels and offers mixed, men's or women's playing formats, with on field male/female ratios applicable to teams in mixed competitions. Matches are generally made up of two 20-minute halves.

Hinckley RUFC fields a touch rugby team which compete in friendly tournaments and matches on an ad-hoc basis.

Exported/imported demand

No exported or imported demand into Hinckley & Bosworth is identified.

Unmet/latent demand

Burbage RUFC reports latent demand in that they could field more teams if it had access to increased pitch provision and links this to a need for a 3G pitch for training activity.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in several ways, such as through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan document that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand for rugby union that could come from housing development plans across the Borough.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2041, (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby union pitches that will arise from any growth. This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Furthermore, the ONS projections do not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the Borough, as will be proposed in the review of the Local Plan. This will therefore also be subject to scenarios in Strategy document and/or via future assessment work undertaken by the Council.

The table below predicts future growth from population increases amounts to one senior men's, one age grade boys and one age grade mixed teams. This equates to 1.5 match equivalent session per week of demand on full size senior pitches.

Table 5.14: Borough-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated	Number of new teams generated - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions ¹⁶
Men (19-45yrs)	1:1,995	0.9	1	0.5
Women (19-45yrs)	1:12,219	0.2	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:487	0.9	1	0.5
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:2,240	0.2	0	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:728	1.2	1	0.5

As these figures cannot be accredited to any one analysis area, they are added to the overall supply and demand total within the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section.

In addition, team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. As such, future growth could exceed what is otherwise predicted, especially in regard to the growth in women and girls' rugby given current RFU aspirations. A more general growth is also expected, linked to the upcoming 2025 Rugby World Cup and its likely impact and related development work.

The RFU is also focused on actively exploring opportunities to assist with the transition between late age grade years and senior rugby with a specific focus on growing the senior game with the addition of adult teams (both men's and women's).

Participation growth

All rugby clubs that responded to consultation report future demand aspirations. This equates to the growth of two senior men's, one senior women's, one age grade boys and three age grade girls.

Table 5.15: Summary of future club aspirational demand for Hinckley & Bosworth

Club	Analysis area	Future team aspirations	Match equivalent sessions on a senior pitch
Burbage RUFC	Urban South	1 x senior men's	0.5
Hinckley RUFC	Central	1 x senior women's 1 x age grade boys 2 x age grade girls	2
Market Bosworth RUFC	Central	1 x senior men's 1 x age grade girls	1

¹⁶ 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.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

It should be noted that the future demand identified by the clubs and the RFU will not be brought through to the overall supply and demand analysis at the end of this report as this is deemed to be aspirational than what is projected through population growth (and also ensures that increases are not double counted). It will instead be run as a scenario in the proceeding Strategy document.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more aspirational.

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if clubs aspirations are realised.

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 teams in Hinckley & Bosworth it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior teams play at this time, whereas the peak time for age grade rugby is Sunday AM.

5.4: Supply and demand 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 used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches, unless it is known that dedicated smaller pitches are instead used.
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch, whilst age grade mixed teams use half a senior pitch.
- ◀ For senior and age grade boys/girls' teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.
- ◀ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams playing across only half of one senior pitch.
- ◀ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mixed 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 (one training session is one match equivalent session)

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

- Internal use of school pitches is added to current play where community usage is also received, 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.

Table 5.16: 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.

To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity' has been reviewed. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for 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 way the above is represented in the Table 5.17 is as follows:

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 has actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	If the cell has a dash in it, it means the pitch is played to capacity during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity at peak period; however, this is discounted. This could be due to unsecure tenure, poor pitch quality, the pitch not being available for community use, or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed (outside of peak time).

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 5.17: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting ?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Site capacity (MES per week)	Current play (MES per week)	Training (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES)	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Comments
12	Bosworth Academy	Central	LE9 9JL	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
14	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	Urban South	LE10 2HF	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1/D0	Poor	1.5	1	1	0.5	0	Used by Burbage RUFC for match play and training activity.
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	North East & Leicester	LE6 0FP	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	Urban South	LE10 1LE	No	1	Senior	No	M1/D0	Poor	1.5	1.5	-	0	0	Pitches are unavailable for community use
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	Urban South	LE10 3DR	Yes	2	Senior	Yes	M2/D2	Good	6.5	2	-	4.5	0.5	Used by Hinckley RUFC for match play and training activity.
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	Urban South	LE10 3DR	Yes	2	Age grade	No	M2/D2	Good	6.5	3	-	3.5	0	Used by Hinckley RUFC for match play and training activity.
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	Urban South	LE10 3DR	Yes	7	Age grade (unposted)	No	M2/D2	Good	22.75	3.5	1.25	18	-	Unposted pitches so therefore cannot provide actual spare capacity.
51	Market Bosworth RFC	Central	CV13 0BA	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M1/D1	Standard	2	-	4.5	2.5		Used by Market Bosworth RUFC for match play and training activity.
51	Market Bosworth RFC	Central	CV13 0BA	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard	4	1	-	3	2	Used by Market Bosworth RUFC for match play and training activity.
51	Market Bosworth RFC	Central	CV13 0BA	Yes	1	Senior	No	M2/D1	Good	3	0.5	-	2.5	1	Used by Market Bosworth RUFC for match play and training activity.
51	Market Bosworth RFC	Central	CV13 0BA	Yes	1	Age grade	No	M2/D1	Good	3	6	-	3	0	Used by Market Bosworth RUFC for match play and training activity.
68	South Charnwood High School	North East & Leicester	LE67 9TB	Yes-unused	2	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor	3	1	-	2	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	Central	CV13 0LQ	No	1	Senior	No	M2/D1	Good	3	3	-	0	0	Pitches are unavailable for community use

**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting ?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Site capacity (MES per week)	Current play (MES per week)	Training (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES)	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Comments
77	The Market Bosworth High School	Central	CV13 0JT	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M0/D0	Poor	1.5	0.5	-	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Actual spare capacity

There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual 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 regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Furthermore, there are some rugby union pitches across the Borough at education sites that are unused by clubs despite being reported as available. Whilst these may theoretically provide some spare capacity, it would not be reasonable to equate this as actual spare capacity as school usage itself is likely to limit what additional activity should take place on the provision. Moreover, the nature of club rugby generally means that clubs are generally unwilling to utilise secondary venues, making community use unlikely.

In addition, any pitches that are used by clubs to capacity at peak time, that are poor quality or that provide unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity. As such, the table below ascertains whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be used to accommodate an increase in play on a site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch basis. This is regarding senior demand.

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 junior and mini 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 for an increase in demand. However, it is acknowledged that some capacity does exist during weekends when the pitches are not in use.

The table below explores the level of actual spare capacity on rugby union pitches within the Borough. As seen, five pitches are considered to have actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in senior rugby.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 5.18: Actual spare capacity table (senior demand)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches with spare capacity	Pitch type	Potential spare capacity	Actual spare capacity (peak period)	Comments
12	Bosworth Academy	Central	1	Senior	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	North East & Leicester	1	Senior	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
40	Hinckley Rugby Football Club	Urban South	2	Senior	4.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity
51	Market Bosworth RFC	Central	2	Senior	2	2	Actual spare capacity
51	Market Bosworth RFC	Central	1	Senior	1	1	Actual spare capacity
68	South Charnwood High School	North East & Leicester	2	Senior	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
77	The Market Bosworth High School	Central	1	Senior	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.

The actual spare capacity identified is at Hinckley Rugby Football Club and Market Bosworth RFC and relates to the senior pitches located at the sites. The total amount of spare capacity amounts to 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with three identified in the Central Analysis Area and the remaining 0.5 in the Urban South Analysis Area.

Overplay

There are three senior pitches across two sites in Hinckley & Bosworth that are overplayed by a total of six match equivalent sessions per week. This is summarised by site in the table below.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 5.19: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of overplayed pitches	Overplay (match sessions per week)
14	Britannia Road Recreation Ground	Central	1	0.5
51	Market Bosworth RFC	Central	1	2.5
51	Market Bosworth RFC	Central	1	3
-	Total	-	3	6

The pitch at Britannia Road Recreation Ground is overplayed due to a basic maintenance regime being in place. Whilst the pitches at Market Bosworth RFC are overplayed due to high usage through a mixture of training demand and match play. All overplay is identified in the Central Analysis Area (six match equivalent sessions per week).

Table 5.20: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
Central	6
North East and Leicester	-
Urban South	-
West	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	6

5.5: Conclusion

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall supply and demand balance (actual spare capacity against overplay) in each of the analysis areas based on match equivalent sessions per week. Future demand is based on anticipated growth from population increases.

However, please note that this currently only quantifies future demand in terms of match demand and not training activity. It is likely that additional single gender age grade teams or senior teams will require additional training capacity which may exacerbate demonstrated shortfalls.

Table 5.21: Summary of supply and demand analysis on rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Central	3	6	3
North East and Leicester	-	-	0
Urban South	0.5	-	0.5
West	-	-	0
Hinckley & Bosworth	3.5	6	2.5

There is a current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week as a result of overplay within the Central Analysis Area.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

As seen below, future shortfalls are further exacerbated resulting in a shortfall of four match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 5.22: Future supply and demand balance of rugby union pitches in match equivalent sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Hinckley & Bosworth	2.5	1.5	4

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Five pitches are considered to have actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in senior rugby, with this totalling 3.5 match equivalent session per week.
- ◀ There are three senior pitches across two sites that are overplayed by a total of six match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There is a current capacity shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week on rugby union pitches, increasing to four when accounting for future demand.

Rugby union - supply summary

- ◀ There are 24 grass rugby union pitches identified across nine sites, with 22 pitches available for community use across seven sites.
- ◀ Of the 24 pitches provided, seven are operated by education providers, with five of these available to the community. The remaining pitches are all available, with 16 supplied at sports club sites, and the remaining one pitch provided by Burbage Parish Council.
- ◀ All three clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth have secure site tenure either via direct ownership or being part of a wider entity that has ownership or a long-term lease agreement.
- ◀ Of pitches that are available for community use in Hinckley & Bosworth, there are 11 assessed as good quality, four as standard and five as poor.
- ◀ Poor quality pitches are provided at Britannia Road Recreation Ground, Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre and The Market Bosworth High School.
- ◀ The poor quality ancillary facilities are identified at Britannia Road Recreation Ground.

Rugby union - demand summary

- ◀ There are three rugby clubs considered to be based in Hinckley & Bosworth, collectively providing 35 teams collectively. As a breakdown, this consists of seven senior men's, two senior women's, 9 age grade boys', three age grade girls' and 13 age grade mixed teams.
- ◀ Since the 2019 study, five additional teams are now registered, with a particular increase at youth and mini level. There are four additional age grade teams and one additional age grade mixed teams.
- ◀ All three clubs currently use match pitches to accommodate training demand.
- ◀ Burbage RUFC reports latent demand in that they could field more teams if it had access to increased pitch provision and links this to a need for a 3G pitch for training activity.
- ◀ Three clubs (Burbage, Hinckley and Market Bosworth rugby clubs) report future aspirations for additional teams, whilst population projections predict a growth of one senior men's, one age grade boys and one age grade mixed teams.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

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 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. England Hockey's (EH) Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as seen below.

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

Category	Surface	Playing Level	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, England Hockey reports it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand and other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2¹⁷, is a versatile sand-dress synthetic surface with a compatible shock pad that ensures that sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and can be utilised to full potential.

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

¹⁷ <http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek and also requires access to a pitch with lights. The playing season runs from September-May.

Consultation

There are no affiliated community hockey clubs based within Hinckley & Bosworth. However, there are three hockey clubs, that play within the Leicestershire Mixed Hockey Association structure and use the pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus for match play. These are Bedouins HC, Horizon HC and South Wigston HC and all field one team each.

In the previous study, Hinckley HC were identified as playing within Hinckley & Bosworth, but it has since folded.

6.2: Supply

There are four full-size suitable AGPs in Hinckley & Bosworth located across four sites. Of these, three are available for community use and are all serviced by sports lighting. The provision at Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre is unavailable for community use due to issues with safeguarding and prioritising the provision for curricular use and preserving quality of the pitches.

Table 6.2: Full size hockey suitable pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No of pitches	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	North East & Leicester	1	Yes	Yes	97 x 61
31	Heath Lane Academy	Urban South	1	Yes	Yes	98 x 60
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	Urban South	1	No	Yes	101 x 63
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	Central	1	Yes	Yes	101 x 63

Two pitches are provided in the Urban South Analysis Area and one each in the Central, North East & Leicester analysis areas.

Smaller size provision

In addition to the full size AGPs, there are two smaller size hockey suitable pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth as summarised below. The pitch at Markfield Community Sports Centre is available for community use and serviced by sports lighting, whilst the pitch at Twycross House School is not available for community use.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 6.3: Smaller size AGPs in Hinckley & Bosworth

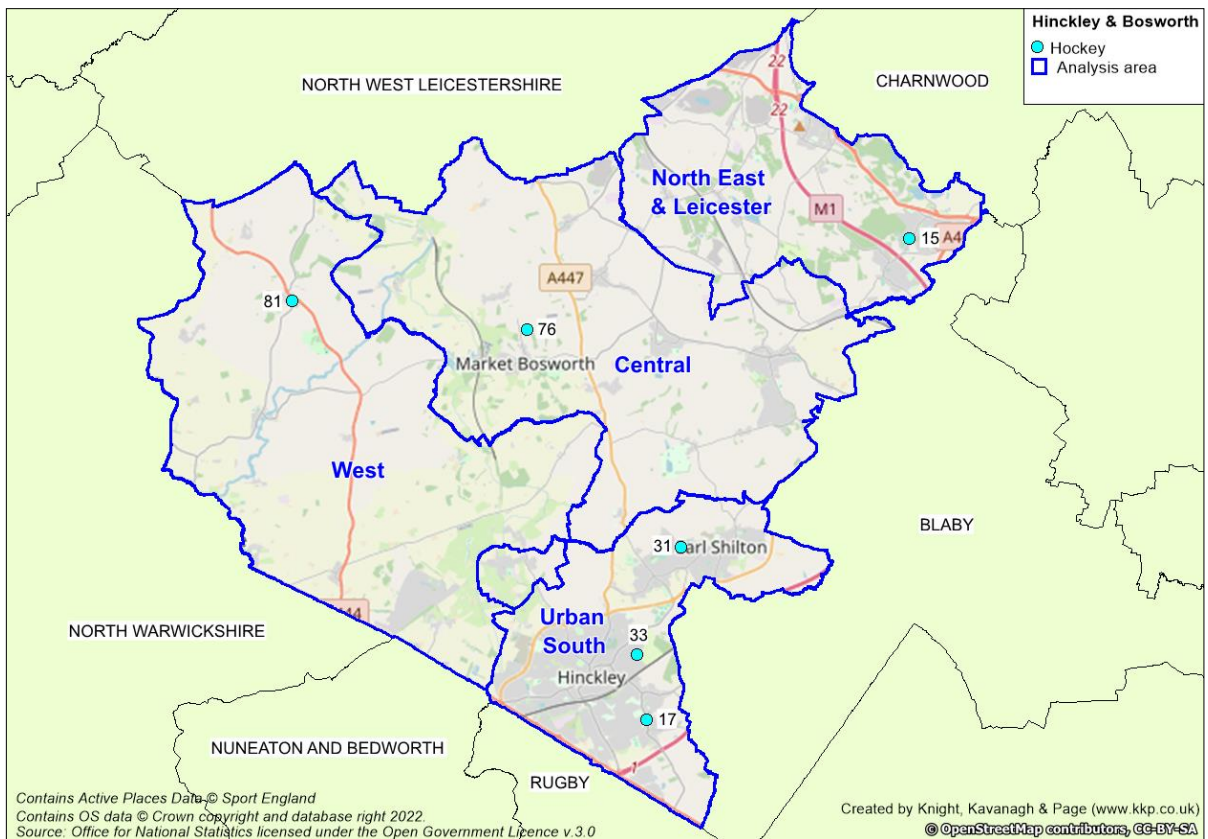
Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
54	Markfield Community Sports Centre	Urban South	1	Yes	Yes	33 x 18
81	Twycross House School	West	1	No	Yes	70 x 44

Nationally, most smaller size pitches are considered too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, although some larger ones are utilised for training demand and junior play. However, in the Borough, none of the smaller size pitches are considered suitable as they are either too small, unavailable for community use, or without sports lighting. Based on this, the stock is discounted from this point forward as the pitches are not relevant from a hockey perspective.

Notwithstanding the above, it is recognised that the smaller size pitches can be valuable assets for accommodating curricular and extra-curricular hockey demand as well as recreational community activity where availability is offered.

For the location of the full size AGPs, please see Figure 6.1.

Figure 6.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in Hinckley & Bosworth



HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Changes since the previous study

Compared to the previous study, which was last updated in 2019, there has been an increase of one smaller sized AGP at Twycross House School and was installed in 2021.

The pitch at Alans Way Sports Field has been converted to a 3G surface.

Future developments

Heath Lane Academy has a long-standing aspiration to resurface the full size pitch to a 3G surface.

As identified in the emerging Leicester PPS, the sand-based pitch at Soar Valley Academy has now been confirmed as resurfaced to a 3G surface, which is not suitable for hockey use. The pitch was previously used by Half Century Ladies and Panthers hockey clubs. Both clubs now utilise the sand-based pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus in Hinckley & Bosworth for match play on Saturdays. Consultation with Active Together reported that the School has implied they want a hub for hockey and as such the pitch will require fencing in the future.

A planning application has been submitted for a sand-dressed AGP (24/00403/FUL) for multi-sports use at Market Bosworth School.

Management and security of tenure

All four of the full size pitches are managed in house by the schools.

There is generally a lack of formal community use agreements in place, meaning that long term security of tenure is limited, with most access being secured only via seasonal rentals. This is especially the case at education sites, where the providers could theoretically stop external usage at any point outside of existing short-term arrangements. This is an issue, to some extent, for the unaffiliated hockey clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). In Hinckley & Bosworth, two of the five full size pitches have relatively good availability during the peak period, with the pitches at Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre and Twycross House School unavailable for community use.

In addition, as all pitches are located at education sites some capacity is reserved for internal school usage at weekends.

Using the peak time modelling, the availability at each site providing a full size pitch in Hinckley & Bosworth is summarised in the table overleaf. However, please note that this only refers to overall availability and opening hours, rather than considering current capacity, which is instead accounted for within the demand part of this section. A pitch may theoretically have good availability but may currently be operating at capacity, especially during peak times, based on existing usage levels.

In further summary, the pitch at The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground is fully available throughout the peak periods. At Brookvale Groby Learning Campus, full availability is offered during midweek but only eight peak time hours at weekends (it is not available on Sundays).

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

The pitches at Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre and Twycross House School are, as stated earlier, unavailable for community use.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 6.4: Availability of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Hockey club users	Availability	Midweek availability in the peak period	Weekend availability in the peak period
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	1	Bedouins HC Horizon HC South Wigston HC Panthers HC (imported) Half Century HC (imported)	Monday- Friday 17:00 to 22:00 Saturday 09:00 to 16:00	18/18	8/16
31	Heath Lane Academy	1	-	Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 17:00 to 21:00 *	12/18	0/16
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	1	-	Unavailable for community use	0	0
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	1	-	Monday-Friday 17:00 to 21:00 Saturday to Sunday 09:00 to 17:00	18/18	16/16

* Heath Lane Academy state that there is no demand for the pitch to be opened on Tuesdays.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that some providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed, leading to many pitches now being outside of their recommended lifespan and, consequently, poor quality.

For the PPOSS, each AGP has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments (in January 2024) and provider/user consultation. This rating is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and the maintenance that is undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

The following table indicates when each of the full-size pitches were installed or last resurfaced within the Borough, together with an agreed quality rating.

Table 6.5: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	1	2012	Poor
31	Heath Lane Academy	1	2015	Standard
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	1	2008	Poor
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	1	2014	Standard

The pitches at Heath Lane Academy and The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground are assessed as standard quality as the former was resurfaced in 2015 and the latter was installed in 2014. Both pitches have reported wear and tear issues.

The pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus and Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre are assessed as poor quality as they have both reached the end of its recommended lifespans; significant signs of wear and tear, worn line markings and poor grip underfoot are reported. Therefore, imminent resurfacing is required at both sites to ensure that provision can remain useable for hockey. In addition, Panthers HC have reported the sand on the pitch is overfilled and are looking at options to rectify this.

Where pitches are assessed as good or standard quality, sinking funds should still be put into place (where not already provided) to ensure that refurbishment can go ahead if and when required.

Ancillary provision

Because the hockey pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth are located at education sites, ancillary facilities are generally not dedicated to the AGPs. Nationally, this can cause logistical issues as it can result in some facilities being located a fair distance from the playing areas, although this is not noted as an issue in Hinckley & Bosworth.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

6.3: Demand

As mentioned, there are no affiliated community hockey clubs based in Hinckley & Bosworth. The nearest club offering competitive and recreational hockey opportunities for Hinckley & Bosworth residents is at either Atherstone Adders, Coalville & Loughborough Carillion HC, Nuneaton HC or Tamworth HC.

Unaffiliated demand

There are three hockey clubs, which are not affiliated to England Hockey, that use the pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus for match play. These are Bedouins HC, Horizon HC and South Wigston HC and all field one team each.

In addition to club-based hockey activity, various hockey initiatives are promoted by England Hockey, as detailed below. These can add to the level of demand in a local authority and also create need for further pitch capacity.

Participation trends (changes since the previous study)

As previously mentioned, since the 2019 study, Hinckley HC has since folded.

Additional demand

In addition to club-based hockey activity, there are also various initiatives for hockey which are promoted by EH, as detailed below. These can add to the demand in a local authority and also necessitate the need for further pitch capacity.

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.

There are no Back to Hockey sessions taking place in Hinckley & Bosworth, with the nearest taking place at Leicester Westleigh HC in Leicester.

Flyerz Hockey

Flyerz is the name widely associated with grassroots disability hockey in Great Britain. There are now more than 50 Flyerz sections across England, Wales, and Scotland, providing inclusive hockey for disabled people.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, there are currently no Flyerz Hockey sessions.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Hockey Heroes

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

There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in Hinckley & Bosworth.

In2Hockey

In2Hockey is England Hockey's adapted game format aimed at players 10-14 years old and is played as a 6-a-side game without goalkeepers, or as a 7-a-side game with goalkeepers.

There are currently no In2Hockey sessions operating in Hinckley & Bosworth.

Quicksticks

Quicksticks is designed to introduce young people (aged 7-11) to the game of hockey. It is 4-a-side, can be played on any surface, and uses a larger, lighter and safer ball. It is a fun, fast, safe and exciting game that has been designed so that anyone can deliver the game, regardless of previous hockey experience.

Currently no clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth offer dedicated Quicksticks delivery.

Rush hockey

Rush hockey is a new way to play hockey, designed as a small-sided hockey game for adults. It can be played by men and women in mixed or single gender teams, indoors or outdoors and on pitches of varying sizes. Teams are four or five aside and it is played with a standard hockey stick but with unique goals and balls.

No Rush hockey activity is identified in Hinckley & Bosworth.

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 Hinckley & Bosworth. The nearest offering is provided by at Wyndley Leisure Centre in Birmingham.

Imported/exported demand

It is believed that there is significant exported demand out of the Borough for individual residents wanting to compete in competitive hockey activity. However, England Hockey would suggest hockey is still available to residents within the Borough through the clubs competing in the Leicestershire Mixed Hockey Association.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

In terms of imported demand, the sand-based pitch at Soar Valley Academy has been lost and been converted to a 3G surface. Both Half Century HC and Panthers HC use the site as a home venue. The Clubs are both utilising the sand-based pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus in the Borough, due to the Soar Valley Academy 3G resurfacing and lack of slots at St Margarets Sports Centre, with sites located in Leicester. Half Century HC fields one senior women's team and Panthers HC fields three senior men's teams.

Latent/unmet demand

No latent or unmet demand is reported within the Borough.

Peak time demand

For matches, most senior hockey activity in Hinckley & Bosworth takes place on a Saturday.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

When assessing the capacity of hockey pitches, all usage needs to be taken into account. This is because, in addition to hockey activity, there is often heavy football usage of the provision and occasionally other sporting use which can take capacity away from hockey-based demand. Examples of this include Brookvale Groby Learning Campus and The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground, where the pitches are primarily used for football training demand.

The table below details the usage at all sites providing full size hockey suitable pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth. It compares availability during peak time against hockey use and other activity as well as taking into consideration any remaining spare capacity.

Spare capacity is considered to exist for matches if there are currently less than eight teams assigned to a pitch on a Saturday or Sunday (and if the remaining capacity is not being utilised for other purposes). It exists for training if at least a section of a pitch is available for at least an hour during midweek evenings (Tuesday-Thursday).

**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT**

Table 6.6: Usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Availability in the peak period (hours)	% of hockey usage	% of other usage (e.g., football)	Hockey club users	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)	Capacity summary
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	1	26	20%	80%	Bedouins HC Horizon HC South Wigston HC Panthers HC (imported) Half Century HC (imported)	Currently only used for football and is used to capacity by Groby Juniors. The Club utilise the grass football pitches for match play.	Used for match play by Bedouins HC, Horizon HC and South Wigston HC, Panthers HC (imported) and Half Century HC (imported) on Saturday's.	No spare capacity for midweek training or for additional match play on Saturdays. The pitch is unavailable on Sundays.
31	Heath Lane Academy	1	12	0%	100%	-	Currently unused for hockey	Currently unavailable for community use on weekends.	Spare capacity for midweek training, however, availability is limited, and quality improvements are required to accommodate this.
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use	Unavailable for community use	No capacity due to being unavailable for community use.
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	1	34	0%	100%	-	Currently only used for football and is used to capacity.	Unused for hockey purposes and only sporadically used for football purposes. Spare capacity on Saturdays and Sundays.	No spare capacity for midweek training. Spare capacity exists on Saturdays and Sundays for match play.

In summary, only the pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus is currently used for hockey activity and is generally used to capacity on Saturdays. The remaining pitches at Heath Lane Academy and The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground are well used for football training midweek and don't have any known community hockey uses.

Although 3G is the preferred surface for football training, it is important to consider football use of sand-based pitches as such usage is required to ensure that the provision remains sustainable in the long-term. Whilst the transfer of demand to 3G provision would be beneficial to the users and to the FA, it could impact on the viability of the sand-based stock.

For Hinckley & Bosworth, it is worth noting that programme of use shown above is potential evidence for the potential conversion of existing artificial grass pitches to 3G specific surface types.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Match play analysis

It is suggested that a full size hockey suitable, 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 pitch 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 currently five full size hockey suitable pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 32 senior teams at peak time across the Borough. However, the provision at Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre is discounted from this given the pitch is unavailable for community use and limited availability at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus reduces the overall capacity further due to its poor quality.

The table below therefore further explores the level of capacity provided, firstly for senior hockey (i.e., on a Saturday).

Table 6.7: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for peak time match play (Saturday)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Potential capacity in teams	Actual capacity in teams	Comments
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	North East & Leicester	1	8	6	Availability is slightly reduced.
31	Heath Lane Academy	Urban South	1	8	0	Unavailable to the community
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	Urban South	1	8	0	Unavailable to the community
76	The Dixie Grammar School Sports Ground	Central	1	8	8	Full peak time availability at weekends.
-	-	Total	4	32	14	-

As seen, it is determined that current provision can potentially accommodate up to 14 senior teams on a Saturday, with this equating to seven match equivalent sessions per week (where teams play on a home and away basis). With seven senior teams (including three unaffiliated clubs fielding one senior team, Panthers HC and Half Century HC) currently provided (equating to 14 match equivalent sessions per week) and requiring access, the provision on Saturdays is used to capacity for match play demand.

Training analysis

In terms of capacity for training, most AGPs in Hinckley & Bosworth have high levels of existing usage from football, with spare capacity for growth minimal. This is exacerbated by additional usage from other sports, most predominately football, which further reduces availability for hockey clubs at desired times.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

6.5: Conclusion

Although there appears to be a sufficient current supply of hockey suitable AGPs in Hinckley & Bosworth, some capacity pressures coupled with quality issues means there are issues to be resolved to adequately cater for existing demand.

In addition, Panthers HC and Half Century HC currently imports some senior match play demand into the Borough to Brookvale Groby Learning Campus, due to the Soar Valley Academy 3G resurfacing and lack of slots at St Margarets Sports Centre, with sites located in Leicester.

Therefore, resurfacing is required of the pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus (the only pitch in use for hockey activity) as it is currently assessed as poor quality. Therefore, priority should be first and foremost placed on protecting the pitch in the near future as without this pitch the two imported clubs (Panthers HC and Half Century HC) and the three unaffiliated hockey clubs in the Borough would be without a home venue. This could be further assisted by providing security of tenure for the clubs via establishing a long term access agreement (if opportunities to do so arise).

Pitch provision at Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre are unavailable for community use and therefore does not play a role in accommodating any community demand. At this time, neither pitch can be considered to play a role in the hockey landscape (outside of curricular use).

Based on collated evidence, there is a potential opportunity to support the aspiration to convert the sand based AGP at Heath Lane Academy to a 3G surface given the 3G shortfalls.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Although there appears to be a sufficient current supply of hockey suitable AGPs in Hinckley & Bosworth, some capacity pressures coupled with quality issues means there are issues to be resolved to adequately cater for existing demand.
- ◀ In addition, Panthers HC and Half Century HC currently imports some senior match play demand into the Borough to Brookvale Groby Learning Campus, due to the Soar Valley Academy 3G resurfacing and lack of slots at St Margarets Sports Centre, with sites located in Leicester.

Hockey – supply summary

- ◀ There are four full size suitable AGPs in Hinckley & Bosworth across four sites. Three of the pitches are available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ In addition to the full size AGPs, there are two smaller size hockey suitable pitches at Markfield Community Sports Centre and Twycross House School. However, the pitches are not suitable for purposeful hockey demand.
- ◀ As identified in the emerging Leicester PPS, the sand-based pitch at Soar Valley Academy has now been confirmed as resurfaced to a 3G surface, which is not suitable for hockey use. The pitch was previously used by Half Century Ladies and Panthers hockey clubs. Both clubs now utilise the sand-based pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus in Hinckley & Bosworth for match play on Saturdays. Consultation with Active Together reported that the School has implied they want a hub for hockey and as such the pitch will require fencing in the future.
- ◀ A planning application has been submitted for a sand-dressed AGP (24/00403/FUL) for multi-sports use at Market Bosworth School.
- ◀ All five of the full size AGPs are managed internally by the schools themselves.
- ◀ Limited security of tenure is provided, this is an issue, to some extent, for the unaffiliated clubs who utilise the pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus (Bedouins HC, Horizon HC and South Wigston HC).
- ◀ Most of the full size pitches have relatively good availability during the peak period, with the pitches at Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre and Twycross House School are unavailable for community use.
- ◀ Of the full size pitches, one is assessed as good quality (Twycross House School, two as standard quality and two as poor quality).

Hockey – demand summary

- ◀ There are no affiliated community hockey clubs within Hinckley & Bosworth.
- ◀ It is believed that there is significant exported demand out of the Borough for individual residents wanting to compete in competitive hockey activity. Due to there being no hockey clubs in the Borough these individuals will be members of clubs which play in neighbouring boroughs such as Nuneaton and Bedworth, North Warwickshire and North West Leicestershire.
- ◀ In terms of imported demand, the sand-based pitch at Soar Valley Academy has been lost and been converted to a 3G surface. Both Half Century HC and Panthers HC use the site as a home venue. The Clubs are both utilising the sand-based pitch at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus in the Borough, due to the Soar Valley Academy 3G resurfacing and lack of slots at St Margarets Sports Centre, with sites located in Leicester. Half Century HC fields one senior women's team and Panthers HC fields three senior men's teams.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

PART 7: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS

7.1: Baseball and softball

Introduction

Both baseball and softball are governed by Baseball and Softball UK (BSUK). BSUK has aligned its strategic goals to Sport England's Uniting the Movement, an initiative concentrated on increasing the sporting activity levels across under-represented communities, in the hope of securing investment for 2022-2027.

Baseball, the more commonly known of the two sports, is played between two teams of nine players, both of which, alternate between batting and fielding across nine innings. In contrast, two forms of softball exist: slow pitch and fast pitch. Both sports in England operate from April until September.

Supply

No dedicated baseball/softball diamonds have been identified within Hinckley & Bosworth. The nearest permanent facility is provided at Western Park Sports Ground in Leicester.

Demand

No demand for baseball/softball is identified in Hinckley & Bosworth. In effect, any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to play for 'Leicester Royals'.

Supply and demand analysis

With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, baseball/softball should not be considered a priority for the Council. Any demand that does exist should be directed to clubs in nearby authorities such as Oadby & Wigston to ensure that it is catered for (e.g., Leicester Royals Softball Club).

7.2: American football

Introduction

American football in the UK is governed and administered by the British American Football Association (BAFA). This covers both contact and flag activity. Adult contact teams play within the BAFA National League or the BAFA Women's National League and play home and away fixtures per the regular season with a playoff system to follow for those which qualify.

Junior contact football is played as a full 11v11 format league season for U19s, whilst U16s contact football is played as a 5v5 format with full equipment and tackling based across a series of day tournaments as part of a festival structure.

Flag football is the fastest growing format of the game not only in Great Britain, but also across the world, with professional leagues such as the American Flag Football League and the newly established NFL Flag starting to spring up. It is a high-octane, non-contact version of American football, where tackles are made by pulling off flags which all players wear on their hips.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

There are multiple formats and variations globally, but in Great Britain the predominant format is 5v5 aligning with the current International Federation of American Football competition format.

Supply

No dedicated American football pitches have been identified within Hinckley & Bosworth. The nearest is located in Oadby & Wigston at Stoughton Road Sports Pitches (home to University of Leicester).

Demand

No demand for American football is identified in Hinckley & Bosworth. In effect, any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to play for 'Leicester Panthers'.

Supply and demand analysis

No demand for American Football is identified in Hinckley & Bosworth. In effect, any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to play for 'Leicester Panthers' in Leicester.

7.3: Rugby league

Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in England. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK.

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

Supply

There are no rugby league pitches in Hinckley & Bosworth. The nearest pitch is located at Nottingham at Riverside Sports Complex, home of Nottingham Outlaws RLFC.

Demand

No demand for rugby league is identified in Hinckley & Bosworth. In effect, any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to play for 'Nottingham Outlaws RLFC' in Nottingham.

Supply and demand analysis

With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, rugby league should not be considered a priority for the Council. Any demand that does exist should be directed to clubs in neighbouring authorities such as Nottingham to ensure that it is catered for (e.g., Nottingham Outlaws RLFC).

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Other grass pitch sports – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Supply for the remaining sports is adequate to meet current – or there is no identifiable local demand.
- ◀ Where sports are not currently catered for, it is imperative that any localised demand is signposted to neighbouring authorities to ensure that it can be accommodated.

Other grass pitch sports - supply summary

- ◀ There are no baseball/softball, American football, rugby league or lacrosse pitches in the Authority. Provision for these sports is made in neighbouring authorities.

Other grass pitch sports - demand summary

- ◀ There is no baseball/softball, rugby league or American football taking place in the Borough. Some residents are likely to be being accommodated in neighbouring authorities where clubs are present.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

PART 8: BOWLS

8.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Hinckley & Bosworth are flat green bowls (as opposed to crown greens). Bowls England is the NGB responsible for ensuring effective governance of flat green bowls across the Country.

Consultation

There are 12 bowling clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth, Of these, 10 have responded to consultation requests; a response rate of 83%.

Table 8.1: Summary of consultation responses

Club name	Analysis area	Responded?
Bagworth BC	North East & Leicester	Yes
Barlestone BC	Central	Yes
Barwell BC	Urban South	Yes
Burbage Constitutional BC	Urban South	No
Burbage Crusaders BC	Urban South	Yes
Burgess BC	Urban South	Yes
Desford BC	Central	No
Hinckley BC	Urban South	Yes
Hinckley Sweet Pea BC	Urban South	Yes
Hollycroft Park BC	Urban South	Yes
Kingscroft BC	Urban South	Yes
Market Bosworth BC	Central	Yes

8.2: Supply

There are 11 flat bowling greens in Hinckley & Bosworth across the same number of sites. All are available for community use.

Table 8.2: Summary of available greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of flat greens
Central	3
North East & Leicester	1
Urban South	7
West	-
Total	11

The Urban South Analysis Area provides seven greens, whilst there is three greens in the Central and one in the North East & Leicester analysis areas. There are no flat bowling greens in the West Analysis Area.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

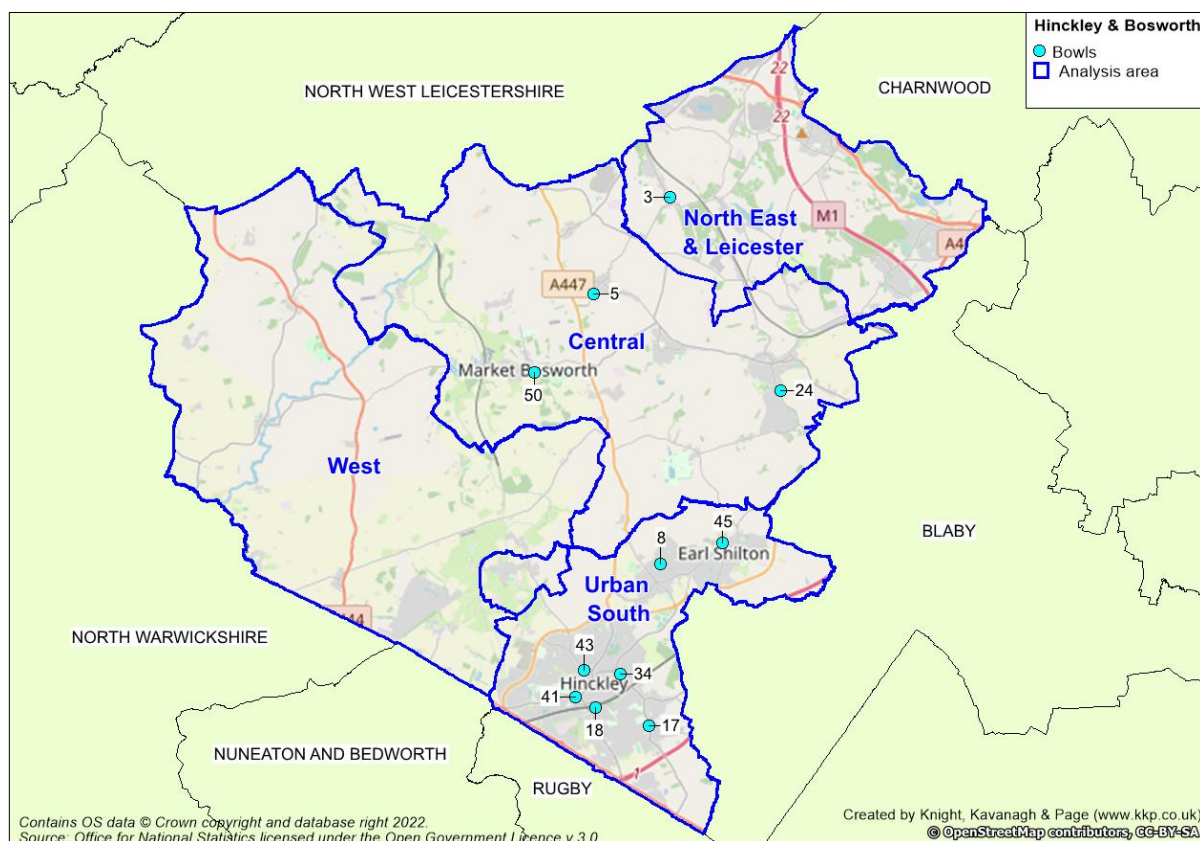
Indoor bowls

Whilst this report only considers outdoor bowling greens, it must be referenced that there is one indoor bowling green in Hinckley & Bosworth. This is located at Barwell Indoor Bowling Club. This is pertinent to this study as many users and members of outdoor bowling greens also utilise and are members of indoor facilities, particularly during winter months.

From consultation, all the responsive clubs report that some of its members also utilise indoor provision, most commonly outside of the outdoor bowling season. This is done on an individual basis rather than any of the clubs having a formal arrangement in place.

Figure 8.1 below highlights the location of all outdoor bowling greens currently servicing Hinckley & Bosworth. For a key to the map see Table 8.3 overleaf.

Figure 8.1: Location of bowling greens in Hinckley & Bosworth



HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 8.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Users	Management
3	Bagworth Bowling Club	LE67 1BH	North East & Leicester	Bagworth BC	Parish Council
5	Barlestone Bowls Club	CV13 0JE	Central	Barlestone BC	Parish Council
8	Barwell Bowling Club	LE9 8FQ	Urban South	Barwell BC	Sports Club
17	Burbage & District Constitutional Club	LE10 2DE	Urban South	Burbage Constitutional BC	Sports Club
18	Burbage Crusaders Bowls Club	LE10 2UE	Urban South	Burbage Crusaders BC Burgess BC	Sports Club
24	Desford Bowling Club	LE9 9JU	Central	Desford BC	Sports Club
34	Hinckley Bowling Club	LE10 1EX	Urban South	Hinckley BC	Sports Club
41	Hinckley Sweet Pea Bowling Club	LE10 0PN	Urban South	Hinckley Sweet Pea BC	Sports Club
43	Hollycroft Park (Bosworth)	LE10 0BG	Urban South	Hollycroft Park BC	Council
45	Kingscroft Bowls Club	LE9 7NL	Urban South	Kingscroft BC	Sports Club
50	Market Bosworth Bowling Club	CV13 0AX	Central	Market Bosworth BC	Sports Club

Ownership/management

Details around the ownership and management arrangements for clubs which responded to consultation requests are provided in the table below.

Table 8.4: Ownership/management arrangements for bowling clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth

Name of club	Ownership/management details
Bagworth BC	Leases the green from Bagworth Parish Council on an annual basis
Barlestone BC	Leases the green from Barlestone Parish Council on an annual basis
Barwell BC	Rents the green via the wider sport club
Burbage Constitutional BC	Owns the freehold at Burbage & District Constitutional Club
Burbage Crusaders BC	Owns the freehold at Burbage Crusaders Bowls Club
Burgess BC	Rents the green at Burbage Crusaders Bowls Club
Desford BC	Rents the green via the wider sport club
Hinckley BC	Owns the freehold at Hinckley Bowling Club
Hinckley Sweet Pea BC	Owns the freehold at Hinckley Sweet Pea Bowling Club
Hollycroft Park BC	Leases the green from the Council at Hollycroft Park (Bosworth)
Kingscroft BC	Owns the freehold at Kingscroft Bowls club
Market Bosworth BC	Owns the freehold at Market Bosworth Bowling Club

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Generally, any clubs with lease agreements with fewer than 25 years remaining (unless recently entered into) are considered to have unsecure tenure as this can, amongst other things, prevent site development and limit their capacity to make external funding applications.

Six bowls clubs have freehold of their sites. As such, none of these clubs have any security of tenure concerns.

Quality

The quality of bowling greens across Hinckley & Bosworth has 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.

For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers, but are not limited to, several attributes of the site including evenness of playing surface, condition of ditches/boarding, quality of surrounding hard areas, disability access, evidence of litter/leaf fall/fouling/inappropriate use and quality of ancillary provision (clubhouse/pavilion/car parking/floodlights/fencing). For further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Of the bowling greens in Hinckley & Bosworth, three (27%) are assessed as good quality and eight (73%) as standard quality. None are assessed as poor quality. This is summarised site-by-site in the table below.

Table 8.5: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Quality
3	Bagworth Bowling Club	North East & Leicester	Standard
5	Barlestone Bowls Club	Central	Standard
8	Barwell Bowling Club	Urban South	Good
17	Burbage & District Constitutional Club	Urban South	Standard
18	Burbage Crusaders Bowls Club	Urban South	Standard
24	Desford Bowling Club	Central	Standard
34	Hinckley Bowling Club	Urban South	Good
41	Hinckley Sweet Pea Bowling Club	Urban South	Standard
43	Hollycroft Park (Bosworth)	Urban South	Standard
45	Kingscroft Bowls Club	Urban South	Good
50	Market Bosworth Bowling Club	Central	Standard

The good quality greens are located at Barwell Bowling Club, Hinckley Bowling Club and Kingscroft Bowls Club, whilst the standard quality greens are located at the remaining sites. Greater signs of wear and tear are present at the standard quality sites as well as some bare patches.

Hinckley Sweet Pea BC reports that its green is standard quality as it is becoming more difficult and costly to maintain to appropriate levels. In contrast, Hollycroft BC reports that the quality of its green has improved in recent years due to an enhanced maintenance regime. It states that it has engaged the services of a greenkeeper, which costs covered by existing funds and income from social events, membership fees and member donations.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Ancillary provision

Most clubs have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house, although the quality of these ranges from purpose-built, good quality brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters. It is therefore important to recognise the importance of ancillary provision to bowling clubs as, if the facilities onsite are of suitable quantity/quality and meet players' needs, this can help sustain and grow membership levels. This is also acknowledged by the governing bodies as both offer potential grants for clubs looking to make ancillary facility improvements.

Across Hinckley & Bosworth, most clubs report that they are satisfied with their current provision, although some have improvement plans/aspirations, including Hinckley BC, for example. The Club report plans to renovate its pavilion in the near future and has secured funding to undertake this.

Barlestone BC report its pavilion is of an excellent quality with a range of facilities including a kitchen and social area. However, it is currently not serviced by any showers.

Hollycroft Park BC report its ancillary provision is of standard quality. It has maintained a good working relationship with the Council through acquiring funding to spent on improving/maintaining the quality of the pavilion.

No other clubs report any significant problems with their clubhouse facilities, although Bagworth BC reports some issues with car parking. It states it shares a car park with Bagworth Community Centre and therefore provision is limited. Whilst Hinckley BC report its car parking provision is not sufficient and is too small and down a side road with pot holes.

Sports lighting

Bowling greens that are serviced by sports lighting can enable increased usage, especially during evenings outside of summer months. However, in Hinckley & Bosworth, no greens are currently serviced. That being said bowling greens with sports lighting are somewhat rare across the Country and this is therefore comparable with the national picture. The indoor provision at Barwell Indoor Bowling Club provides a suitable alternative especially during the winter.

8.3: Demand

Current demand

There are 12 clubs using bowling greens in Hinckley & Bosworth. Membership, where known (10 clubs), equates to 563 members, made up of 350 senior men, 197 senior women and 16 junior members. This is summarised club-by-club in the table below.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 8.6: Membership for bowls clubs across Hinckley & Bosworth

Club	Analysis area	Senior males	Senior females	Juniors	Total
Bagworth BC	North East & Leicester	18	7	-	25
Barlestone BC	Central	5	5	-	10
Barwell BC	Urban South	39	30	-	69
Burbage Constitutional BC	Urban South	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Burbage Crusaders BC	Urban South	22	18	-	40
Burgess BC	Urban South	21	6	-	27
Desford BC	Central	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Hinckley BC	Urban South	48	31	3	82
Hinckley Sweet Pea BC	Urban South	45	30	2	77
Hollycroft Park BC	Urban South	32	15	1	48
Kingscroft BC	Urban South	71	29	3	103
Market Bosworth BC	Central	49	26	7	82
Total	-	350	197	16	563

The largest club is Kingscroft BC with 103 members, whilst the smallest is Barlestone BC with just 10 members. Average club membership is 56 members.

By analysis area, the Urban South Analysis Area provides for the most demand for both formats, which aligns to it containing the largest number of greens. The North East & Leicester and West analysis areas do not have any participation figures due to no clubs existing in these areas.

Table 8.7: Summary of membership by analysis area

Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Juniors	Total
Central	54	31	7	92
North East and Leicester	18	7	-	25
Urban South	239	149	9	377
West	-	-	-	-
Hinckley & Bosworth	350	197	16	563

Participation trends

In line with the national trend of declining membership, Barlestone BC reports that it has experienced a decrease in its membership numbers over recent years.

The remaining responsive clubs report that demand has generally remained static. That being said, due to the nature of the sport, even clubs with static membership need to continuously attract new members to mitigate against the loss of existing users.

Additional demand

Two clubs report that their greens are available for pay and play, in addition for use by members. The clubs are Hollycroft Park BC and Kingscroft BC.

Notwithstanding the above, none of the clubs report significant uptake and the most state that any pay and play users are generally accompanied by members.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

For the remaining clubs, the most prominent reason for pay and play not being offered is that there is no one on site at required times to manage the process. There is also a perceived lack of demand to make it financially viable.

Play Bowls

Play Bowls is a new product designed to assist clubs in attracting more casual, pay and play participants. Clubs are now able to sign up to the scheme, with booking slots for access then able to be secured and paid for via the Play Bowls website. The aim is for this to help the sport become much more accessible whilst making it easy for clubs to evolve and manage the demand from the casual audience.

Every affiliated flat green bowls club is now on the Play-Bowls website (pay-as-you-play).

Bowls Big Weekend

Bowls' Big Weekend gives people across the country the opportunity to play the sport for free in a relaxed, informal setting.

Bowls' Big Weekend takes place on the second bank holiday in May annually (from Friday to Monday). The aim of the weekend allows clubs across the country will open their doors to enable new participants to discover everything that is great about our sociable, accessible sport.

Three clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth (Burbage Constitutional BC, Kingscroft BC and Market Bosworth BC) competed in the Bowls Big Weekend in 2024.

Bowls Bash

To increase participation, Bowls England has recently launched a product known as Bowls Bash. This is an exciting, new form of lawn bowls that is easy to play, shortened and fun for all ages and abilities. The aim is to roll the ball at the Jack; the closer you get, the more points you earn for your team, and bonus points are given for kissing the target. It is normally played in teams of two, with players delivering 30 bowls each per match, and generally lasts an hour.

None of the clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth has signed up for Bowls Bash.

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of greens for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example where a club operates a waiting list.

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

All responding clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them, and none report having a waiting list in place. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members. This means that it is likely that other barriers are preventing increased participation, rather than a lack of provision or capacity.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Future demand

Bowls England is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation. As such, it is taking active steps at county and national level to encourage younger players to participate. The future growth for the sport is therefore in a state of flux due to the growing professionalism of the NGB.

Furthermore, using ONS projections, the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2041. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase, although exactly to what extent is unclear.

Of responding clubs, seven report future demand aspirations, with this equating to an overall growth of 67 members (52 senior and 15 junior). This summarised by club in the following table.

Table 8.8: Summary of future demand

Club	Analysis area	Seniors	Junior
Barlestone BC	Central	10	-
Burbage Crusaders BC	Urban South	6	-
Burgess BC	Urban South	6	-
Hinckley Sweet Pea BC	Urban South	5	-
Hollycroft Park BC	Urban South	5	5
Kingscroft BC	Urban South	10	10
Market Bosworth BC	Central	10	-
Total	-	52	15

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 morning and afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. It is also agreed that capacity should be assessed on a site-by-site and club-by-club basis as the club-orientated nature of the sport means that demand cannot and does not easily transfer.

Based on the above, capacity ratings for bowling greens in Hinckley & Bosworth are classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
At capacity range	Membership is at the capacity limit of the green
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in Hinckley & Bosworth receives, where information is known.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

Table 8.9: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site	Club user	Current members	Future demand
3	Bagworth Bowling Club	Bagworth BC	25	25
5	Barlestone Bowls Club	Barlestone BC	10	20
8	Barwell Bowling Club	Barwell BC	69	69
18	Burbage Crusaders Bowls Club	Burbage Crusaders BC Burgess BC	67	79
34	Hinckley Bowling Club	Hinckley BC	82	82
41	Hinckley Sweet Pea Bowling Club	Hinckley Sweet Pea BC	77	82
43	Hollycroft Park (Bosworth)	Hollycroft Park BC	48	58
45	Kingscroft Bowls Club	Kingscroft BC	103	123
50	Market Bosworth Bowling Club	Market Bosworth BC	82	92

The table above shows that only two clubs (Bagworth BC and Hollycroft Park BC) are currently operating within a 'sustainable' capacity range within Hinckley & Bosworth.

At the other end of the spectrum, Barlestone BC is currently operating below the capacity limit with just 10 members. However, the Club expresses future demand sufficient to take it above the membership required to ensure sustainability.

The remaining seven clubs, where membership is known, are operating above the recommended capacity limit, with these being at Barwell BC, Burbage Crusaders BC, Burgess BC, Hinckley BC, Hinckley Sweet Pea BC, Kingscroft BC and Market Bosworth BC. However, these clubs didn't specifically mention a need for an additional bowling green to accommodate existing or further demand.

Clubs with high memberships play both competitive matches and recreational matches throughout a full week to offer something for everyone within their respective membership bases, and to that end, peak time pressures are reduced for this reason.

Those clubs which have a substantial level of demand need to be monitored to ensure they have the appropriate quantity and quality of provision. Bowls England identifies that clubs operating with a membership of over 60 members per green could (but may not) have capacity issues. Emphasis in this regard should therefore be on supporting clubs with aspirations to improve their sites as this will likely improve the capacity for the provision to accommodate increased levels of demand.

8.5: Conclusion

In summary, all current demand identified is being accommodated. However, Burbage Crusaders BC, Burgess BC, Hinckley BC, Hinckley Sweet Pea BC, Kingscroft BC and Market Bosworth BC are operating at or above recommended capacity guidelines and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.

The total membership for the 10 responsive clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth is 563. Therefore, the average bowls club membership in Hinckley & Bosworth is 56 members. Seven clubs highlight aspirations to increase membership. These clubs all suggest that future demand can adequately be accommodated on their existing greens.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Bowls – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Seven clubs are operating at or above the recommended capacity levels (more than 60 members) and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.
- ◀ At the other end of the spectrum, Barlestone BC is currently operating below the capacity limit, with just 10 members. However, the club expresses future demand sufficient to take it above the membership required to ensure sustainability.
- ◀ Future demand expressed can be accommodated on existing greens. However, where future demand is expressed at sites which are already over capacity, these will need to be monitored as part of Stage E to ensure this position remains the same.

Bowls – supply summary

- ◀ There are 11 flat bowling greens in Hinckley & Bosworth across the same number of sites. All are available for community use. The Urban South Analysis Area provides seven greens, whilst there is three greens in the Central and one in the North East & Leicester analysis areas. There are no flat bowling greens in the West Analysis Area.
- ◀ Most bowling greens are owned and managed by the Local Authority, parish council or respective sports club.
- ◀ Across Hinckley & Bosworth, three (27%) are assessed as good quality and eight (73%) as standard quality. None are assessed as poor quality.

Bowls – demand summary

- ◀ There are 12 bowling clubs as playing within Hinckley & Bosworth, with 10 responding to consultation requests to date and given membership figures. Membership of the responsive clubs where known totals 563 members, resulting in an average membership of 56 members.
- ◀ The largest club is Kingscroft BC with 103 members, whilst the smallest is Barlestone BC with just 10 members.
- ◀ Two greens are available for pay and play usage, although take-up is reportedly minimal.
- ◀ Of responding clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth, seven clubs highlight plans to increase membership. These aspirations total 67 additional members.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

PART 9: TENNIS

9.1: Introduction

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

The LTA provides recommended and minimum dimensions per tennis court and depending on how many courts are provided. The recommended court size for one court is 36.57m x 18.29m and the minimum court size is 34.75m x 17.07m. More sizes can be found on the LTA website¹⁸

Consultation

There are three tennis clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth. Of these, two responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 66%, as summarised in the table below. The unresponsive club is Desford TC.

Information from the non-responsive club (Desford TC) is gathered through non-technical site visits, information from the LTA and online research.

Table 9.1: Summary of consultation responses

Club name	Analysis area	Responded?
Desford TC	Central	No
Hinckley Town TC	Urban South	Yes
Market Bosworth LTC	Central	Yes

9.2: Supply

There are 48 traditional tennis courts identified in Hinckley & Bosworth across 14 sites. Of these courts, 33 are categorised across eight sites as being available for community use compared to 15 courts that are unavailable at five sites.

The largest number of courts are located in the Urban South Analysis Area has the most courts (24 courts) of which 16 (66%) are available for community use. In contrast, the West Analysis Area only has two courts, which are both unavailable for community use.

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
Central	15	4
North East & Leicester	2	1
Urban South	16	8
West	-	2
Total	33	15

¹⁸<https://www.lta.org.uk/support-centre/venue-support/facilities-and-funding/facilities-support/what-are-the-lta-recommended-court-dimensions/>

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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).

In full, the unavailable courts in Hinckley & Bosworth are located at:

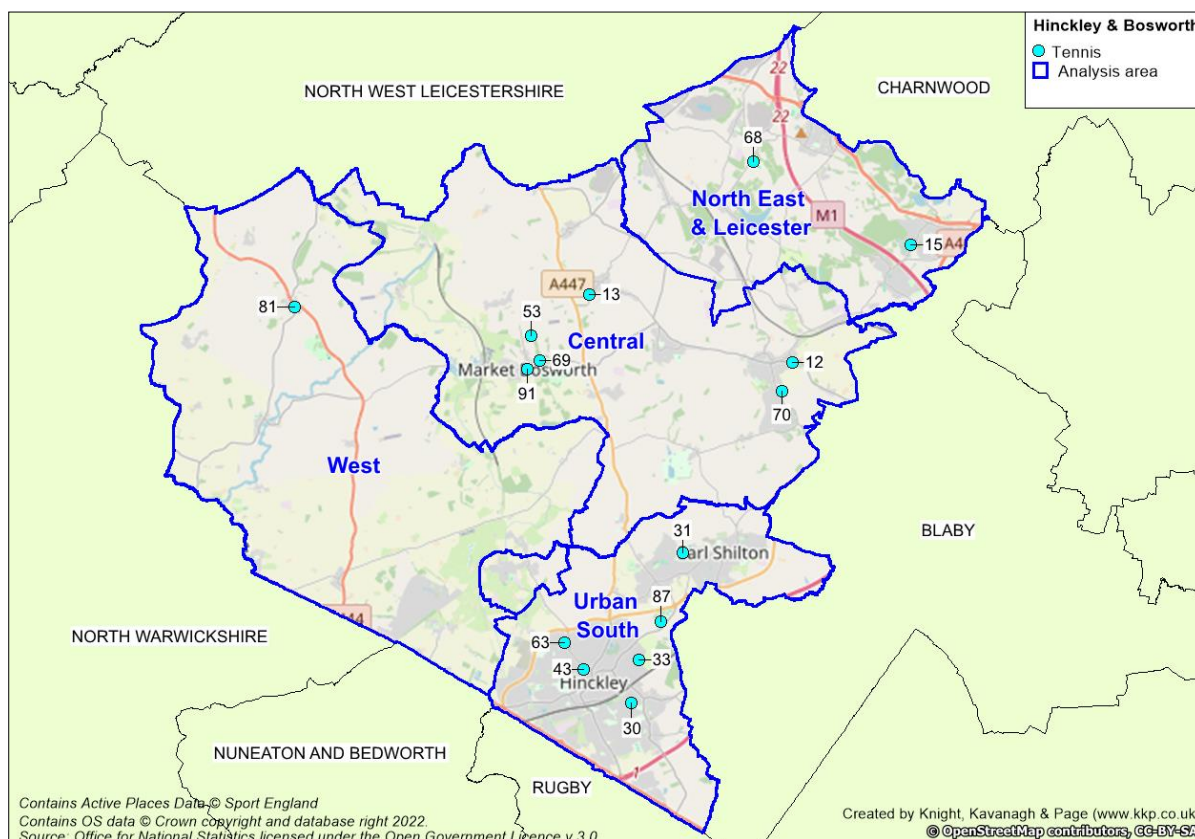
- ◀ Brookvale Groby Learning Campus.
- ◀ Hastings High School.
- ◀ Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre.
- ◀ Spindles Heath & Leisure (Warwickshire).
- ◀ The Dixie Grammar School.

Changes from the previous study

Overall, there has been a decrease in the number of available tennis courts within Hinckley & Bosworth since the 2019 study, with this equating to a 11% decrease from 54 to 48 courts in 2024. This is primarily due to a mixture of education sites marking out less tennis courts and the loss of two courts at Alans Way Sports Field (has been converted to a smaller size 3G pitch). Only the community available courts were included in the previous study with no reference to those courts unavailable for use, as such a comparison is unable to be made.

Figure 9.1 shows the location of courts servicing Hinckley & Bosworth that are included within the study. For a key to the map, see Table 9.4.

Figure 9.1: Location of tennis courts in Hinckley & Bosworth



**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT**

Table 9.3: Summary of outdoor tennis courts in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	Club user?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
12	Bosworth Academy	LE9 9JL	Central	Education	Yes	-	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
13	Bosworth Road Recreation Ground	CV13 0HU	Central	Parish Council	Yes	-	1	No	Macadam	Poor
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	LE6 0FP	North East & Leicester	Education	No	-	1	No	Macadam	Poor
30	Hastings High School	LE10 2QE	Urban South	Education	No	-	6	No	Macadam	Poor
31	Heath Lane Academy	LE9 7PD	Urban South	Education	Yes-unused	-	4	No	Macadam	Standard
31	Heath Lane Academy	LE9 7PD	Urban South	Education	Yes-unused	-	3	No	Macadam	Poor
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	LE10 1LE	Urban South	Education	No	-	2	No	Macadam	Poor
43	Hollycroft Park (Bosworth)	LE10 0BG	Urban South	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Standard
53	Market Bosworth Tennis Club	CV13 6PD	Central	Sports Club	Yes	Market Bosworth LTC	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
53	Market Bosworth Tennis Club	CV13 6PD	Central	Sports Club	Yes	Market Bosworth LTC	3	Yes	Artificial	Good
63	Redmoor Academy	LE10 0EP	Urban South	Education	Yes-unused	-	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
68	South Charnwood High School	LE67 9TB	North East & Leicester	Education	Yes-unused	-	2	No	Macadam	Poor
69	Spindles Health & Leisure (Warwickshire)	CV13 0LP	Central	Industry Sports Club	No	-	3	Yes	Macadam	Poor
70	Sport in Desford	LE9 9JU	Central	Sports Club	Yes	Desford TC	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
70	Sport in Desford	LE9 9JU	Central	Sports Club	Yes	Desford TC	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
87	Hinckley Town Tennis Club	LE10 3DR	Urban South	Sports Club	Yes	Hinckley Town TC	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
81	Twycross House School	CV9 3PL	West	Education	No	-	2	No	Macadam	Standard
91	The Dixie Grammar School	CV13 0LE	Central	Education	No	-	1	No	Macadam	Poor

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Future provision

Hinckley Town LTC has an aspiration for its own indoor facility, ideally with four courts. However, as it stands, such plans remain aspirational, with no formal plans or funding in place.

Similarly, Desford and Market Bosworth tennis clubs have an aspiration to cover its courts and to ensure it can play tennis all-year round. However, this is purely aspirational, with no formal plans or funding in place.

LTA youth provision

LTA Youth provides children with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. It utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. This has five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ◀ Blue: Learn the Basics – tennis lessons for ages 4-6.
- ◀ Red: Serve, Rally and Score – tennis lessons for ages 6-8.
- ◀ Orange: Develop a Rounded Game - tennis lessons for ages 8-9.
- ◀ Green: Test your Skills - tennis lessons for ages 9-10.
- ◀ Yellow: Take your Skills Further – tennis lessons for ages 10+.

No dedicated mini tennis courts have been identified in Hinckley & Bosworth; however, full size courts can be utilised via the use of cones or other forms of temporary line markings. Although having dedicated mini courts is desirable and can facilitate and increase independent junior play, it is not essential to cater for such demand.

Padel provision

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. In 2022, 90,000 people reportedly played padel more than once in England, representing a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 (15,000). This exemplifies the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, 350 in 2023 with 500 courts are now in 2024. There is a projected growth of 1,000 courts in 2026. It is therefore envisaged that the infrastructure and participation in padel will increase significantly in the next five years.

Since 2021, the LTA has invested £6 million to grow padel infrastructure and in 2023 129,000 players were reportedly playing padel. Building on from this, LTA has outlined a Padel Strategy (2024-2029). The key objectives are to:

- ◀ Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population, interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation.
- ◀ Increase the number of annual padel players from 129,000 to 400,000, and monthly players from 65,000 to 200,000.
- ◀ Increase the number of padel courts from 350 to 1,000.
- ◀ Grow the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700.
- ◀ Enable 10 players to break into the top 200 and two players into the top 100 and inspire the padel audience.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

In Hinckley & Bosworth, there are no outdoor padel courts, with the nearest being located in Harborough at Market Harborough Squash Club. The LTA estimates a further 26 courts across Leicestershire, with LTA suggesting that a potential eight courts could be provided within the Borough in the future.

The LTA states that padel court development at leisure centre sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model. Furthermore, it identifies that they can benefit clubs and particularly those that may be otherwise struggling due to the additional revenue that they can provide.

Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging providers to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of traditional tennis courts remains sufficient.

Ownership/management

The table below highlights the management/ownership of tennis courts within Hinckley & Bosworth.

In total, 12 courts (25%) are provided at club sites, four (8%) are provided at local authority/parish council sites, with all these available for community use. There are 27 (56%) provided at education sites, although only 15 (55%) of these are community available.

Table 9.4: Outdoor tennis courts by management type

Community use	Sports club	Council/parish council	Education	Other
Available	12	4	15	-
Unavailable	-	-	12	3
Hinckley & Bosworth	12	4	27	3

Courts classified as 'other' include those at Spindles Health & Leisure (Warwickshire) which are only available to private members.

Security of tenure

Security of tenure is provided to all tennis clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth with all clubs either owning their sites or leasing them on a long-term basis. As such, no clubs report any issues in this regard.

Venues used by each club and the tenure arrangements in place are summarised in the following table.

Table 9.5: Summary of club venues and tenure

Club name	Site used	Type of tenure
Desford TC	Sport in Desford	Lease
Hinckley Town TC	Hinckley Town Tennis Club	Lease
Market Bosworth LTC	Market Bosworth Tennis Club	Lease

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Court type

All outdoor tennis courts have a macadam surface, with 45 being of this type and 30 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. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

Table 9.6: Summary of tennis court types across Hinckley & Bosworth

Court type	Available for community use	Unavailable for community use	Total number of courts
Macadam	30	15	45
Artificial	3	-	3
Total	33	15	48

Sports lighting

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

In Hinckley & Bosworth, 24 out of the 48 tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing half (50%) of the provision. Of these, all are available for community use across the following sites:

- ◆ Bosworth Academy.
- ◆ Hinckley Town Tennis Club.
- ◆ Market Bosworth Tennis Club.
- ◆ Redmoor Academy.
- ◆ Spindles Health & Leisure (Warwickshire).
- ◆ Sport in Desford.

A lack of sports lighting at other 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 for clubs as it allows for greater use of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. To that end, it must be noted that in Hinckley & Bosworth, all clubs have access to some courts that are sports lit.

Hinckley Town TC reports it has plans to replace the floodlights at its site with LED lighting. It is currently sourcing the funding to carry this work out.

A lack of sports lighting at other 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).

Away from clubs and schools, increasing the number of local authority courts with sports lighting is also a strategic aim for the LTA due to the additional recreational demand and

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

tennis programmes such provision can help accommodate. Of the local authority courts in Hinckley & Bosworth, none are currently serviced by sports lighting.

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme¹⁹

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

Overmarking of courts

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

In Hinckley & Bosworth, some or all of the courts at the sites featured in the following table are overmarked.

Table 9.7: Summary of tennis court overmarking

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Tennis courts	Overmarked with
12	Bosworth Academy	Central	3	Three netball courts
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	North East & Leicester	1	One netball court
30	Hastings High School	Urban South	6	Four netball courts
31	Heath Lane Academy	Urban South	7	Five netball courts
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	Urban South	2	Two netball courts
63	Redmoor Academy	Urban South	3	Three netball courts

¹⁹ [Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](#)

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Tennis courts	Overmarked with
68	South Charnwood High School	North East & Leicester	2	Two netball courts
70	Sport in Desford	Central	5	Two netball courts

The majority are overmarked by netball courts which are identified in greater detail in Part 10: Netball.

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.

Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of tennis and therefore the non-technical assessment assesses several factors are used to determine court quality. The criterion for the non-technical assessment include assessing grip underfoot, damage to the surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size for competitive tennis.

Of the courts in Hinckley & Bosworth, 12 (25%) are assessed as good quality (of which all are available for community use), with 17 (35%) assessed as standard quality (15 available for community use) and 19 (40%) assessed as poor quality (six are available for community use).

Table 9.8: Quality of tennis courts across Hinckley & Bosworth

Community use?	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	12	15	6
Unavailable	-	2	13

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

- ✦ Bosworth Road Recreation Ground.
- ✦ Heath Lane Academy.
- ✦ South Charnwood High School.
- ✦ Spindles Health & Leisure (Warwickshire).

Issues recorded at these sites include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel. Moreover, maintenance is also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the poor quality sites, which can lead to further deterioration.

Bosworth Road Recreation Ground is the only site in the Borough operated by a parish council with poor quality courts. It is rated as such noted due to the point of being unsafe for use.

Improving public courts is currently a national priority for the LTA, with a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so. This is especially if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and sports lighting.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

In terms of club courts, Market Bosworth TC is serviced by good quality courts, whilst Desford TC has access to three good quality and two standard courts and Hinckley Town TC is serviced by standard quality provision. Through consultation, Hinckley Town TC reports the surface of its courts is starting to deteriorate and has remedial works planned in order to improve quality.

Market Bosworth TC reports it has recently resurfaced its courts, with funding obtained through Tennis Leicestershire Ltd. This has resulted in all six of its courts being rated as good quality (see Table 9.3 for further detail).

Renovation fund²⁰

The LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of local communities.

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes (e.g., gated access and Smart Access lite) and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

At present, in Hinckley & Bosworth, Hollycroft Park (two courts) have been identified for investment. The site has recently been renovated resulting in its standard quality rating. The courts were re-painted, new nets & posts, and a new entry system installed in 2023.

Ancillary provision

The ancillary facilities at Sport in Desford and Hinckley Town Tennis Club are assessed as poor quality. For the former, this is due to them being outdated and not currently adequate to meet the sheer level of demand across football, tennis, netball and bowls with only two changing rooms provided. For the latter, Hinckley Town TC report its ancillary provision is poor quality due to being insufficient to meet its demand as well as ageing and outdated.

For non-club courts, clubhouses and changing rooms are generally considered to be problematic, although none of the council owned facilities are serviced by ancillary provision.

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. One potential way to increase usage of such provision is, thus, to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

9.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There are three clubs across Hinckley & Bosworth. Across the clubs, there is an overall membership of 493 which broken down amounts to 274 senior members and 219 junior members. The average club membership is 164, which represents substantial demand.

²⁰<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

A club-by-club breakdown can be seen in the table below. As noted above, information relating to the non-responsive club (Desford TC) has been obtained through desk based research.

Table 9.9: Summary of tennis club membership

Club	Sites used	Seniors	Juniors	Total
Desford TC	Sport in Desford	50	85	135
Hinckley Town TC	Hinckley Town Tennis Club	128	62	190
Market Bosworth LTC	Market Bosworth Tennis Club	96	72	168
-	Totals	274	219	493

The largest club in the Borough is Hinckley Town TC which has 190 members. At the other end of the scale is Desford TC, which has the smallest membership with 135 members although this is still substantial demand.

Changes from the previous study

Across the clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth, there has been a strong growth at most clubs since the previous study in 2019, including significant increases for Hinckley Town and Market Bosworth tennis clubs as identified through consultation.

With both responding clubs reporting demand increases in membership, this generally correlates to a national picture of growing demand. The LTA reports that demand has increased significantly in recent years, especially since Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.

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 2022 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 across 2018 and 2019, 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.

Informal and parks tennis

The LTA has recently developed a support package for local authorities to grow use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation; products known as ClubSpark, Play (previously Rally) and Gate Access have been established. These represent what the LTA calls a major improvement to the customer journey and provide a clear revenue stream to reinvest into court provision.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

In relation to education providers, none report any regular demand from the community for access to its courts. It is believed by many that a lack of demand is a direct result of quality issues and/or a lack of sports lighting, as well as other courts being available for free. This results in the community being less likely to pay a hire charge for its provision.

The LTA has developed a support package for local authorities to grow and track the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation, with products known as ClubSpark, Play (previously Rally) and Gate Access established. These represent what the LTA calls a major improvement to the customer journey and provide a clear revenue stream to reinvest into court provision.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, the following sites are known to utilise some or all of the products currently:

- ◀ Hollycroft Park (Bosworth).
- ◀ Market Bosworth Tennis Club.
- ◀ Sport in Desford.
- ◀ Hinckley Town Tennis Club.

The LTA products are further summarised 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 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; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

LTA Play

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.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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.

Gate Access

The LTA has developed two Gate Access gate 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 has supported the installation of 177 gate access systems within the last two years. Furthermore, it states that sites with Gate Access installations:

- ◀ Attracted 65,751 unique players.
- ◀ Led to 791,226 court bookings.
- ◀ Generated £1.5 million of income.

Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which result in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

Local tennis leagues

Recreational tennis leagues are less formal than established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for people of all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. They are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which affiliates to the LTA. 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.

LTA Youth Programme

The LTA coordinate courses for children aged 4-18, consisting of fun games and dynamic training. Specialist coaches make sure every child has the best start to their tennis journey in a safe and inclusive environment. Sessions cater to all abilities and split into the following:

- ◀ Blue Stage (Age 4-6).
- ◀ Red Stage (Age 6-8).
- ◀ Orange Stage (Age 8-9).
- ◀ Green Stage (Age 9-10).
- ◀ Yellow Stage (Age 10+).

Key points:

- ◀ There are assigned ages to each stage, but this only serves as a guide.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Young people want to play in groups and with their friends, and so whatever stage they start at, all kids will see progression.
- ◀ In every LTA Youth stage, young people will be active, having fun and developing skills.

LTA Youth Start

This is a six-week coaching offer for children who have never played tennis and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, young people get coaching from an LTA accredited coach, a free racket, a pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, LTA Youth Start sessions are in operation at Hinckley Tennis Club, with sessions taking place on Friday evenings.

LTA Big Tennis Weekend

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues can 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 October). These 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.

Through consultation, Market Bosworth TC reports it hosts two Big Tennis Weekends yearly.

Free Parks Tennis

The LTA has launched the LTA Free Parks Tennis offer. It states that 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.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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.

Future consideration should be given to offer Free Parks Tennis in Parks across Hinckley & Bosworth.

Padel

Padel is a form of tennis that is easy to play, fun and sociable. It 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 players serve underhand and the walls are used as part of the game, with the ball allowed to bounce off them. A padel court is 20m long and 10m wide with a combination of glass and weld mesh rebound wall and fence panels supported of steel posts fixed to a concrete foundation with a synthetic turf playing surface.

Currently 129,000 people reportedly play Padel more than once a year in England - a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 (15,000). This exemplifies the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

There are currently no padel tennis courts in Hinckley & Bosworth; however, given the growing popularity of the format, it is likely that there will be further demand moving forward as it is thought that take-up would be considerable were additional provision to be established. As noted previously, the LTA estimates a further 26 courts across Leicestershire, with the LTA suggesting that a potential eight courts could be provided within the Borough in the future.

Imported/exported demand

Whilst exact figures are unknown, any demand for tennis within a club environment will currently need to be met outside of the Borough, with this therefore likely to lead to levels of exported demand. Alternatively, such demand will not be being catered for at all, thus resulting in unmet demand, as further detailed below.

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of courts for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match court 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.

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.

Based on this, there is a potential opportunity for local authorities and other providers to address such barriers, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage, although an

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

element of this has already taken place in Hinckley & Bosworth following recent park court improvements and implementation of LTA products (e.g., Clubspark).

Sport England's Segmentation Tool²¹ enables an analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 2,081 within Hinckley & Bosworth, which represents approximately 1.5% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 1.7%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand is marginally lower than what would otherwise be expected.

In relation to clubs, all 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, these clubs do not 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.

The LTA conducts its own demographic analysis of potential latent demand for the sport, of which it breaks all members into six different profiles, as seen below:

- ◀ Tennis Titans- Frequent players and tennis club members for whom tennis is their main sport and key interest.
- ◀ Tennis Troupers- Often club members, largely family-oriented, middle-aged players for whom tennis is a hobby; interested in playing with teams to partnering with their kids in the sunnier seasons.
- ◀ Largely young women, they play sport in general for athletic reasons (often being gym-goers and joggers), and enjoy their tennis a lot, though tennis is very intertwined with friends and being social.
- ◀ Wimbledon Warriors- Largely young men who are keen athletes, they like tennis and want to play more, though are often held back by factors outside of the summer.
- ◀ Social Butterflies- Infrequent, younger and less experienced players for whom tennis is an occasional fun summer activity.
- ◀ Senior Stalwarts- An older group of players for whom tennis is a social habit and they play with a regular group as a way of keeping social and enjoyable gentle exercise.

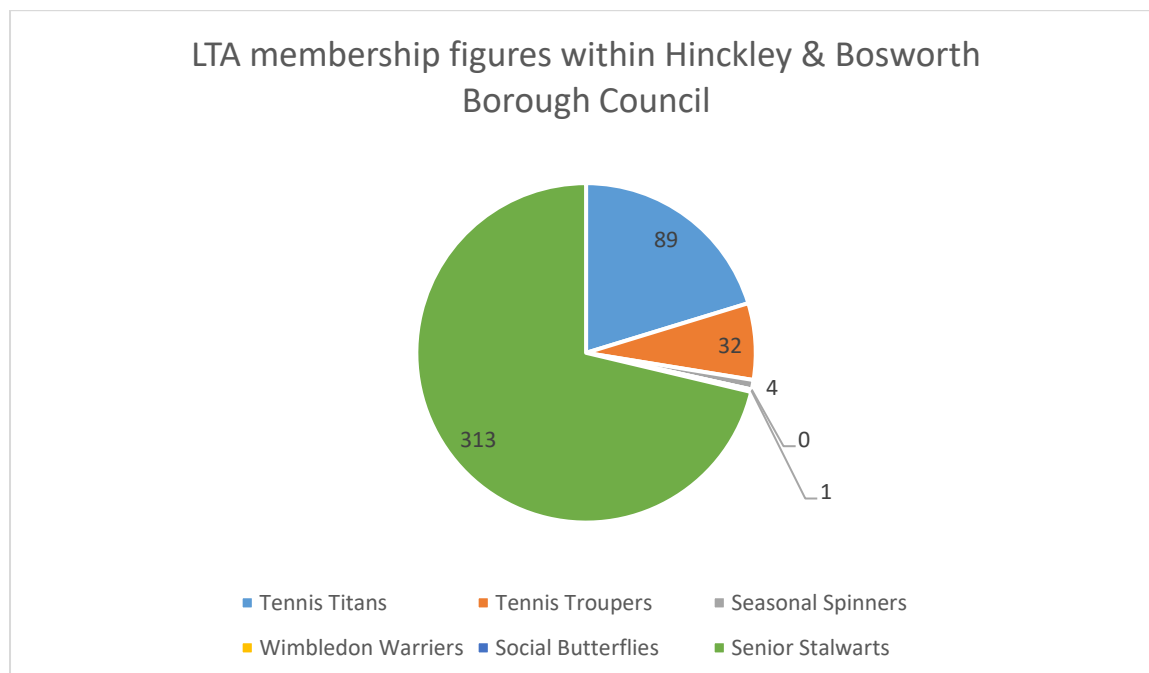
The LTA has a 'non-profile' demographic referred to as a term to identify certain demographics that do not match a tennis profile. Regarding Hinckley & Bosworth, the LTA has identified total demand figures for 2024 as 439 people.

Figure 7.2 illustrates the demographic breakdown for the 6 LTA profiles across Hinckley & Bosworth. As can be seen, 'Senior Stalwarts' resemble the most common demographic at 1,394 members (74%), whilst Wimbledon Warriors total only 2 members. In comparison to the national average 'Senior Stalwarts' make up only 52% of the demographic and 'Tennis Troupers' has much more representation at 25%. This therefore reflects the ageing population of the Authority.

²¹ [Sport England Segmentation Information](#)

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.2: Hinckley & Bosworth total LTA membership figures (2024)



Future demand

Two of the responsive clubs report plans to increase their membership numbers; Hinckley Town and Market Bosworth tennis clubs. The total future demand expressed by these equates to 70 senior and 70 junior members, as shown in the table below.

Table 9.10: Summary of future tennis club demand (responsive clubs)

Club	Senior	Junior
Desford TC	-	-
Hinckley Town TC	20	20
Market Bosworth LTC	50	50
Total	70	70

In addition, the LTA also expects future growth as identified in its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club environment, which is therefore very relevant in Hinckley & Bosworth. To that extent, it is key that the local authority and park sites in Hinckley & Bosworth continue to be part of the ClubSpark initiatives.

Sports Facility Calculator

This helps quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development, and regeneration areas. It is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- ◀ Facility location compared to demand.
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ◀ Cross boundary movement of demand.
- ◀ Travel networks and topography.
- ◀ Attractiveness of facilities.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 9.11: Sports facilities calculator

Factor	Population 2018 (ONS):	Population estimate: 2041
ONS population projections	113,591	137,765
Population increase	-	24,174
Facilities to meet change in demand	-	3.10 courts
Estimated Cost		£297,175

*based on Q3 2022 build costs

Calculations assume that the current tennis court stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. The projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for tennis courts. SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 3.10 courts, up to 2041 (estimated cost of £297,175).

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

Club tennis

The LTA suggests that a hard court with no sports lighting can accommodate 40 members whereas a hard court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. However, it must be noted that this should only be used as a guide as capacity can, in reality, vary from site to site depending on how the demand operates and the programmes of use in place. Some clubs can comfortably operate over capacity guidance, whilst others may have pressures without theoretically being over capacity.

Using the guide, the table overleaf identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth, taking into account both current and future demand.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 9.12: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Current demand (members)	Future demand (members)	No of courts	Sports lighting?	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance	Future capacity balance
53	Market Bosworth Tennis Club	Market Bosworth TC	168	268	6	Yes	360	192	92
70	Sport in Desford	Desford TC	135	135	5	Yes	300	165	165
87	Hinckley Town Tennis Club	Hinckley Town TC	190	230	5	Yes	300	110	70

As evidenced in the table above, current supply is sufficient to meet club-based demand for all three clubs in the Borough especially because all the club courts have sports lighting so the maximum capacity can be achieved. Even after considering future demand aspirations, no shortfalls would be established.

All clubs are considered to have spare capacity based on the supply of provision located at each site. However, the capacity analysis does not consider the quality of the courts and those provided at Hinckley Town Tennis Club are standard quality and therefore, there is a need to monitor/improve quality to ensure that existing and future capacity can continue to be accommodated, as part of Stage E to ensure this position remains the same.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

Non-club tennis

For non-club courts, analysing supply and demand is difficult in Hinckley & Bosworth as full usage figures are not known. However, it is considered likely that some courts are being well utilised given the use of LTA products such as ClubSpark at all local authority sites and the majority of club sites. That being said, capacity is likely to be limited, particularly outside of summer months, with none courts operated by the Council currently serviced by sports lighting.

It is then being further impacted upon by a lack of sports lighting (or covered/indoor courts) at many sites, the multi-sport nature of most provision, and the fact that a high quantity of courts are located at schools, all of which will be further reducing availability. Quality improvements may also assist, with this linked to existing investment plans.

Based on the above, whilst no capacity issues have been identified and no requirement for additional courts has been uncovered, increased recreational demand could be encouraged through improving the existing stock of courts. As well as increased sports lighting, quality improvements at sites such as Bosworth Road Recreation Ground (currently assessed as poor quality) would also be of benefit to helping attract and increase usage.

9.5: Conclusion

For club-based tennis, there is sufficient capacity in Hinckley & Bosworth to facilitate current and future demand. In actuality, no clubs report any issues, suggesting that there is no requirement for additional court space. This should, however, be closely monitored, and improvements to the existing stock should be sought to ensure this remains the case. This relates to the provision at Sport in Desford and Hinckley Town Tennis Club, where some/all of the courts are assessed as standard quality.

It should be noted that within the Borough, the West Analysis Area does not have any community accessible courts. Therefore, on this basis, no residents have immediate access to tennis court provision within their respective areas and have to travel further afield to participate in the sport.

For non-club courts, Hinckley & Bosworth is relatively well placed given the implementation of LTA products at some local authority and park venues. However, there is scope to incorporate more sites into this to ensure a greater range of people can be accommodated and to improve the quality at more sites and ensure future sustainability of those park venues. In addition, a lack of sports lighting and covered courts at venues presents a clear problem as this will be limiting demand, especially outside of summer months.

As noted previously, there are currently no padel tennis courts in Hinckley & Bosworth. However, the LTA estimates a further 26 courts across Leicestershire, with the LTA suggesting that a potential eight courts could be provided within the Borough in the future.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

Tennis – supply and demand summary

- ◀ For club-based tennis, there is sufficient capacity in Hinckley & Bosworth to facilitate current and future demand. In actuality, no clubs report any issues, suggesting that there is no requirement for additional court space. This should, however, be closely monitored, and improvements to the existing stock should be sought to ensure this remains the case. In particular this relates to the provision at Sport in Desford and Hinckley Town Tennis Club, where some/all of the courts are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ It should be noted that within the Borough, the West Analysis Area does not have any community accessible courts. Therefore, on this basis, no residents have immediate access to tennis court provision within their respective areas and have to travel further afield to participate in the sport.
- ◀ For non-club courts, Hinckley & Bosworth is relatively well placed given the implementation of LTA products at some local authority and park venues. However, there is scope to incorporate more sites into this to ensure a greater range of people can be accommodated and to improve the quality at more sites and ensure future sustainability of those park venues. In addition, a lack of sports lighting and covered courts at venues presents a clear problem as this will be limiting demand, especially outside of summer months.
- ◀ As noted previously, there are currently no padel tennis courts in Hinckley & Bosworth. However, the LTA estimates a further 26 courts across Leicestershire, with the LTA suggesting that a potential eight courts could be provided within the Borough in the future

Tennis – supply summary

- ◀ A total of 48 traditional tennis courts identified in Hinckley & Bosworth across 14 sites.
- ◀ Of the courts, 33 are categorised as being available for community use at eight sites compared to 15 that are unavailable at six sites.
- ◀ Of the courts, 12 are provided at club sites, four are provided at local authority/parish council sites, 27 by education sites.
- ◀ All clubs have security of tenure, either via freehold for their sites or long term lease agreements.
- ◀ Most outdoor tennis courts have a macadam surface; there are 45 of this type compared to three artificial courts.
- ◀ 24 courts are serviced by sports lighting, with all of these are available for community use.
- ◀ 16 are assessed as good quality, 17 assessed as standard quality and 19 assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ The Parks Investment Project is currently taking place in Hinckley & Bosworth, with this incorporating provision at Hollycroft Park.

Tennis – demand summary

- ◀ There are three clubs across Hinckley & Bosworth, with membership equating to 493, where known through consultation.
- ◀ Club-based demand has seemingly increased in recent years, aligned to national trends.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by two clubs amounting to 140 potential additional members (70 senior and 70 junior).
- ◀ The LTA also predicts future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club-environment.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

PART 10: NETBALL

10.1: 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 and a lack of floodlighting can also be problematic.

As netball was not included in the previous study, an exact comparison to previous levels of supply and demand cannot be presented.

Consultation

Information to inform this section of the report was primarily obtained through discussions with England Netball. In addition, two netball clubs have been identified as playing within Hinckley & Bosworth and both have responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 100% as seen below.

Table 10.1: Summary of netball club consultation

Clubs	Responded?
Desford NC	Yes
Hinckley Town Ladies NC	Yes

10.2: Supply

A total of 30 netball courts have been identified in Hinckley & Bosworth across 11 sites. Of the courts, 27 at nine sites are available for community use, with three courts at two sites unavailable (all provided at education sites).

The largest number of courts is in the Urban South Analysis Area (16 courts) of which 14 (88%) are available for community use. In contrast, the North East & Leicester Analysis Area has the fewest number of courts with just four courts, of which two are available for community use. There are no courts evident in the West Analysis Area. This is summarised in the following table.

Table 10.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

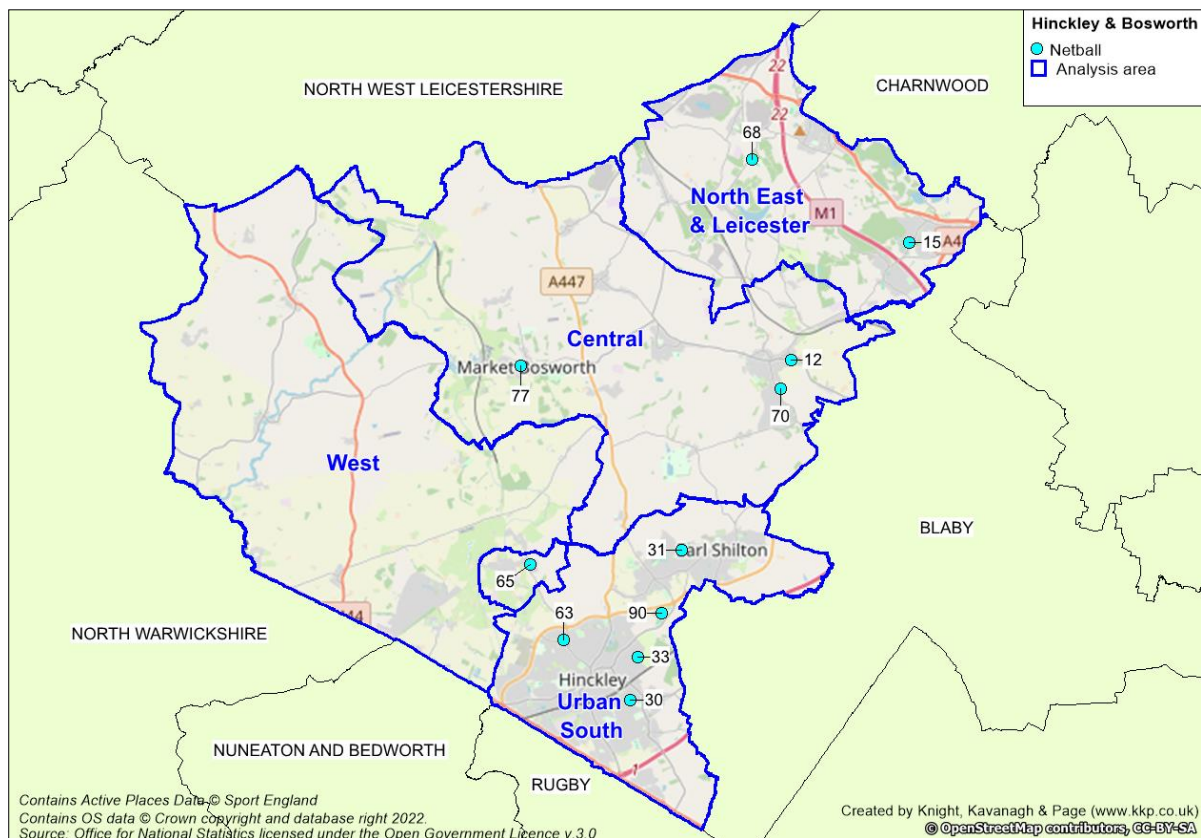
Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use	Total
Central	11	-	11
North East & Leicester	2	1	3
Urban South	14	2	16
West	-	-	-
Total	27	3	30

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

A traditional netball court is 30.5 metres long and 15.25 metres wide. As such, please note that some additional courts are not included in the above figures due to them being undersized, especially those located at primary schools. Such courts are generally marked out on generic playgrounds and are not considered to be permanent or conducive for formal play. It is, however, recognised that the provision can meet a curricular and extra-curricular needs.

Figure 10.1 shows the location of the netball courts included within the study. Please see Table 10.3 for a key to the map.

Figure 10.1: Location of netball courts in Hinckley & Bosworth



HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS ASSESSMENT

Table 10.3: Netball courts in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Over-marked?	Court quality
12	Bosworth Academy	LE9 9JL	Central	Education	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Good
12	Bosworth Academy	LE9 9JL	Central	Education	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	No	Good
15	Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	LE6 0FP	North East & Leicester	Education	No	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
30	Hastings High School	LE10 2QE	Urban South	Education	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
31	Heath Lane Academy	LE9 7PD	Urban South	Education	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
31	Heath Lane Academy	LE9 7PD	Urban South	Education	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
33	Hinckley Academy & John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre	LE10 1LE	Urban South	Education	No	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
63	Redmoor Academy	LE10 0EP	Urban South	Education	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
65	Saint Martin's Catholic Academy	CV13 6BF	Central	Education	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
68	South Charnwood High School	LE67 9TB	North East & Leicester	Education	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
70	Sport in Desford	LE9 9JU	Central	Sports Club	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
77	The Market Bosworth High School	CV13 0JT	Central	Education	Yes	3	No	Macadam	No	Poor
90	Hinckley Netball Club	LE10 3DR	Urban South	Sports Club	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	No	Good

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Indoor provision

This report only considers the supply of outdoor netball courts; however, it is recognised that netball activity also takes place indoors via the use of courts that are marked out in sports halls, especially during winter months.

Management and security of tenure

Most outdoor netball courts in Hinckley & Bosworth are operated by education providers, with 26 courts falling under this management type and 23 of these courts (88%) being available to the community. The remaining four courts are managed by sports clubs (at Hinckley Netball Club and Sport in Desford).

Table 10.4: Courts by management type

Community use	No. of sports club courts	No. of education courts
Available	4	23
Unavailable	-	3
Hinckley & Bosworth	4	26

The courts at the following sites are currently used by the community for netball:

- ◀ Hinckley Netball Club.
- ◀ Heath Lane Academy.
- ◀ Sport in Desford.

However, from the responsive clubs, none have a long-term lease agreement in place for access the provision, with annual hire agreements instead in place. This means that only a limited security of tenure is provided across the Borough.

Court type

All but two of the outdoor netball courts in Hinckley & Bosworth have a macadam surface, with 28 being of this type and 25 (89%) 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.

The two remaining courts have an artificial surface, with both of these available for community use located at Hinckley Netball Club. Artificial courts have a similar lifespan to that of macadam courts but are generally more expensive to replace.

Sports lighting

Of the 30 outdoor netball courts being provided in Hinckley & Bosworth, 11 (36%) are serviced by sports lighting across three sites located at:

- ◀ Bosworth Academy.
- ◀ Hinckley Netball Club.
- ◀ Redmoor Academy.
- ◀ Sport in Desford.

Of these, all are available to the community, with courts at Hinckley Netball Club and Sport in Desford used by clubs.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

An absence of sports lighting on courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are with sports lighting throughout the Country (38%). In Hinckley & Bosworth, the percentage is comparatively low with 36% of the provision accompanied by lighting.

A lack of floodlighting presents a key reason as to why many courts are unavailable for community use. Many providers of non-sports lit courts state that making them available would not be financially viable as usage would be significantly limited.

Overmarking

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often overmarked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision such as this 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 Hinckley & Bosworth, 23 netball courts are overmarked compared to seven that are dedicated for netball use. This represents a comparatively low number of standalone courts and can be attributed to most of the provision being located at secondary schools where tennis markings are also often provided.

The dedicated netball courts are provided at:

- ◀ Bosworth Academy.
- ◀ Hinckley Netball Club.

Of which, all the courts are available for community use.

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 Hinckley & Bosworth, seven (26%) are assessed as good quality, nine (30%) as standard quality and 14 (52%) as poor quality. Of those available to the community, seven (100%) courts are assessed as good quality, nine (100%) are standard quality and 11 (79%) are poor quality.

Table 10.5: Quality of all courts in Hinckley & Bosworth

Community use	No. of good quality courts	No of standard quality courts	No. of poor quality courts
Available	7	9	11
Unavailable	-	-	3
Total	7	9	14

The above shows a direct correlation between quality and community access, with 100% of the good quality and standard quality courts being available to the community.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

The poor quality courts available for community use are found at:

- ◀ Hastings High School.
- ◀ Heath Lane Academy.
- ◀ Saint Martin's Catholic Academy.
- ◀ The Market Bosworth High School.

Issues surrounding the poor quality courts include poor grip underfoot, evidence of moss and worn line markings.

As previously mentioned, Hinckley Netball Club, Heath Lane Academy and Sport in Desford are currently used for community activity, with the courts at Hinckley Netball Club and Sport in Desford assessed as good quality.

All remaining courts are assessed as standard quality.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic for community netball. 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 then also be limited, even at sites that allow for community use as this may entail opening the main school buildings.

10.3: Demand

There are two netball clubs identified as being based in Hinckley & Bosworth (Desford NC and Hinckley Town Ladies NC). Both clubs form the primary demand for outdoor netball within the Borough.

No affiliated leagues cater for Desford NC and Hinckley Town Ladies NC within the Borough. As such, both clubs compete in Leicester-based competitions within the Leicester Netball League, which has a winter and summer league in operation.

The Leicester Netball League operates on a central venue format on the outdoor courts at Soar Valley College in Leicester. The Winter League runs from September to April and currently caters for 36 senior teams across five divisions and 11 junior teams across two divisions. Fixtures are arranged for every Tuesday evening for senior teams and Thursday evening for junior teams, whilst the Summer League runs from April to July. With matches again on Tuesday and Thursdays. In 2024, 20 teams participated across four divisions.

Desford NC fields two senior teams and is based at Sport in Desford and uses the outdoor courts for training sessions. It trains on Thursday evenings on the courts at Sport in Desford in the summer and in the sports hall at Bosworth Academy in the winter.

Hinckley Town Ladies NC fields five senior and four junior teams. The Club trains on Wednesday evenings at Hinckley Town Netball Club (Leicester Road Ground). Matches take place on Saturdays for seniors and Sundays for juniors in the Leicester Netball League at Soar Valley College in Leicester. It is based at Hinckley Town Netball Club (Leicester Road Ground) and uses the sports-lit artificial courts all year-round.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Additional demand

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.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, no Back to Netball sessions are currently running. The nearest session is at Melton Sports Village, in Melton, taking place on Wednesday evenings.

Walking netball

Walking netball is a lower 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.

There are currently no walking netball sessions in the Borough. The nearest is at Loughborough Leisure Centre, in Charnwood, taking place on Tuesday evenings.

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.

No Netball Now sessions are in operation in Hinckley & Bosworth.

Bee Netball

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball is a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and teamwork.

No Bee Netball sessions are in operation in Hinckley & Bosworth.

Exported/imported demand

Both clubs (Desford NC and Hinckley Town Ladies NC) otherwise located in the Borough exports match play demand to play within Leicester, with no affiliated league structure present within Hinckley & Bosworth. The Leicester Netball League services the demand. In addition to this, whilst not quantifiable, it is also likely that residents which sit on the periphery of the boundary to areas with central venue leagues, i.e., Leicester, will see residents adjoining Leicester based clubs.

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 322 people within Hinckley & Bosworth, which represents approximately 0.03% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of just over 0.2%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand is marginally lower in Hinckley & Bosworth than what would otherwise be expected.

Notwithstanding the above, neither of the clubs in the Borough report any unmet or latent demand.

Outside of the Sport England segmentation tool, there is no other applicable way to quantify perceived latent demand by clubs or England Netball.

Future demand

Both clubs report aspirations to grow in the future; however, neither quantifies this in terms of membership or teams. It is generally reported that the clubs are open to growth, with no limitations presently identified.

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

As there are just two clubs with presence within the Borough and no programmed recreational activity or England Netball initiatives, there is a low level of demand for netball identified across Hinckley & Bosworth. Where netball activity does take place, this takes place on outdoor courts at the clubs sites at Sport in Desford for Desford NC and at Hinckley Town Netball Club for Hinckley Town Ladies NC for training sessions for the clubs. Although Desford NC does utilise indoor provision at Bosworth Academy for winter training.

In terms of current stock, the netball courts in the Borough is sufficient in relation to the level of demand that is taking place. However, some improvements are needed to better the demand and ensure that the sport can continue to grow. This can be achieved via improving quality, particularly at Sport in Desford, where the provision is assessed as standard quality, where such provision would accommodate and attract greater levels of demand. In addition, increasing the number of courts that are sports-lit and increasing the number of courts that are community accessible is also important.

As stated above, all affiliated match play demand is currently taking place outside of the Borough, in Leicester, with no league structure directly serving the Borough. Neither club raise this as an issue, with the Leicester Netball League operating as a central venue operation at Soar Valley College.

10.5: Conclusion

There is a sufficient level of provision, with both club sites serviced by either good or standard quality provision as well as the courts being serviced by sports lighting. Competitive netball on outdoor courts will continue to be played at a central venue in Leicester but the existing landscape in the Borough is not conducive to promoting opportunities for recreational programming or England Netball led initiatives.

In terms of current stock, the netball courts in the Borough is sufficient in relation to the level of demand that is taking place, such as at Hinckley Netball Club (Hinckley Town Juniors NC) and at Sport in Desford (Desford NC). However, some improvements are needed to adequately accommodate the demand that exists.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

This can be achieved via improving quality, particularly at Sport in Desford, where the provision is assessed as standard quality, where such provision would accommodate and attract greater levels of demand. In addition, increasing the number of courts that are sports-lit and increasing the number of courts that are community accessible is also important.

Netball – supply and demand summary

- ◀ As there are only two clubs with presence within the Borough and no programmed recreational activity or England Netball initiatives, there is a low level of demand for netball identified across Hinckley & Bosworth. Where netball activity does take place, this takes place on outdoor courts at the clubs sites at Sport in Desford for Desford NC and at Hinckley Town Netball Club for Hinckley Town Ladies NC for training sessions for the clubs. Although Desford NC does utilise indoor provision at Bosworth Academy for winter training.
- ◀ In terms of current stock, the netball courts in the Borough is sufficient in relation to the level of demand that is taking place. However, some improvements are needed to better the demand and ensure that the sport can continue to grow. This can be achieved via improving quality, particularly at Sport in Desford, where the provision is assessed as standard quality, where such provision would accommodate and attract greater levels of demand. In addition, increasing the number of courts that are sports-lit and increasing the number of courts that are community accessible is also important.
- ◀ As stated above, all affiliated match play demand is currently taking place outside of the Borough, in Leicester, with no league structure directly serving the Borough. Neither club raise this as an issue, with the Leicester Netball League operating as a central venue operation at Soar Valley College.

Netball – supply summary

- ◀ There are 30 netball courts have been identified in Hinckley & Bosworth across 11 sites. Of the courts, 27 at nine sites are available for community use.
- ◀ Most outdoor netball courts in Hinckley & Bosworth are operated by education providers, with 26 courts falling under this management type. 23 courts (85%) of these are available to the community. Of the remaining four courts they are managed by sports clubs (at Hinckley Netball Club and Sport in Desford).
- ◀ A total of three sites Hinckley Netball Club, Heath Lane Academy and Sport in Desford are reported as being in use for netball activity across the Borough.
- ◀ All but two of the outdoor netball courts in Hinckley & Bosworth have a macadam surface, with 28 being of this type and 25 (89%) of these being available for community use (the remaining two courts have an artificial surface located at Hinckley Netball Club).
- ◀ 11 courts (36%) are serviced by sports lighting across three sites.
- ◀ 23 netball courts are overmarked (e.g., by tennis courts) compared to only seven that are dedicated for netball use (standalone).
- ◀ Of the courts in Hinckley & Bosworth, seven are assessed as good quality, nine as standard quality and 14 as poor quality. Of those available to the community, seven courts are assessed as good quality, nine are standard quality and 11 are poor quality.

Netball – demand summary

- ◀ There are two netball clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth (Desford NC and Hinckley Town Ladies NC)
- ◀ All affiliated match play demand takes place outside of Hinckley & Bosworth, in Leicester, via the use of central venues by the Leicester Netball League (exported demand).

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

PART 11: ATHLETICS

11.1: Introduction

England Athletics (EA) is the not-for-profit membership and development body responsible for grassroots athletics and running in England.

EA supports 1,750 affiliated clubs and organisations (covering track and field, road running, fell, hill, trail and cross-country clubs), 147,000 registered athletes, 18,700 licensed coaches and leaders, 3,800 officials and 6.2m regular running participants.

EA's Athletics purpose is to inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport. Their vision is for athletics and running to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.

Athletics was not included in the previous study, therefore an exact comparison to previous levels of supply and demand cannot be presented.

Consultation

There are four athletics clubs within Hinckley & Bosworth, which includes a triathlon club. The current consultation response rate is 75% with responses from Desford Striders, Hinckley Running Club and 1485 Triathlon Club achieved.

Table 11.1: Summary of athletics response rate

Name of club	Responded?
Barlestone St Giles RC	No
Desford Striders	Yes
Hinckley Running Club	Yes
1485 Triathlon Club	Yes

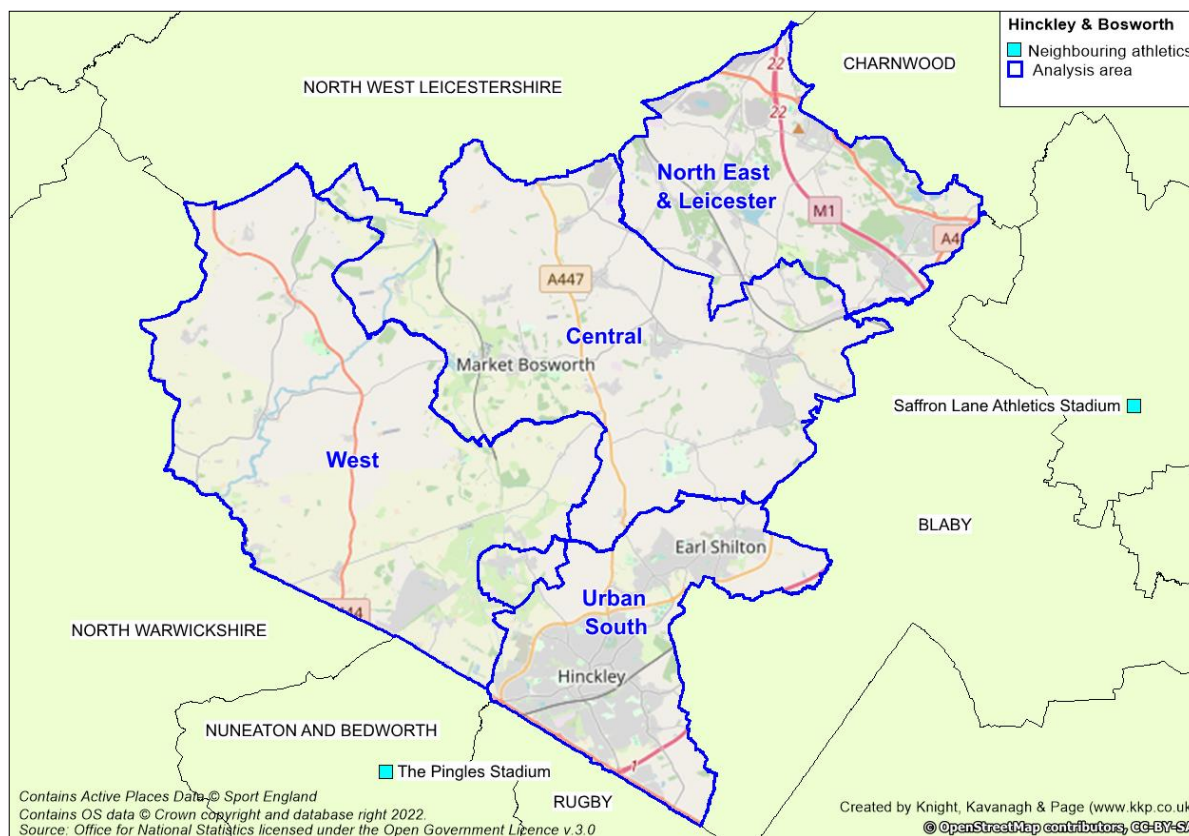
11.2: Supply

There are no permanent outdoor athletics tracks in Hinckley & Bosworth. The Council has recently installed an informal grass 400m track located at Clarendon Park to cater for recreational and/or informal demand and is used by the public, albeit on an informal basis.

The closest stadium is located at Pingles Leisure Centre (Nuneaton Harriers Athletics Club) in Nuneaton, which is a 15 minute drive (5 miles) from Clarendon Park. It is a 400m floodlit eight lane synthetic track. It also provides a grass area for field events (including a throwing cage) and a throwing circle for shotput, and two sand pits for triple jump and long jump. It is managed by Nuneaton Harriers Athletics Club. For specific location of the track, please see Figure 11.1 below.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Figure 11.1: Location of athletics tracks within 30 minute drive time of Hinckley & Bosworth



Future provision

England Athletics strategic position is that in most areas of the country there is a sufficient supply of traditional synthetic outdoor 400m tracks to meet club and competition needs and that there should focus on protecting and maintaining this provision. In addition to traditional facilities, EA is keen to support the development of a new generation of innovative athletics & running facilities (NewGen), as well as a country-wide network of indoor athletics facilities developed as part of future indoor multisport projects.

It should be noted that due to the lack of any formal track & field/running provision in the local authority, England Athletics has identified Maldon as a priority area for the development of a NewGen facility(ies).

Using mapping data to understand optimal locations for NewGen facilities EA identifies that 34% (40,000) of the population of Hinckley & Bosworth are not within a 20-minute drive time to a dedicated 400 metre track. Further details on this can be found here:

<https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/facilities/newgen-tracks/>

NewGen facility concepts

Track & Field (Run/Jump/Throw)

- ▶ **Play Track:** The simple animation of dated playground surfaces using colourful painted lines and markings to (KS1 & KS2) – encouraging participation in run/jump/throw activities by creating challenging and inspiring environments.
- ▶ **CompactTrack:** A sports-lit, multiple lane, synthetic sprint straight with optional jumps and throws provision.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

- ◀ **MiniTrack:** A sports-lit synthetic “mini” running oval, with sprint straight, multi-sport “infield” and optional jumps and throws provision.

Recreational Running/Endurance Running/Multi sport

- ◀ Active Track: A free to access, macadam running / cycling circuit designed to be sympathetic to the local environment and support the recreational needs of local communities.
- ◀ Ideally lit by low level lighting / solar columns, ActiveTracks can be introduced to existing parks, open spaces and playing fields or integrated into the masterplanning of new housing developments.
- ◀ Sport England Active Design ActiveTrack Case Study: [Sowerby Sports Village](#)

It should be noted that due to the lack of any formal track & field/running provision in the local authority, England Athletics has identified Maldon as a priority area for the development of a NewGen facility(ies).

Using mapping data to understand optimal locations for NewGen facilities EA identifies that 34% (40,000) of the population of Hinckley & Bosworth are not within a 20-minute drive time to a dedicated 400 metre track. Further details on this can be found here:

<https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/facilities/newgen-tracks/>

11.3: Demand

Club demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just the traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are 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.

Although there are no track based athletics clubs based in Hinckley & Bosworth, the four clubs identified above are running clubs and are detailed in the sub section below.

Barlestone St Giles Running Club

Barlestone St Giles is a local running club that caters for all levels of fitness and running experience. It utilises the local road network around the Borough and into neighbouring authorities such as Charnwood and Nuneaton & Bedworth. It uses Barlestone Football Club as its meeting point with sessions taking place on Monday evenings.

Desford Striders

Desford Striders is a road running club which uses Sport in Desford as a meeting point and utilises the local road network for training sessions. It currently has 100 members, made up of approximately 60 male and 40 female members. It welcomes runners of all abilities and ages.

Hinckley Running Club

Hinckley Running Club is a running and athletics club and welcomes runners of all ages and abilities. It runs sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for seniors as well as a long Sunday morning run. Juniors meet on Wednesday evenings with Hastings High School as its main meeting point.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

1485 Triathlon Club

As a triathlon club, 1485 Triathlon Club participates significant running activity and holds numerous running sessions similar to those held by the running clubs in the Borough. As part of its running activity, it is based and trains from Market Bosworth Sports Club on Monday evenings. The Club state it has an aspiration to access a track facility for some training sessions.

Additional demand

Run Together

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.

There are no Run Together groups in Hinckley & Bosworth, with the nearest located at Longford Park in Coventry.

A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation programmes such as Run Together, meaning this could be targeted moving forward.

Parkrun

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

There are two Park Run events in Hinckley & Bosworth held on a weekly basis. These are located at Hastings High School and Market Bosworth Country Park. The former has run 108 events and 89 events for the latter.

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, 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.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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. Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in Hinckley & Bosworth, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity. It is also championed by Desford Striders and Hinckley Running Club.

Exported/imported demand

None of the clubs identify any exported or imported demand, although it is likely that some members of Hinckley & Bosworth-based clubs will come from outside of the Borough just as nearby clubs from outside of the Borough will likely attract some members from Hinckley & Bosworth. Similarly, many events in the region will likely accommodate significant levels of cross-boundary demand.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 2,411 people in Hinckley & Bosworth which works out at around 2% of the population compared to a national average of 1.9%.

Future demand

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

11.4: Supply and demand analysis

No dedicated athletics facilities are currently provided within the Borough and no formal demand is expressed for the creation of such formal athletics provision, with facilities in neighbouring authorities considered close enough to absorb any demand.

Notwithstanding the above, the Council has recently installed an informal grass 400m track located at Clarendon Park to cater for recreational and/or informal demand and is used by the public, albeit on an informal basis. This also helps to satisfy the growing demand from run clubs in the Borough.

11.5: Conclusion

Based on four running clubs identified above in the Borough it is suggested that opportunities to install both a NewGen, MiniTrack & ActiveTrack should be explored to benefit Desford Striders, Hinckley Running Club and 1485 Triathlon Club as these clubs have active junior sections.

In addition, an informal grass 400m track has recently been installed located at Clarendon Park to cater for recreational and/or informal demand and is used by the public, albeit on an informal basis. Although, the track can only be used in the summer months as it is not serviced by sports lighting.

Away from track and field activity, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities identified in Hinckley & Bosworth with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place. In effect, any demand for formal athletics provision should be directed to Nuneaton Harriers Athletics Club.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Athletics – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Based on four running clubs identified above in the Borough it is suggested that opportunities to install both a NewGen, MiniTrack & ActiveTrack should be explored to benefit Desford Striders, Hinckley Running Club and 1485 Triathlon Club as these clubs have active junior sections.
- ◀ In addition, an informal grass 400m track has recently been installed located at Clarendon Park to cater for recreational and/or informal demand and is used by the public, albeit on an informal basis. Although, the track can only be used in the summer months as it is not serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ Away from track and field activity, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities identified in Hinckley & Bosworth with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place. In effect, any demand for formal athletics provision should be directed to Nuneaton Harriers Athletics Club.

Athletics – supply summary

- ◀ There are no permanent outdoor athletics tracks in Hinckley & Bosworth.
- ◀ The closest track is located at Pingles Leisure Centre (Nuneaton Harriers Athletics Club) in Nuneaton, which is a 15 minute drive (5 miles) from Clarendon Park. It is a eight lane, synthetic 400 metre track.
- ◀ The track is fully floodlit and provides a dedicated grass area for field events (including a throwing cage), a throwing circle for shotput, and two sand pits for triple jump and long jump.

Athletics – demand summary

- ◀ There are four clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth affiliated to England Athletics.
- ◀ Barlestone St Giles RC is a local running club that caters for all levels of fitness and running experience. It utilises the local road network around the Borough and into neighbouring authorities such as Charnwood and Nuneaton & Bedworth.
- ◀ Desford Striders is a road running club and has 100 members, made up of approximately 60 male and 40 female members.
- ◀ Hinckley Running Club is a friendly running and athletics club and welcomes runners of all ages and abilities. It runs sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for seniors as well as a long Sunday morning run. Juniors meet on Wednesday evenings with Hastings High School as its main meeting point.
- ◀ There are no Run Together groups in Hinckley & Bosworth, with the nearest located at Longford Park in Coventry.
- ◀ There are two Park Run events in Hinckley & Bosworth held on a weekly basis. These are located at Hastings High School and Market Bosworth Country Park. The former has run 108 events and 89 events for the latter.
- ◀ None of the clubs identify any exported or imported demand, although it is likely that some members of Hinckley & Bosworth-based clubs will come from outside of the Borough just as nearby clubs from outside of the Borough will likely attract some members from Hinckley & Bosworth.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 2,411 people in Hinckley & Bosworth which works out at around 2% of the population compared to a national average of 1.9%.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

PART 12: GOLF

12.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 730,000 members belonging to 1,750 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as sites of special scientific interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated heritage coast sites, areas of outstanding natural beauty, or listed historic parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

This section has been informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs in Hinckley & Bosworth.

12.2: Supply

The three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf are defined in the table below. 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.

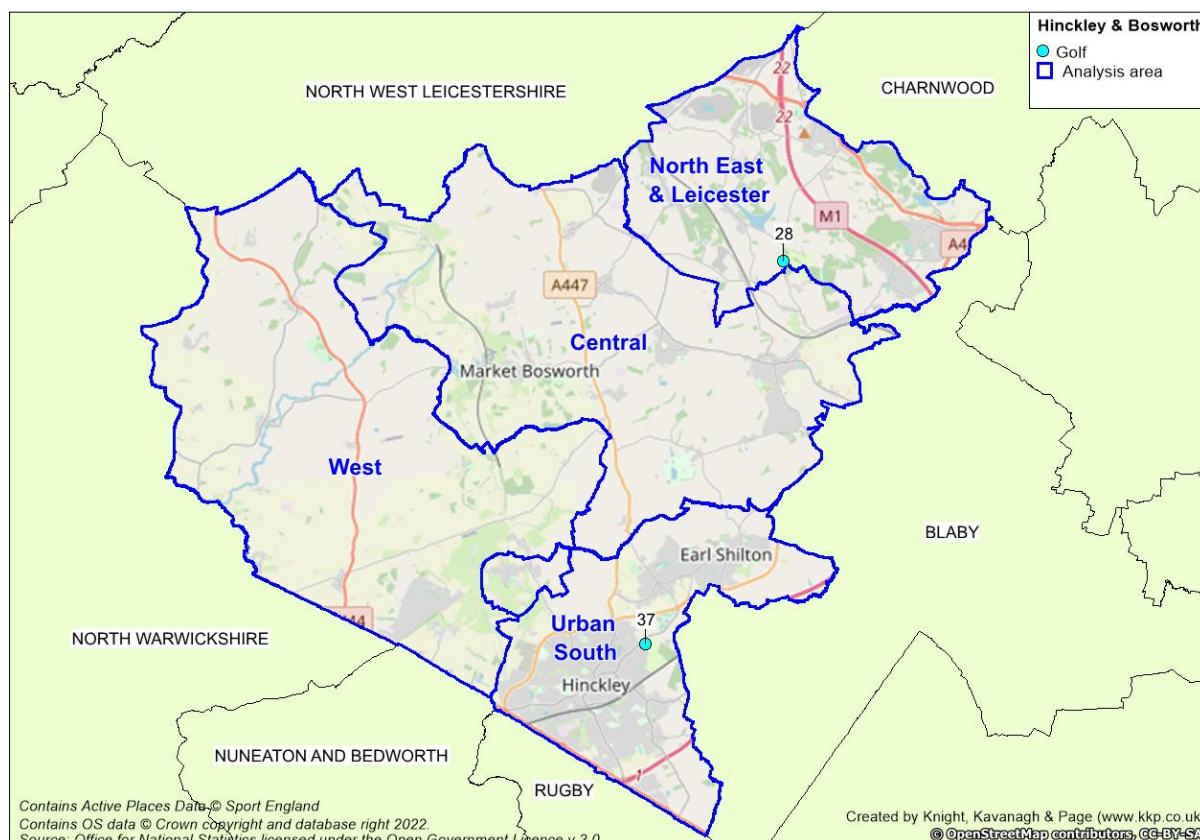
In Hinckley & Bosworth, two golf sites provide facilities conforming with the above definitions. These are identified in Table 12.2 and Figure 12.1 below. One each in North East & Leicester and Urban South analysis areas.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 12.2: Golf facilities within Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area
28	Forest Hill Golf Club	LE9 9FH	North East & Leicester
37	Hinckley Golf Club	LE10 3DR	Urban South

Figure 12.1: Location of golf courses in Hinckley & Bosworth



Disused provision

There is one disused golf course identified in Hinckley & Bosworth, with this located at Kyngs Golf and Country Club. It provided an 18-hole golf course before closing in 2016 after the previous owner went into liquidation. It is understood that a recent planning permission granted at the site for a 50-room hotel included a condition requiring the golf course to be reinstated and brought into use before the hotel could be used.

Standard hole golf courses

Both golf sites (Forest Hill Golf Club and Hinckley Golf Club) provide one standard hole course each. Nationally, some 9-hole standard courses are provided, whilst some sites can provide 27 or 36 holes. These are summarised by site in following table.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 12.3: Summary of standard hole provision

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage ²²			Slope rating
28	Forest Hill Golf Club	18	73	6,696	6,238	5,517	132-140
37	Hinckley Golf Club	18	71	6,539	6,195	5,501	133-144

Most of the 18-hole courses are relatively similar in length and are within the range of what you would expect from traditional provision. The longest course is found at Forest Hill Golf Club (6,696 yards), whilst the shortest is Hinckley Golf Club (6,539 yards).

Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase.

Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that the courses in Hinckley & Bosworth are generally considered to be more difficult than the mean, with them collectively ranging from 132-144 (the slope rating varies depending on which tee is used).

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, particularly when accompanying a standard hole course.

There are no Par 3 courses in Hinckley & Bosworth.

Driving range bays

One of the two golf sites in Hinckley & Bosworth supply a traditional driving range, in addition to their standard hole courses, with 20 bays provided at Forest Hill Golf Club. The site is serviced by sports lighting and available for pay and play usage.

Table 12.4: Summary of driving range bays within Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	No. of bays	Sports lighting?	Pay and play?
28	Forest Hill Golf Club	20	Yes	Yes

Nationally, many driving range providers are updating their facilities with such provision in a bid to increase demand. Others also seek the installation of automatic tees or entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. Such provision allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback. Such technology is offered at Forest Hill Golf Club.

²² White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England; members clubs, proprietary clubs, and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

Table 12.5: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment. On the other hand, more income can be brought in through regular users compared to what would be the case had they been part of a membership scheme.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

In Hinckley & Bosworth, there is one members club, with this provided at Hinckley Golf Club and one as a proprietary, with this provided at Forest Hill Golf Club.

The management for each venue is summarised in the table below.

Table 12.6: Summary of management in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	Management type
28	Forest Hill Golf Club	Proprietary
37	Hinckley Golf Club	Members

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 decade, many facilities have altered their pricing structure to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf positively encouraged this and continues to do so as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, five and/or six day memberships are now common (whereby members can access a course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst discounts are regularly in place 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 very common for many clubs to have waiting lists in place for membership, but this has become rarer in the present day. That being said, a rise in demand following the Covid-19 pandemic has tested this and resulted in capacity pressures, with a third of clubs now thought to have waiting times before new members can join.

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901.00 per year. In Hinckley & Bosworth, average membership fees, where known, operate significantly above this. In particular, Hinckley Golf Club has a yearly fee of £1,345. In comparison, the cost at Forest Hill Golf Club equates to £1,206.

The green fees at Forest Hill Golf Club and Hinckley Golf Club range from £40-£45 for weekday access whilst they range from £50-£55 for weekend access.

Table 12.7: Pricing structures at golf facilities in Hinckley & Bosworth

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Weekday green fee	Weekend green fee
28	Forest Hill Golf Club	-	£1206	£45	£55
37	Hinckley Golf Club	-	£1345	£40	£50

In general, costs at all three sites are high, evidencing that all three are considered to be high end facilities, with such provision generally able to charge a premium for access. However, this means that there are no low cost golf courses provided in the Borough.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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.

In terms of quality of the golf courses within Hinckley & Bosworth, it is good across the Borough with no significant issues identified through site assessments and with all sites having dedicated green keeping staff which provide maintenance regimes that operate all-year round. These programmes are frequent and sophisticated, which links to the high-end price point of the venues.

Ancillary facilities are also for the most part good across Hinckley & Bosworth, with both courses being serviced by all-encompassing facilities that feature bars, kitchens and function rooms. Golf clubs generally need multiple 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 emanates 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 emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g., by providing gender specific changing facilities.

12.3: Demand

Golf participation considerably increased across the Country following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both initially in 2020 and again following the later lockdown period in 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people were able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf 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 demand, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to increase participation in the long-term.

The following section examines current demand for golf in Hinckley & Bosworth as well as recent trends and potential future demand.

Membership

England Golf reports that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, with this being based on its central national handicap platform. In Hinckley & Bosworth, the current average membership across the sites is 567, suggesting that demand is substantially higher than national rates.

Membership trends

In line with a national trend of increasing membership, demand across Hinckley & Bosworth has increased significantly between 2015 and 2017, then reduced slightly in 2018 and decreasing further in 2022 (no data was collected by England Golf from 2018 until 2022).

Data by club is not available as this is considered to be commercially sensitive information.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Table 12.8: Changes in demand since 2015

2015	2016	2017	2018	2022	2023	2024
488	498	606	522	509	567	567

It should be noted that whilst some clubs will operate below the national average, this does not necessarily indicate insufficient levels demand. In fact, this could simply mean there is a particular emphasis on pay and play use, or it will take account of 9-hole courses having less capacity than 18-hole courses. At the members clubs with 18-hole courses, it is expected that most if not all will have a membership that is higher than average.

Where demand is especially low, England Golf can assist in this regard, primarily through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has generally increased across England in recent years, usage figures at the sites within Hinckley & Bosworth is not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf or disclosed by operators due to commercial sensitivity. However, it would be expected that demand would be higher at the propriety courses (Forest Hill Golf Club). In contrast, it will be lower at Hinckley Golf Club given that is more exclusive and predominately focused on members.

If facilities with low membership numbers do not have high green fee demand, long-term viability is questionable. Attracting pay and play usage is key to the business model and sustainability of such sites.

Exported/imported demand

Cross-boundary demand for golf is common nationally due to the nature of the sport. Golfers do not necessarily recognise local authority boundaries, and many will choose a facility for a whole range of reasons other than where it is located, with factors including quality, availability, cost and where friends/family play. This can be especially pronounced at venues located close to neighbouring authorities and if there is a comparative lack of provision within those authorities.

For Hinckley & Bosworth, exported demand out of the Borough is expected to be higher than what would ordinarily be considered given that only three golf courses are provided and given that all three sites provide a similar offer within the same area. With no low-cost sites, any demand for such provision will be travelling to other local authorities in order to access appropriate facilities (or would be unmet demand). This will also be especially pronounced to the west and east of the Borough given the location of the existing facilities.

Conversely, there will be some imported demand from golfers in neighbouring authorities looking for a high end, good quality facility to access with a focus on membership. In particular, it is known that Hinckley Golf Club reaches a wide catchment given the status of the provision.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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 due to quantity of facilities in the area, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As a result, such unmet demand in Hinckley & Bosworth is considered to be relatively minimal.

Notwithstanding the above, Hinckley Golf Club reports that it is not currently accepting new members and that it is turning down any interest from potential members that would not be full adult members (over 35s). Moreover, even for full adult members looking to join, a waiting list is in place which is currently considered to be two to three years long. As such, there is clear unmet demand for this particular site.

Unmet demand could also be expressed if there is a lack of provision to meet a particular golfing market. This is also likely to be the case in Hinckley & Bosworth with most sites currently providing relatively lengthy standard hole courses and at a high price point. This may be leaving those wanting or needing shorter provision or cheaper access without anywhere to play (although some may leave the Borough to do so).

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision. To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,414 within Hinckley & Bosworth.

In addition, England Golf also has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility (which is considered to be a reasonable travel distance). This is based on research undertaken that identifies that 24% of adults in England are potential players, amounting to circa 9.6 million people and equating to 9% current players, 8% lapsed (former) players and 7% latent players. It can be used by providers to identify what demand may exist for their facilities, thus helping inform marketing, development and investment decisions.

Using the tool across Hinckley & Bosworth, Forest Hill Golf Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 43,297 potential players falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time. In comparison, Hinckley Golf Club is identified as having the smallest potential demand, equating to 42,006 people. This, however, is still substantial.

The tool also breaks the potential playing population down into nine golfing segments, with these 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.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from “Relaxed members” (5,079 people), whilst the lowest is from “older traditionalists” (4,378 people).

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.

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

In Hinckley & Bosworth, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future levels of demand. Nevertheless, with membership across the Borough already significantly higher than the national average, capacity to accommodate significant growth could be questionable, as is reported to be the case at Hinckley Golf Club.

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

With only two golf courses currently provided in Hinckley & Bosworth, there is a low level of supply servicing the Borough. This is illustrated by both sites having a particularly high membership, well in excess of average levels. Furthermore, there is also a distinct lack of variety in that both courses currently provide standard hole provision at a relatively high price point, with no cheaper offerings available that would appeal more so to less affluent residents, and no shorter or less traditional offerings that would appeal more so to, for example, beginners, casual golfers and high handicappers.

The identified facility gaps mean that demand will likely be travelling outside of Hinckley & Bosworth for suitable access to golf provision, or they will be unable to play. This is especially going to be the case to the East and West of the Borough, with all existing provision located to the north and south.

12.5: Conclusion

Given a low supply levels of golf courses and high levels of demand, no existing sites can be deemed surplus to requirements as it is clear that any loss could not be sustained, meaning all provision requires protection. Furthermore, avenues to further improve the variety and spatial distribution of facilities should be explored in order to ensure that all types of golfers from across the Borough have somewhere suitable to play.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Golf – supply and demand summary

- ◀ With only two golf courses currently provided in Hinckley & Bosworth, there is a low level of supply servicing the Borough. This is illustrated by both sites having a particularly high membership, well in excess of average levels.
- ◀ Furthermore, there is also a distinct lack of variety in that both courses currently provide standard hole provision at a relatively high price point, with no cheaper offerings available or shorter, traditional offerings, due to all existing provision located to the north and south.
- ◀ No existing sites can be deemed surplus to requirements and avenues to improve the variety and spatial distribution of facilities should be explored in order to ensure that all types of golfers from across the Borough have somewhere suitable to play.

Golf – supply summary

- ◀ There are currently two golf sites in operation.
- ◀ An additional golf venue was also previously provided located at Kyngs Golf and Country Club; however the site closed in 2016.
- ◀ Forest Hill Golf Club and Hinckley Golf Club provide one 18-hole course.
- ◀ One of the two golf sites in Hinckley & Bosworth supply a traditional driving range, in addition to their standard hole courses, with 20 bays provided at Forest Hill Golf Club. The site is serviced by sports lighting and available for pay and play usage.
- ◀ In Hinckley & Bosworth, there is one members club, with this provided at Hinckley Golf Club and one proprietary venue (Forest Hill Golf Club).
- ◀ Membership costs at Forest Hill Golf Club and Hinckley Golf Club are currently operating above the national average, with membership costing £1,345 for the latter and £1,206 for the former.
- ◀ Quality across the sites is good, with no issues reported.

Golf – demand summary

- ◀ The current average membership across the sites is 567, suggesting that demand is substantially higher than national rates (the average is 386).
- ◀ In line with a national trend of increasing membership, demand across Hinckley & Bosworth has increased significantly between 2015 and 2017, then reduced slightly in 2018 and decreasing further in 2022 (no data was collected by England Golf from 2018 until 2022).
- ◀ Whilst pay and play usage is not known, it would be expected that demand would be higher at the municipal and propriety courses due to other on-site amenities and the operational structures in place.
- ◀ Cross-boundary demand is likely to be high given the location of some sites both in and out of Hinckley & Bosworth, whilst the lack of variety of the sites within the Borough is also likely to leader to higher than normal levels of exported demand.
- ◀ Unmet demand could also be high given the lack of variety in what is provided, particularly from those wanting or needing shorter provision or cheaper access.
- ◀ Unmet demand is also expressed by Hinckley Golf Club, which has a waiting list in place.
- ◀ An England Golf mapping tool identifies significant potential demand for access to golf provision in the Borough.

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.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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 11v11 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.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Local Football Facility plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

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
- ◀ 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

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ **Grow and nurture the core**
 - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
 - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
 - ◀ Invest in club facilities
 - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
 - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
 - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
 - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
 - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
 - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
 - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
 - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
 - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
 - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
 - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
 - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
 - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
 - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
 - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
 - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
 - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
 - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ **Support our communities**
 - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
 - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
 - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
 - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2021)

The RFU strategic vision is to achieve 'a successful and thriving game across England'.

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.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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

- 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.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

- 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.

Rugby Football League – National Community Facilities Strategy (2024 – 2030)

The RFL has developed a new National Facilities Strategy which will guide investment into the game from 2024 through to 2030. The proposed investment package aligned to the Strategy will not only transform facilities, but also bolster the sport's social impact, reinforcing its position as a vital part of the nation's sporting and social fabric.

The four focus areas of the Strategy are:

- ◀ **Security of Tenure** – allowing clubs to plan for the long-term
- ◀ **Accessible and Inclusive Facilities** – providing suitable facilities for all and creating safe spaces for the wider community
- ◀ **Adequate and Appropriate Pitch Provision**– investment both in playing surfaces, and in upskilling a volunteer workforce to maintain them
- ◀ **Sustainability**– both environmental and financial

The Strategy will deliver on the four focus areas by delivering against a set of five recommendations which are set within the Strategy and are detailed below. These recommendations reflect the wider strategic aspirations across the sport and are for the RFL to work to deliver.

- ◀ **Focus Community Clubs**
 - ◀ Ensure the RFL has sufficient capacity and resource to deliver the recommendations identified within this Strategy to support its community clubs.
 - ◀ Ensure all community clubs have the knowledge and resource to provide good quality grass pitches.
 - ◀ Supporting clubs to have good quality changing and social facilities which can support the scale of need at each club. These must be inclusive for all participants and benefit target user groups such as women and girls' participants.
 - ◀ Ensure clubs can accommodate a sustainable operational programme for clubhouses to ensure the longevity of provision.
 - ◀ Work with clubs and key partners to increase the number of clubs with secured tenure of their club facilities.
 - ◀ Develop a dedicated funding programme which is specifically aimed at supporting clubs to gain security of tenure at their respective site.
 - ◀ Highlight success stories and best practices from community clubs to inspire others and showcase the positive impact of these efforts.
- ◀ **Deliver positive social and environmental impact**
 - ◀ Support clubs through training and advice on how to promote facilities for non-rugby league purposes.
 - ◀ Work with Active Partnerships across England to enable higher usage and activation of rugby league assets for non-rugby league activity.
 - ◀ Prioritise clubs for wellbeing hubs which may offer the widest social benefit (relative to local need) – particularly those in high deprivation areas.
 - ◀ Use the activation of club facilities as a prerequisite to capital funding for club house improvements / new development.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies
- ▶ **Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies**
 - ◀ Ensure continued working with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of other sports to capitalise on shared investment opportunities.
 - ◀ Work with the Football Foundation to maximise Multi-Sport funding opportunities – utilising the framework provided in this Strategy as the baseline of shared investment.
 - ◀ Work closely with Active Partnerships in areas with high club densities to establish opportunities for pitch access via the Open School Facilities programme.
- ▶ **Technological solutions**
 - ◀ Ensure the RFL gathers greater levels of information from clubs via affiliation. To include (e.g.) security of tenure information and an integrated self-assessment audit of community facilities.
 - ◀ Continue expanding the use and application of PitchPower so all clubs can self-assess provision and support clubs to make positive contributions to improving the quality of grass pitches.
 - ◀ Promote technological solutions which progress clubs into being more sustainable, energy efficient and ensure their long-term viability as community assets.
 - ◀ Create a platform or resource hub where clubs can access information on funding opportunities, facility management, and sustainable operational practices.
- ▶ **Working with Charitable Community Organisations and Wheelchair Rugby League**
 - ◀ Develop an investment package to support the operational delivery of professional club foundation led wheelchair activity focusing on storage and logistical solutions.
 - ◀ Prioritise capital investment into community club sites which also accommodate professional club foundations as tenants for community Rugby League activity.
 - ◀ Begin work on the feasibility of developing a national wheelchair centre which includes exploring partnership opportunities with other sports to maximise multisport value and return on investment.
 - ◀ Consult with professional club foundations, where possible, to understand the need for 3G access and work to ascertain sufficient access hours during peak times of need.

Rugby League World Cup ‘Inspired by 2021’ Legacy Programme

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021’s ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ▶ Creating welcoming environments
- ▶ Encouraging participation growth
- ▶ Building community engagement
- ▶ Cultivating further investment

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

Objectives:

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
 - The number of children playing tennis 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.

Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)

Bowls England's Strategy; 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ◀ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ◀ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- ◀ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- ◀ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ◀ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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.

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:-

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

- ◀ 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.

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

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

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football						
Please complete one form per pitch						
Site reference:			Site Name:			
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID(s):			
Number of football pitches on site:			Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)		
Availability			Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?	<input type="checkbox"/>		
If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues						
Weather at time of visit & date of visit						
Pitch Issues:						
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)						
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments	
Playing surface						
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%	Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No	See size chart below for recommended dimensions
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe	
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short	Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage	
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)						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

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Cricket pitch non-technical assessment

Element	Rating				Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield						
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor		CBEX falls below the ECD basic standard	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor		Ideally 42mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even		Uneven		Ball should run without deviation or stop	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		Has also wish to refer to user survey; if yes, refer to wicket/club/site manager	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kick about etc. Has also wish to refer to user survey; if yes, refer to wicket/club/site manager	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		eg from animals/vehicles - rucksack, balls and footwear 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 unevenness 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" wicket/club/site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes		No		If "yes" wicket/club/site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes		No			
Grass wickets						
Presence of line markings	Yes		No			
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes		No			
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes		No		3mm on wicket wicket/42mm rest of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes		No			
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes		No		CBEX falls below the ECD basic standard	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes		No			
Changing/ Pavilion						
Umpires provision	Yes		No			
Toilets	Yes		No			
Hot/cold water	Yes		No			
Heating	Yes		No			
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention			
NTP						
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			
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			

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Rugby pitch non-technical assessment

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				<i>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues</i>					
<small>Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused</small>									
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		
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.								
Pitch Maintenance Score									

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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+				

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Court non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Basketball 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 surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate					
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No - but adequate		No - not adequate					
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe	
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots					
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Changing Accomodation										
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No							
About the equipment										
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor					
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No							
Practice wall	Yes		No							

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Athletics track non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Athletics Tracks

KKPref	<input type="text"/>
Site name:	<input type="text"/>
Track surface	<input type="text"/> Grass, polymeric, cinder, other specify <input type="text"/> Specify if 'Other' <input type="text"/>
No. of Lanes	<input type="text"/> Length of track: <input type="text"/> Community Use: <input type="text"/>

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Grip underfoot	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Line markings - quality	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Track edging	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Disabled access	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Floodlighting	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Is the track fenced?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump								
Surface of run ups - long/triple jump, high jump	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Adequate landing areas - jumps	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully	<input type="checkbox"/>	No-but adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	No-not adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Take off boards	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Landing mats	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Surface of throwing areas - shot, discuss, hammer								
Surface of throwing areas - shot, discuss, hammer	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Adequate safety margins - throws	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Throwing cages	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Access to toilets								
Access to toilets	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Changing accommodation								
Changing accommodation	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Changing accommodation - quality	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Club room	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Car parking	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		
General Comments								
<input type="text"/>							ENTER Athletics	Please make sure there is no filter on in sheet At_db !