

**COTSWOLD**

**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**MARCH 2017**

Quality, Integrity, Professionalism

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# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
NGB	National Governing Body
FA	Football Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
GCB	Gloucestershire Cricket Board
GFA	Gloucestershire Football Association
EH	England Hockey
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Section 106
CDC	Cotswold District Council
FIT	Fields in Trust
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
FE	Further Education
HE	Higher Education
TGR	Team Generation Rate

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This is the Playing Pitch Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Cotswold District Council and its partners.

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

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

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

Stages B and C are covered in this report.

### ***Background context***

In terms of the contribution of sport to the Council's wider agendas, the Playing Pitch Needs Assessment will also be related to:

- ◀ *The Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan (2016-19)*
- ◀ *Cotswold District Local Plan (2011-31)*
- ◀ *Cotswold The Preferred Development Strategy (2015)*
- ◀ *Cotswold Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2011)*

#### *The Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan (2016-19)*

As one of its priorities Cotswold District Council recognises the importance of its towns and villages for shopping, leisure, cultural and community activities and will take action to encourage their vitality and viability. In doing so, the Council objectives include the wish to maximise quality of life by seeking to maintain and support the infrastructure, services and facilities needed to support its communities and businesses.

The population of Cotswold District is 84,367, which given its size of 450 square miles and its largely rural character means that there is a low density of population. In 2001, 20% of the population was 65 and over. In 2013, it was estimated that 24% of the population was 65 and over. In 2011, there were 15.5% of total households in the District occupied by a person aged 65 or above living alone (higher than the county average of 13.2%). People living in Cotswold District are more likely to experience a good quality of life than elsewhere in Britain. Many parts of the District are in the least deprived 20% in England, with no parts in the most deprived 20%, according to the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation. However, some parts of the District experience specific elements of deprivation, with parts in the 10% most 'deprived' nationally in terms of access to housing and services (e.g. GP's surgeries, post offices etc), and living environment (e.g. housing condition) with other areas in the top 20%. The issues relating to access to housing and

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services are substantially due to the rural nature of the District. By working with others, the Council wants to improve the situation in these areas.

### *Cotswold District Local Plan (2011-31)*

The Local Plan sets out the Council's policies and proposals for future development and land use in the district. A new Local Plan is being produced, but until it is adopted the saved policies in the adopted Local Plan still apply. Planning policy offers strong protection for the retention of sports and recreation facilities. The Playing Pitch Strategy is an evidence paper that will support the existing Local Plan and the new one once it is adopted.

### *Cotswold Preferred Development Strategy (2013)*

The 'Local Plan Consultation Paper: Preferred Development Strategy' outlines the issues that are of local concern and sets the strategic context for development. It establishes the levels of development to be accommodated across the District, determines its distribution and provides the strategic direction for the location of future development. The Preferred Development Strategy makes provision for 8,400 new dwellings in the district by 2031, all of which will be accommodated within Cirencester and the 16 'Principal Settlements'. This provides a valuable mechanism for determining where additional demand for playing pitches is likely to be concentrated. Further consultation work has been undertaken regarding Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation: Development Strategy and Site Allocations (January 2015).

### *Cotswold Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2011)*

The document comprised of an assessment of provision in the District and is an initial reference point for the Playing Pitch Strategy. The assessment methodology used in relation to current national planning policy guidance has since been superseded, though it provides a useful preliminary assessment of provision in Cotswold District.

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

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively. The Council is currently preparing a Facility Strategy. This assesses current and future need for built sports facilities. A Playing Pitch Strategy will complement the objectives and action plan associated with the Facility Strategy and other corporate strategies:

Corporate and strategic:

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

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## Planning:

- ◀ The Playing Pitch Strategy will provide important evidence to support the Cotswold Local Plan.
- ◀ It will support strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being in the emerging Cotswold Local Plan.
- ◀ Evidence for Community Infrastructure Levy and Developer Contributions

## Operational:

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

## Sports development:

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

## **Vision**

The Cotswold District Council Playing Pitch Assessment report sets out the key drivers for the production of this strategy. The strategy seeks to support the Council and its partners:

*'To ensure that there are enough playing pitches in Cotswold District of the right type, the right quality and in the right place to meet the needs of the inhabitants of the District now and in the future'.*

To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy seeks to deliver the following aims;

- ◀ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long term benefit of sport
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs
- ◀ Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer term aspirations.

## **Objectives**

The production of a playing pitch strategy for Cotswold should meet the following objectives:

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- ◀ To provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs for playing pitches and non-pitch sports within the District focusing on quantity and quality issues within the supply and demand equation
- ◀ To provide information to assist asset management planning of council owned playing fields and the associated buildings
- ◀ To provide information to assist in decisions associated with the provision of public playing pitches
- ◀ To provide information to underpin the protection, enhancement and quality improvement of the existing pitch stock and ancillary facilities
- ◀ To map out a process for improvements in community access to educational and non-local authority pitches to achieve an understanding on the nature of ownership of existing provision
- ◀ To consider the revenue implications of maintaining playing pitches and establish a benchmark on revenue and expenditure.
- ◀ To develop specific action plans of sites to be improved from developer contributions. It will identify areas of search for new playing pitch provision associated with the sport and locality of the area of need.
- ◀ To review the current supply of AGP's for all sports and provide clear recommendations on where new pitches should be delivered in each sub area
- ◀ To review the quantity and quality of changing room and ancillary support facilities on pitch sites and make recommendations to ensure they are fit for purpose
- ◀ To establish and review ownership of playing pitch sites (e.g. potential for transfer of ownership and/or management to user groups/ community organisations)
- ◀ To review and identify lapsed/disused sites and assess what their future role should be (allocate for medium-long term future use; improve and bring back into use short term; dispose of for another use)
- ◀ Develop a process for regular updating and monitoring of the PPS

### ***Agreed scope***

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

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Hockey/artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Third generation artificial pitches (3G pitches)
- ◀ Other grass sports pitches(including lacrosse and polo)

### ***Management arrangements***

A strong and effective steering group will lead and drive a PPS forward during its development and also to ensure the delivery of its recommendations and actions.

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

The Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Sport England and the pitch sport National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

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

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

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## Study area

The study area will be the Cotswold Council boundary area. Further to this analysis areas have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. For the purpose of this study three Analysis Areas are applied as follows:

Table 1.1: Summary of Cotswold analysis areas

Sub-area	Wards	Population <sup>1</sup>	
North Area	Aston Subedge Batsford Blockley Bourton-on-the-Hill Chipping Campden Ebrington	Mickleton Moreton-in-Marsh Saintbury Todenham Weston Subedge Willersey	13,651
Mid Area	Adlestrop Andoversford Barrington Bledington Bourton-on-the-Water Broadwell Clapton Cold Aston Compton Abdale Condicote Cutsdean Donnington Dowdeswell Evenlode Farmington Great Rissington Guiting Power Hampnett Hazleton Icomb Little Rissington	Longborough Lower Slaughter Maugersbury Naunton Northleach with Eastington Notgrove Oddington Sevenhampton Sezincote Sherborne Stow-on-the-Wold Swell Temple Guiting Turkdean Upper Rissington Upper Slaughter Westcote Whittington Wick Rissington Windrush	18,549

<sup>1</sup> Data Source: ONS Mid-2014 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

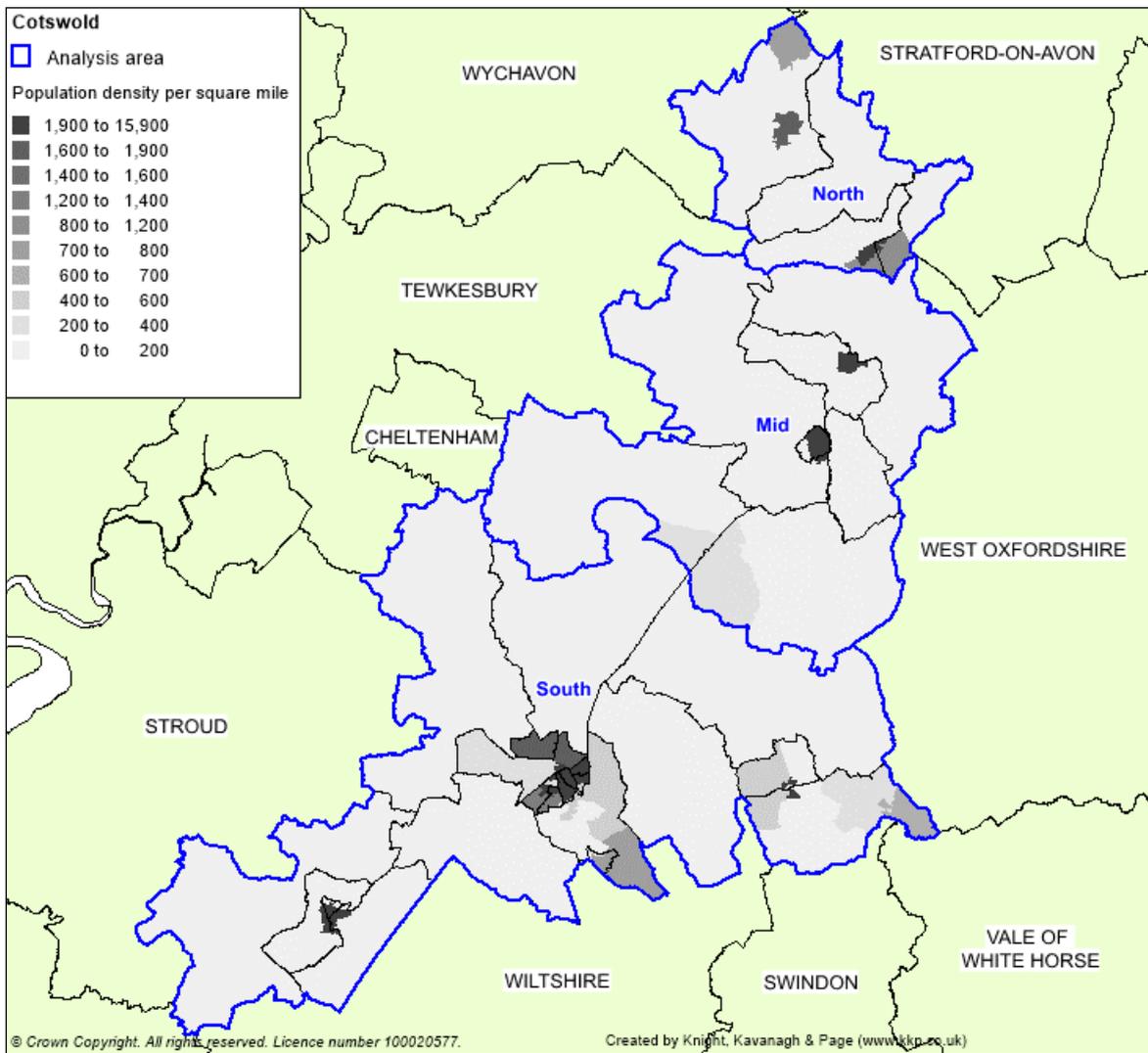
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Sub-area	Wards	Population <sup>1</sup>	
South Area	Aldsworth Ampney Crucis Ampney St. Mary Ampney St. Peter Ashley Avening Bagendon Barnsley Baunton Beverston Bibury Boxwell with Leighterton Brimpsfield Chedworth Cherington Cirencester Coates Coberley Colesbourne Coln St. Aldwyns Coln St. Dennis Cowley Daglingworth Didmarton Down Ampney Driffield Duntisbourne Abbots Duntisbourne Rouse Eastleach Edgeworth Elkstone	Fairford Hatherop Kemble Kempsford Kingscote Lechlade Long Newnton Maiseyhampton North Cerney Ozleworth Poole Keynes Poulton Preston Quenington Rendcomb Rodmarton Sapperton Shipton Shipton Moyne Siddington Somerford Keynes South Cerney Southrop Syde Tetbury Tetbury Upton Westonbirt with Lasborough Winson Winstone Withington Yanworth	52,962

Whilst the above areas should be used for the basis of reporting, the strategy must also address the sport specific geography of Cotswold. Many sports and leagues cross these boundaries and pitch facilities in one area may also be suitable for clubs in another area. The strategy must also look into Cotswold clubs playing in leagues covering an area outside of Cotswold, Cotswold clubs playing outside of the District and vice versa. This cross boundary movement will be taken into consideration when producing this strategy.

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Figure 1.1: Map of the Cotswold study area



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

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

#### ***Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches***

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'<sup>2</sup>.

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

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

Although the statutory definition of a playing field is the whole of a site with at least one pitch of 0.2ha or more, this PPS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, 5v5 mini football pitches. This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

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

#### *Quantity*

All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied as an electronic file):

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

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<sup>2</sup>. [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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### Accessibility

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

- ◀ **Community use** - pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These fall outside of Sport England’s statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

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

*Table 1.1: Disused and lapsed pitches in Cotswold*

Site name	Analysis Area	Sports	Status	Comments
Eastleach Playing Field	South	Football	Disused	Single football pitch with no onsite changing provision. Site now used as recreational playing field land.
Four Acres Field Cirencester	South	Football	Lapsed	Previously marked as an adult pitch until changing pavilion was burned down. Has since been used as recreational playing field land rather than formal sports provision.
Guiting Field	Mid	Cricket	Lapsed	Previously a cricket pitch used by Guiting Power CC which has since folded. Club last recorded as playing league cricket in 2005. Located behind the village hall, site now used as recreational playing field land.
Jubilee Close Playing Field	South	Football	Disused	Single football pitch with no onsite changing provision. Site now used as recreational playing field land.

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Site name	Analysis Area	Sports	Status	Comments
Lower Dunsfold, Duntisbourne Leer	South	Cricket	Disused site	Previously a cricket pitch used by Duntisbourne Abbots CC which has since folded. Club last recorded as playing league cricket in 2012. Located beside the A417 and has no other recorded community use.
Willersey Recreation Ground	North	Football	Disused	Single football pitch with no onsite changing provision. Site now used as recreational playing field land.
Windrush Valley Field	Mid	Cricket	Disused site	Previously a cricket pitch used by Windrush Valley CC which has since folded. Club last recorded as playing league cricket in 2013. Located opposite the Fox Inn and has no other recorded community use.

### *Quality*

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Gather demand information and views***

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

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

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

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

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For data analysis purposes an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation. Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing.

### ***Future demand***

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

This assessment uses ONS based population projections up to 2031 and does not account for targeted areas of population increase through housing growth. Housing growth scenarios and the outdoor sports provision requirements for newly generated demand at specific housing sites are explored in the accompanying Strategy & Action Plan document. There are a number of areas where significant housing growth is proposed shown in Table 1.2, notably Cirencester with an increase of 2,370 new homes.

*Table 1.2: Summary of proposed housing allocations*

Location	Analysis Area	Number of new homes
Moreton-in-Marsh	North	208
Chipping Campden	North	120
Willersey	North	54
Blockley	North	29
Mickleton	North	0
Bourton-on-the-Water	Mid	32
Andoversford	Mid	25
Northleach	Mid	22
Stow-on-the-Wold	Mid	10
Upper Rissington	Mid	0
Cirencester	South	2370

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Location	Analysis Area	Number of new homes
Fairford	South	77
Tetbury	South	70
Kemble	South	36
Down Ampney	South	28
Lechlade	South	18
South Cerney	South	0

## *Population growth*

The current resident population in Cotswold is 85,162<sup>3</sup>. By 2031 (in line with the Local Plan) the District's population is projected to increase to 93,380<sup>4</sup> an increase of 8,218 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 9.6%) according to ONS data.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Understand the situation at individual sites***

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

<sup>3</sup> Source: ONS Mid-2014 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

<sup>4</sup> Source: ONS 2014-based projections 2014-2039. Released: 25 May 2016

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

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	Green
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	Yellow
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	Red

### ***Develop the current picture of provision***

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

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

### ***Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing***

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future. Scenario testing occurs in the strategy report and therefore does not form part of the assessment report.

### ***Identify the key findings and issues***

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Cotswold. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section D).

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

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## PART 2: FOOTBALL

### 2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in the Cotswold District is Gloucestershire FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 3 captures supply and demand for artificial grass pitches (AGPs). In the future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of AGPs for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

### 2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 115 grass football pitches in Cotswold District. Of these, 85 are known to be available, at some level, for community use.

The map overleaf identifies all pitches regardless of community use. See Table 2.5 for the key to the map.

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

Availability	Pitch type					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
All pitches	45	14	21	19	16	<b>115</b>
Pitches available for community use	38	13	15	10	9	<b>85</b>

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17s and U18s are considered able to play on adult pitches. Full detail of recommended pitch sizes including area run offs are shown in Table 2.2.

*Table 2.2: Recommended pitch sizes*

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

In the Cotswold District, four youth 11v11 (U13-U16) teams currently use adult pitches and the following sites contain adult pitches that are used solely by youth 11v11 teams. These sites can therefore provide a starting point to increase youth 11v11 provision as no

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adult teams would be adversely affected by a pitch re-configuration (although there may be a need to retain adult pitches if shortfalls are identified). These sites are:

- ◀ SWR Leisure Centre (South Analysis Area)
- ◀ King George Playing Field (Middle Analysis Area)

Further investigation is required into both individual sites to establish if reconfiguring pitches would allow additional pitches to be created on each site.

### ***Disused sites***

There are three sites across the Cotswold District which are identified as being disused. All three sites are single pitch sites with no accompanying changing facilities.

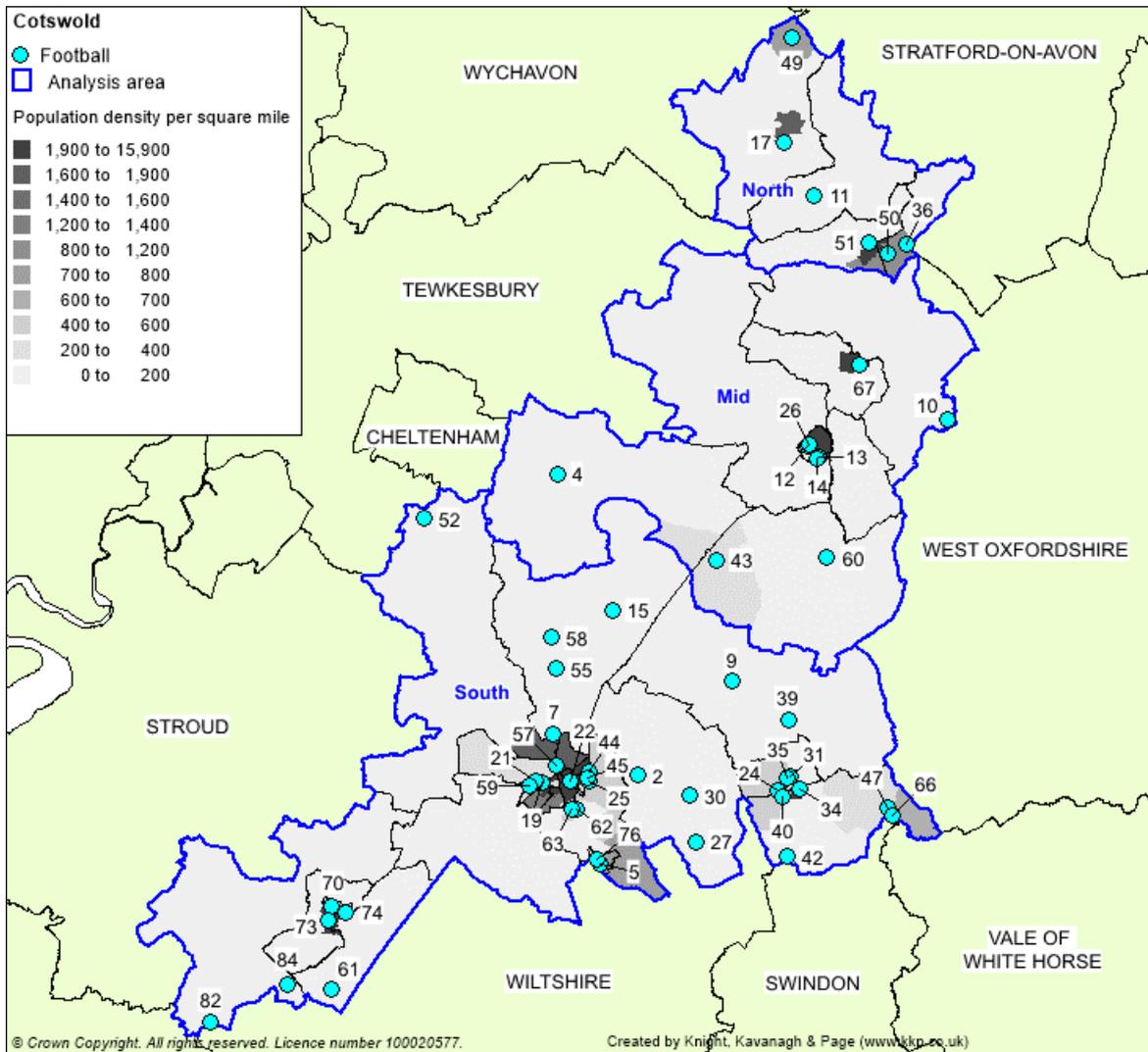
- ◀ Willersey Recreation Ground (North Analysis Area)
- ◀ Eastleach Playing Field (South Analysis Area)
- ◀ Jubilee Close Playing Field (South Analysis Area)

### ***Lapsed sites***

The Four Acres Field site (South Analysis Area) previously had one adult pitch with accompanying changing provision. Since changing provision was set fire to and burned down a number of years ago, the site is now used as public open space for recreational use.

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Figure 2.1: Location and capacity of football pitches in The Cotswold District



# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## ***Pitch quality***

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

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

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

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). It should be noted that all of the sites that received a 'standard' rating from the non-technical assessments score between 50% and 57%. The table below summarises the quality of grass pitches that are available for community use.

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

<b>Pitch type</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Poor</b>
Adult	10	25	3
Youth 11v11	7	6	-
Youth 9v9	3	12	-
Mini 7v7	3	7	-
Mini 5v5	2	7	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>3</b>

The pitch quality audit shows that the majority of pitches (66%) available for community use are standard quality, with 30% rated as good and 4% as poor. Most adult (61%), youth (58%) and mini (74%) pitches are assessed as standard quality.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than Council parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. The maintenance and use of Council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

## ***Overmarked pitches***

Overmarking 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. Overmarking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time. Within the Cotswold District, there are two sites which contain overmarked pitches. Baunton Lane has a mini 5v5 pitch overmarked across a mini 7v7 pitch and Horcott Road has a small sided youth 11v11 pitch (82x50m) inside a larger youth 11v11 pitch (91x55m). Please refer to table 2.2 for full details of pitch sizes.

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## ***Ancillary facilities***

The term ancillary facilities take into account clubhouse buildings, changing facilities and car parking, amongst other things but excluding the playing pitches. Changing facilities are an issue at some football sites and using data collated in 2014, six sites were identified as being poor quality:

- ◀ Hatherop Playing Field
- ◀ Mickleton Sports Club
- ◀ Royal Agricultural University
- ◀ Sherbourne Playing Field
- ◀ Shipton Monye Playing Field
- ◀ Siddington Playing Field

## ***Security of tenure***

Teams playing at local authority or parish council managed sites are considered to have secured tenure as part of the maintained sports and leisure provision offering i.e. there is a good degree of certainty that the pitches will be available to the community for at least the following three years. However, there are 20 teams (shown below) which rent pitches at education sites and do not have formal community agreements in place, subsequently tenure is considered to be unsecure. In addition to this, Coln House School is particular notable as the school has closed down and is no longer in use. As such, the immediate future of the playing fields which are used regularly by Fairford Town Youth FC and is therefore of key concern.

<b>Club</b>	<b>Number of teams</b>	<b>School venue</b>
Avonvale United (Youth) FC	Three youth team	SWR Leisure Centre
Forest Green Rovers Youth FC	Ten youth teams	Royal Agricultural University
Moreton Rangers Youth FC	Two youth teams	Fire Service College
Fairford Town Youth FC	Five youth teams	Coln House School

## ***Football pyramid facilities***

There are three clubs in Cotswold District that play within the non-league football pyramid; Cirencester Town FC (Step 3), Cirencester Town Reserves (Step 6) and Fairford Town FC (Step 6).

In addition to this, Bourton Rovers FC and Moreton Rangers FC which both currently participate in the Hellenic League Division 2 West (no official step) have been identified by the league as being able to transfer to the Hellenic Premier Division (Step 6) if they are able to meet the required ground grading requirements for the 2017/2018 season.

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

Cirencester Town FC has been conditional awarded grant funding from the Football Foundation (FF) to create a full sized 3G stadium pitch. The Club has aspirations for the creation of a new stadia 3G pitch to be ready for the 2017/2018 season and to replace the

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

existing grass pitch. The Club plans for the pitch to become a hub for community activity and to be used by local clubs and schools, notably Cirencester College with which Cirencester Town FC partners and runs the Cirencester Town Academy. For more details on the use of 3G pitches within the Football pyramid structure, please refer to Part 3: Third Generation Artificial Pitches

### ***Future developments***

There are initial plans to develop a 9v9 junior pitch in Kempsford (South Analysis Area) which will predominantly be used by local primary schools. The pitch will be the sole pitch provided at High Street Road and will be secured by a perimeter fence to prevent unauthorised access. At present, there are negotiations with local residents surrounding the site to agree an appropriate height for the fence.

### **2.3: Demand**

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 118 teams are identified as playing matches on football pitches within Cotswold District. This consists of 37 men's, one women's, 51 youth boys' and 28 mini soccer teams.

*Table 2.4: Summary of football demand*

	Adult	Youth		Mini		Total
		11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	33	19	17	11	<b>118</b>
		<b>52</b>		<b>28</b>		

### ***Unmet/latent demand***

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering growth. At present, there is no identified unmet demand within Cotswold District. Similarly, latent demand is that if more pitches were available would clubs develop additional teams. However, at present no clubs are identified as having this issue. It is assumed that there is neither unmet/latent demand as there is an adequate supply of pitches to cater for the needs of all clubs in the District.

### ***Displaced/exported demand***

Displaced demand refers to Cotswold District registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the area for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply or in some cases quality issues. At present, there is no identified displaced/exported demand within Cotswold District.

### ***Imported demand***

Imported demand refers to teams registered outside of Cotswold District accessing pitches within the District. Generally, this is because pitches are deemed to be of a better quality, lower in price or are situated near the boundary of the study area and are geographically more accessible.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Currently, Forest Green Youth FC has ten youth teams ranging from U8 to U18 playing fixtures at the Royal Agricultural University. The Club is Stroud based and its senior section plays fixtures in the Vanarama Nation League (Step 1). The Club is in the process of a stadium relocation and additionally wants to create an indoor and outdoor 3G with accompanying grass pitches which would cater for its full youth section. Should this happen, the Club would transfer all its play back into Stroud, freeing up capacity at Royal Agricultural University. However, despite in theory there being potential future spare capacity, it should be noted that traditionally the University only grants access to key partners and therefore it is unrealistic to assume the site will be fully accessible for community clubs.

### ***Future demand***

#### *Population increases*

Team generation rates are used as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. These figures are based solely on ONS population data and do not account for areas of targeted housing growth and strategic allocations. For example, proposals are soon due to be submitted for the creation of approximately 2350 new dwellings in the Cirencester area which is likely to have an impact on future demand for sport in the Cirencester (South) area.

*Table 2.5: Team generation rates*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2031)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (16-45)	12,702	42	1:302	12,754	42.2	0
Senior Women's (16-45)	12,854	1	1:12854	12,684	1	0
Youth Boys' (12-15)	1,814	28	1:65	1,919	29.6	1
Youth Girls' (12-15)	1,713	1	1:1713	1,909	1.1	0
Youth Boys' (10-11)	855	18	1:48	970	20.4	2
Youth Girls (10-11)	880	0	0	958	0	0
Mini- Soccer Mixed (8-9)	1,771	16	1:111	1,987	17.9	1
Mini – Soccer Mixed (6-7)	1,747	12	1:146	1,848	12.7	0

Population increases are likely to result in the growth in participation amounting to at least one youth boys team (12-15), two youth boy's teams (10-11) and one mini team (8-9).

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.6: Team generation rates (by Analysis Area)

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)			
	North Analysis Area	Middle Analysis Area	South Analysis Area	Total
Senior Men (16-45)	0	0	0	0
Senior Women (16-45)	0	0	0	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	0	0	1	1
Youth Girls (12-15)	0	0	0	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	0	0	1	1
Youth Girls (10-11)	0	0	0	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	0	0	1	1
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	0	0	0	0

Team generation rates (TGRs) based on future population growth indicate that participation is anticipated to increase at all age groups. When broken down by Analysis Area it is likely to create at least two teams as shown in Table 2.6. This equates to the following additional need for pitch capacity:

- ◀ Youth 11v11: one team (0.5 match sessions)
- ◀ Mini 7v7: one team (0.5 match sessions)

Team generation rates (TGRs) are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, TGRs cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools.

Similarly, TGRs are based solely on overall population figures and do not account for targeted population increases in specific communities or areas of housing growth, for example the major housing development planned in Cirencester.

## **Training**

Access to affordable floodlit training facilities is generally considered to be a key issue for football clubs, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. As there is no full sized 3G pitches situated in the Cotswold District, training lends itself to training on sand surface AGPs which are not ideal for football use. At present, Cirencester Deer Park School, Chipping Campden Leisure Centre and The Cotswold School (Bourton on the Water) are utilised by clubs in the District. It should also be noted that Forest Green Rovers Youth FC access the sand based pitch at the Royal Agricultural University to meet its training requirements. The AGP situated at Cirencester Deer Park is used by three clubs and competes with high levels of hockey use for pitch space. The site reports that the AGP is nearing full capacity and has to regularly turn down potential bookings on a regular basis. Similarly, Chipping Campden Leisure Centre is also accessed by three clubs and competes for midweek pitch space with two hockey clubs.

In addition to outdoor training facilities, Cirencester Town FC has a small sided indoor 3G (60x40m) pitch which accommodates all winter training for its 17 teams.

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## 2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

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

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

### **Education sites**

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

School pitches within Table 2.5 only show capacity and overplay based on recorded community use. Though some might exhibit potential spare capacity this has not been included within the capacity analysis where it is known that the pitches are used for curriculum and school team sessions midweek, as this is likely to account for any spare capacity shown.

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

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.5: Football pitch capacity analysis (available and with recorded community use)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (in match sessions)	FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Pitches available in peak period
11	Blockley Sports & Social Club	North	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Good	1	0.5	3	2.5	0.5
17	Chipping Campden Recreation Ground	North	Secure	Council	Youth	9v9	Standard	1	1	2	1	1
					Mini	7v7		1	1	4	3	0.5
36	Fire Service College	North	Unsecure	College	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	1
					Youth	9v9		1	0.5	2	1.5	1
49	Mickleton Sports Club	North	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	1
50	Moreton Rangers	North	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	1	-
					Mini	7v7		1	1	4	3	1
4	Andoversford Village Hall & Sports Club	Mid	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	1	-
13	Bourton Rovers Football & Social Club	Mid	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Good	1	3	3	-	-
14	Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Mid	Secure	Sports Club	Youth	9v9	Standard	1	0	2	2	1
					Mini	7v7		1	1	4	3	-
43	King George V Playing Field	Mid	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	1	0.5
					Youth	9v9		1	1	2	-	-
60	Sherborne Playing Field	Mid	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
7	Baunton Lane	South	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	1	1
					Mini	7v7 (5v5) <sup>5</sup>		1	1	4	3	-
9	Bibury FC	South	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Standard	2	1	4	3	1
24	Coln House School	South	Unsecure	School	Youth	11v11	Standard	1	1	2	1	-
					Youth	9v9		1	1	2	-	-
25	Corinium Stadium	South	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Good	3	1.5	9	7.5	2.5
					Youth	11v11		2	4.5	8	3.5	0.5
					Youth	9v9		1	1.5	4	2.5	0.5
					Mini	7v7		1	1	6	5	-
					Mini	5v5		1	0	6	6	1
27	Down Ampney Football Club	South	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
30	Englands	South	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Good	1	0.5	3	2.5	0.5
34	Fairford Town FC	South	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Good	2	2	6	4	1
39	Hatherop Playing Field	South	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
40	Horcott Road Playing Field	South	Secure	Parish Council	Youth	11v11	Standard	1	2	2	-	-
					Mini	7v7		1	1	4	3	-
					Mini	5v5		3	0.5	12	11.5	2.5
45	Kingshill Sports Complex	South	Secure	Council	Adult		Standard	3	2.5	6	3.5	1.5
					Youth	11v11		1	1	2	1	-
					Youth	9v9		1	1	2	1	-
47	Lechlade Memorial Hall & Pavilion	South	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
59	Royal Agricultural University	South	Unsecure	University	Adult		Good	2	0.5	6	5.5	2
					Youth	11v11		5	2.5	20	17.5	3
					Youth	9v9		2	1	8	7	1

<sup>5</sup> Overmarked pitch inside brackets.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (in match sessions)	FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Pitches available in peak period
59	Royal Agricultural University	South	Unsecure	University	Mini	7v7	Good	2	1	12	11	1
					Mini	5v5		1	0.5	4	3.5	0.5
61	Shipton Monye Recreation Ground	South	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
62	Siddington Playing Fields	South	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
70	SWR Leisure Centre	South	Unsecure	School	Adult		Standard	3	1.5	6	4.5	3
					Youth	9v9		1	0	2	2	1
72	Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground	South	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0.5
					Youth	9v9		1	0.5	2	1.5	1
					Mini	7v7		1	1	4	3	-
					Mini	5v5		1	1.5	4	2.5	0.5
74	Tetbury Town FC	South	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	1	-
76	Walnut Tree Playing Fields	South	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Standard	1	2	2	-	-
					Youth	9v9		1	1	2	1	-
					Mini	5v5		1	1.5	4	2.5	-
82	Didmarton Playing Fields	South	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5

Table 2.6: Football pitch capacity (available but with no recorded community use)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches	FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions)	Pitches available in peak period
51	Moreton-In-Marsh Cricket Club	North	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	4	1
					Mini	5v5		1	4	1
15	Chedworth Recreation Ground	South	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Standard	1	2	1
44	Kingshill Lane Sports College	South	Unsecure	School	Adult		Standard	2	2	1
					Youth	(9v9)		1	2	1

Table 2.7: Football pitch capacity (No community use)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches	FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions)
10	Bledington Primary School	Mid	Unsecure	School	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	4
12	Bourton-on-the-Water Primary School	Mid	Unsecure	School	Mini	5v5	Standard	1	4
26	Cotswold Academy	Mid	Unsecure	School	Adult		Standard	1	2
67	Stow-on-the-Wold Primary School	Mid	Unsecure	School	Youth	9v9	Standard	1	2
					Mini	7v7		1	4
					Mini	5v5		1	4
2	Ampney Crucis Cricket Club	South	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	5v5	Standard	1	4
5	Ann Edwards Primary School	South	Unsecure	School	Youth	9v9	Standard	1	2
					Mini	7v7		1	4
19	Cirencester College	South	Unsecure	College	Adult		Standard	2	4
21	Cirencester Deer Park School	South	Unsecure	School	Adult		Standard	2	4

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches	FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions)
22	Cirencester Primary School	South	Unsecure	School	Mini	5v5	Standard	2	8
					Mini	7v7		2	8
31	Fairford Primary School	South	Unsecure	School	Mini	5v5	Standard	1	4
42	Kempsford Primary	South	Unsecure	School	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	4
52	National Star College	South	Unsecure	School	Youth	9v9	Standard	1	2
55	North Cerney Primary School	South	Unsecure	School	Youth	9v9	Standard	1	2
57	Powell's Primary School	South	Unsecure	School	Youth	9v9	Standard	1	2
					Mini	7v7		1	4
58	Rendcomb College	South	Unsecure	College	Adult		Standard	1	2
					Youth	11v11		1	2
					Youth	9v9		1	2
63	Siddington Primary School	South	Unsecure	School	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	4
66	St Lawrence Primary School	South	Unsecure	School	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	4
84	Westonbirt School	South	Unsecure	School	Adult		Standard	1	2

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### 2.5: Supply and demand analysis

#### ***Spare capacity***

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

The table below considers capacity of pitches on a site by site to accommodate further play and for them to be deemed as having 'actual spare capacity'. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criteria has been discounted from the supply and demand/conclusion tables.

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. It must also be noted that teams do not want to play on poor quality pitches.

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

#### ***Peak time***

The peak time varies for the different pitch types. It is important to acknowledge that although most adult football is played Saturday afternoons (76% of teams), peak time demand for adult pitches is exacerbated by the number of youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches (20% of Sunday morning demand for adult pitches). Peak time for youth 11v11 pitches, youth 9v9 pitches and both mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches is Sunday AM.

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Table 2.7: Actual spare capacity summary (recorded community use)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Potential spare capacity (match sessions)	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Comments
7	Baunton Lane	South	Adult	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
8	Bibury FC	South	Adult	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
11	Blockley Sports & Social Club	North	Adult	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
14	Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Middle	Youth 9v9	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
17	Chipping Campden Recreation Ground	North	Youth 9v9	1	1	1	Both pitch formats have actual spare capacity.
			Mini 7v7	1	0.5	0.5	
25	Corinium Stadium	South	Adult	3	2.5	-	Use restricted to Cirencester FC teams.
			Youth 11v11	2	0.5	-	
			Youth 9v9	1	0.5	-	
			Mini 5v5	1	1	-	
27	Down Ampney Football Club	South	Adult	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
30	Englands	South	Adult	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
34	Fairford Town FC	South	Adult	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
36	Fire Service College	North	Adult	1	1	-	No actual spare capacity when curricular use considered.
			Youth 9v9	1	1	-	
39	Hatherop Playing Field	South	Adult	1	0.5	-	Pitch is poor quality and not suitable to accommodate additional match play.
40	Horcott Road Playing Field	South	Mini 5v5	3	2.5	2.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
43	King George V Field	Middle	Adult	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Potential spare capacity (match sessions)	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Comments
45	Kingshill Sport Complex	South	Adult	3	1.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
47	Lechlade Memorial Hall & Pavilion	South	Adult	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
49	Mickleton Sports Club	North	Adult	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
50	Moreton Rangers	North	Mini 7v7	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
59	Royal Agricultural University	South	Adult	2	2	-	Use restricted to Forest Green Rovers Youth FC teams.
			Youth 11v11	5	3	-	
			Youth 9v9	2	1	-	
			Mini 7v7	2	1	-	
			Mini 5v5	1	0.5	-	
60	Sherborne Playing Field	Middle	Adult	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
61	Shipton Monye Recreation Ground	South	Adult	1	0.5	-	Pitch is poor quality and not suitable to accommodate additional match play.
62	Siddington Playing Fields	South	Adult	1	0.5	-	Pitch is poor quality and not suitable to accommodate additional match play.
70	SWR Leisure Centre	Middle	Adult	3	3	-	No actual spare capacity when curricular use considered.
			Youth 9v9	1	1	-	
72	Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground	South	Adult	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
			Youth 9v9	1	1	1	
			Mini 5v5	1	0.5	0.5	

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Potential spare capacity (match sessions)	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Comments
82	Didmarton Playing Fields	South	Adult	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use.
<b>Total</b>				<b>55</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>17</b>	

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.8: Total actual spare capacity (including unused pitches)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
North	1.5	-	1	2.5	1
Middle	1	-	1	-	-
South	10	-	2	-	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>4</b>

There is a total of 20.5 match sessions of actual spare capacity on pitches which are available for community use and currently used. In addition to this, there is one match session available on both a mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitch situated at Moreton-In-Marsh Cricket Club which is currently an unused, secure site and one match session on an adult pitch situated at Chedworth Recreation Ground.

### Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). In this instance, there are no sites identified as being overplayed across the District, however, there are four pitches deemed to be played to capacity meaning that no further play on these pitches is recommended. Pitches played to capacity are:

- ✦ Bourton Rovers Football & Social Club (one adult pitch)
- ✦ Coln House School (one youth 9v9 pitch)
- ✦ King George V Playing Field (one youth 9v9 pitch)
- ✦ Walnut Tree Playing Field (one adult pitch)

## 2.6: Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand has been accounted for and is based on team generation rates (TGRs) which are driven by population increases with one team equating to 0.5 match sessions based on teams playing on a home and away basis.

Table 2.9: Spare capacity/overplay of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>6</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent/displaced demand	Future demand	Total
North	1.5	-	1.5	-	-	1.5
Middle	1	-	1	-	-	1
South	10	-	8	-	-	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10.5</b>

There is currently an adequate supply of adult grass football pitches to cater for current demand. Additionally, as there is no anticipated future demand, it is deemed that the future supply of pitches is adequate to meet the needs of the District.

<sup>6</sup> In match equivalent sessions

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.10: Spare capacity/overplay of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>1</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent/ displaced demand	Future demand	Total
North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middle	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>0.5<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>0.5</b>

Whilst demand is currently being met for youth 11v11 pitches, due to anticipated future growth of one team, it is deemed that there will be a shortfall of 0.5 match sessions a week across the South Analysis Area.

Table 2.11: Spare capacity/overplay of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>1</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent/ displaced demand	Future demand	Total
North	1	-	1	-	-	1
Middle	1	-	1	-	-	1
South	2	-	2	-	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	-	<b>4</b>	-	-	<b>4</b>

There is currently an adequate supply of youth 9v9 grass football pitches to cater for current demand. When factoring in future demand there is still deemed to be enough capacity to cater for this level of demand.

Table 2.12: Spare capacity/overplay of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>1</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent/ displaced demand	Future demand	Total
North	2.5	-	2.5	-	-	2.5
Middle	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5</b>	-	<b>2.5</b>	-	<b>0.5<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>2</b>

There is currently an adequate supply of mini 7v7 grass football pitches to cater for current demand. When factoring in future demand there is still deemed to be enough capacity to cater for this level of demand although there is 0.5 match sessions of shortfall in the South Analysis Area.

Table 2.13: Spare capacity/overplay of mini 5v5 pitches

<sup>7</sup> Future demand is from predicted TGR growth.

<sup>8</sup> Future demand is from predicted TGR growth.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>1</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent/ displaced demand	Future demand	Total
North	1	-	1	-	-	1
Middle	-	-	-	-	-	-
South	3	-	3	-	-	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	-	<b>4</b>	-	-	<b>3</b>

There is currently an adequate supply of mini 5v5 grass football pitches to cater for current demand. When factoring in future demand there is still deemed to be enough capacity to cater for this level of demand.

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## **Football – grass pitch summary**

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 115 grass football pitches in The Cotswold District. Of these, 85 are known to be available, at some level, for community use.
- ◀ There are three sites identified as being disused, and one site as lapsed each containing one adult pitch.
- ◀ The majority of pitches (66%) available for community use are standard quality, with 30% rated as good and 4% as poor.
- ◀ There are six sites which have changing facilities described as poor quality.
- ◀ A total of 118 teams are identified as playing matches on football pitches within The Cotswold District. No teams were identified as playing football on a 3G surface.
- ◀ TGRs (by analysis area) anticipate the growth of one youth 11v11 team and one mini 7v7 team.
- ◀ Forest Green Rovers FC imports demand from its home base in Stroud to the Royal Agricultural University. The Club currently have ten teams playing at the site.
- ◀ There is a total of 23 match sessions of actual spare capacity across the District (including pitches which currently have no recorded play).
- ◀ There are no pitches identified as being overplayed, however, four pitches are currently played to capacity.
- ◀ In general, there is an adequate supply of grass football pitches across Cotswold District. However, when accounting for future demand there is a 0.5 match session shortfall on youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitch formats.
- ◀ Although spare capacity exists on most pitch formats, there is not considered to be an oversupply of provision. In addition to the need to retain a level of strategic reserve to help protect/increase pitch quality, the rural nature of the District means that teams are not likely to travel to utilise spare capacity at other sites.

# COTSWOLD

## PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

#### 3.1 Introduction

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

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

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for Artificial Grass Pitches for Rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union (this is also adopted by rugby league). The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place.

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

England Hockey Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) when no sand based or water based AGPs are available.

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

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

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## 3.2 Supply

There are currently no full sized outdoor 3G pitches within the Cotswold District and provision is limited to a small sized indoor pitch at the Corinium Stadium (Cirencester Town FC). The pitch is used for all Cirencester Town FC's winter training and is also used as a venue for indoor 5v5 football leagues on a Monday, Wednesday and Sunday.

As there is currently no full sized outdoor 3G pitches it should be noted that all competitive football therefore takes place on grass pitches.

### *Future provision*

Cirencester Town FC has recently been awarded a grant funding from the Football Foundation (FF) to create a full sized 3G stadium pitch. The Club plans for the stadia 3G pitch to be ready for the 2017/2018 season and to replace the existing grass pitch at the Corinium Stadium. The Club plans for the pitch to become a hub for community activity and to be used by local clubs and schools, notably Cirencester College with which Cirencester Town FC partners and runs the Cirencester Town Academy.

In addition to this, Fairford Town FC has aspirations to develop a 9v9 sized 3G pitch to cater for a large proportion of its training demand and mini and junior matches.

Where possible, new 3G pitches to be used for football should meet FA recommended dimensions shown in Table 3.3 to maximise their potential for future use for competitive football, subject to performance standard testing.

*Table 3.3: FA recommended 3G pitch sizes*

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

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

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

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

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

A 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Primarily a 3G surface is dedicated pitch for football, whilst a sand based AGP is considered to be used for multiple sports and is favoured by some schools for its ability to accommodate multiple sports. Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

### 3.3 Demand

#### *Football*

Accessing good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the Country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities, which for clubs in Cotswold is limited to sand based pitches.

#### *The FA model*

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

The FA's long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGPs State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch at peak times. It is estimated that one full sized AGP can service 42 teams.

On the basis, there are 118 teams playing competitive football in Cotswold, there is a recommended need for two full sized 3G pitches (rounded down from 2.8 to account for a proportion of demand to continue to be accommodated on sand based and small sized 3G pitches).

At present, there are no full sized 3G pitches, therefore the FA model suggests there is a shortfall of two pitches. However, the model assumes that all pitches are fully available for club use at peak time when in practice a number of pitches operate commercial small sided leagues which reduce capacity available.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.2 Current demand for full size 3G pitches in Cotswold District by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams playing in the analysis area	Full size 3G pitch requirement <sup>9</sup>
North	12	0
Middle	17	0
South	89	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>1</b>

When broken down by analysis area, the FA model suggests there is a requirement for two full sized 3G pitches in the South Analysis Area of which there is currently none. However, when factoring in the 3G stadia pitch to be created at Cirencester Town FC (to be ready for use by the start of the 2017/2018 football season) there remains a shortfall of one 3G pitch in the South Analysis Area. Despite this, consideration should be given to the two-sand based AGPs situated on school sites and the indoor small sided (55x37m) 3G pitch at the Corinium Stadium (all South Analysis Area) which accommodates a large proportion of localised football training demand. Consequently, one full sized 3G pitch (to be delivered at the Corinium Stadium) is considered to be sufficient to accommodate current football training demand in the South Area.

Moving forward, though delivery of the proposed full sized pitch at Corinium Stadium (Cirencester Town FC) is of short term priority, there may be a future need to provide additional capacity on 3G pitches which could be delivered through new small sized rather than full sized 3G pitches. Should the scheme be delivered it should then be reviewed as to what the level of community use is and subsequent additional demand remaining for use of 3G surfaces is in the area. This should take into account any potential impact of restricted hours in the peak period due to requirements from Cirencester Town FC for use on Saturday afternoons and some midweek evening matches.

### *Increased use of 3G pitches for match play*

Improving pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required, other options should be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. An alternative supported by the FA is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, particularly for mini and youth football. In order for competitive matches to take place the pitch must be FA tested and approved (to either FA or FIFA standard) and it will then appear on the FA Pitch Register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/?countyfa=Gloucestershire>

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

<sup>9</sup> Figures rounded down to account for a proportion of demand to continue to be accommodated on sand based and small sized 3G pitches

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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are that all 3G pitches built through the FA framework will be constructed to meet the new performance criteria.

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

Clubs playing in the football pyramid on 3G pitches meeting FIFA One Star or Two Star guidelines will still be expected to certify their pitches annually, however, if any pitch replacement takes place the Club will need to meet the new FIFA performance criteria of FIFA Quality/Quality Pro.

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

#### *Football*

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

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

#### ***Rugby union***

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

The recent RFU investment strategy on 3G pitches, both at club and community based sites, is indicative of the growing acceptance of using 3G pitches amongst clubs nationally. It considers sites where a 3G pitch could support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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sites. At present, the RFU does not highlight Cotswold as a priority area for investment into World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision.

### 3.4 Supply and demand analysis

The creation of new 3G pitches should be a key priority given the absence of any full sized 3G provision in the area. Given that the majority of football demand is focused in the South Area, there is a strong case for the creation of at least one 3G pitch. This would also support the proposed development at the Corinium Stadium (Cirencester Town FC) and also in light of proposed housing development in the Area and likely increases in future demand. All 3G pitches created in the future should be subject to FA or FIFA performance testing test for compliance to host competitive football.

#### 3G pitch summary

- ◀ There are currently no 3G pitches in Cotswold District.
- ◀ Cirencester Town FC has been awarded grant funding from the Football Foundation (FF) to create a full sized 3G stadium pitch in place of the existing grass pitch at the Corinium Stadium.
- ◀ In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities, which for clubs in Cotswold is currently limited to sand based pitches.
- ◀ The FA estimates that one full sized AGP can service 42 teams. When applied on an Analysis Area level (and taking into account future demand), the model suggests requirement for two full sized 3G pitches with this demand focused in the South Analysis Area.
- ◀ However, consideration should be given to the two sand based AGPs and the small sized indoor 3G pitch situated in the South Analysis Area which already service much training demand.
- ◀ Taking this into account, the shortfall of full sized 3G pitches is considered to amount to one pitch required in the South Area. This can be met through the planned delivery of provision at the Corinium Stadium.
- ◀ However, there may be demand for additional capacity able to be delivered by new small sized 3G pitches and demand for 3G pitches should be reviewed if and when the Corinium Stadium pitch is operational and programmed.
- ◀ The RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches does not consider the Cotswold District to be a priority area at present.

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## PART 4: CRICKET

### 4.1: Introduction

Gloucestershire Cricket Board (GCB) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including the Cotswolds. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

Senior cricket is typically played on Saturday afternoons, however; there is similar level of demand for both Sunday and midweek junior matches. There are a number of local cricket leagues across the Cotswolds which service teams in the District, including:

- ◀ Cotswold District Cricket Association (CDCA)
- ◀ Cotswold Hills Cricket League (CHCL)
- ◀ Gloucestershire County Cricket League (GCCL)
- ◀ West of England Premier League (WEPL)

The youth league structure in the Cotswolds tends to be club based matches which are played midweek. Therefore, there is usually no conflict with access to squares and any midweek matches are usually played on different nights. The main league for junior cricket is the Cotswold District Cricket Association Youth Leagues (CDCA), though some teams also play in the Gloucestershire Cricket Youth League (GCYL).

### 4.2: Supply

In total, there are 41 natural turf cricket squares in Cotswold District of which 37 are available for community use. Of the four squares unavailable squares for community use, three are located at Rendcomb College and one is located at the Cotswold School.

#### ***Disused pitches***

Additionally, there are three disused squares as a consequence of three clubs folding in recent seasons; Duntisbourne Abbots CC, Guiting Power CC and Windrush Valley CC.

- ◀ Lower Dunsfold, Duntisbourne Leer – Duntisbourne Abbots CC (South)
- ◀ Guiting Field – Guiting Power CC (Middle)
- ◀ Windrush Valley Field – Windrush Valley CC (Middle)

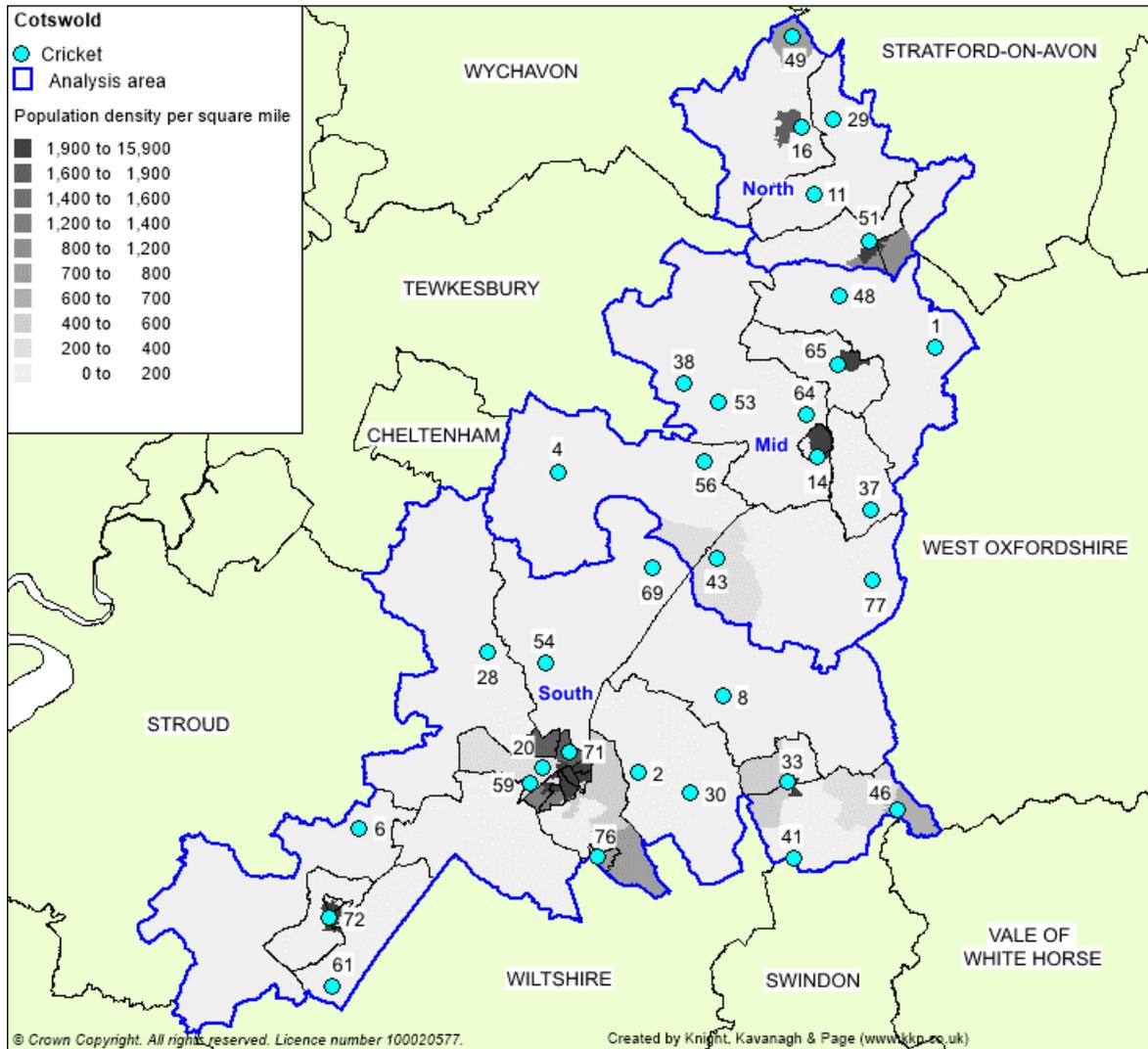
*Table 4.1: Summary of grass cricket pitches in the Cotswold District*

Analysis area	Available pitches	Unavailable pitches	Disused pitches	Total
North	5	-	-	5
Middle	12	1	2	15
South	20	3	1	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>44</b>

All Analysis Areas have available natural turf cricket provision with the majority (54%) of natural turf cricket squares located in the South Area. The North Area has the least with just five (14% of pitches).

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket squares in the Cotswold District



## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### **Surface quality**

The non-technical assessments carried out on natural turf cricket squares found 17 good quality squares, 22 standard quality squares and two poor quality squares. Poor quality squares are situated at Ullenwood Bharat CC and Stow on the Wold CC. Please refer to table 4.2 for a full break down by Analysis Area.

*Table 4.2: Summary of cricket pitch quality across the Cotswold District*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Total</b>
North	2	3	-	5
Middle	4	9	1	14
South	11	10	1	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>41</b>

Maintaining high square quality is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and squares, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the square meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. The report identifies surface issues and suggests options for remediation together with likely costs.

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

In total, there are 17 non-turf pitches (NTPs) located across 16 sites in the Cotswold District with two NTPs situated at the Cotswold School. Of these, seven are situated alongside natural turf squares and 10 are standalone NTPs.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.3: Summary of non-turf pitches in the Cotswold District

Site ID	Site name	Number of NTPs	Analysis area	Community use	Quality	Position
11	Blockley Sports & Social Club	1	North	Yes	Standard	Square
16	Chipping Campden Cricket Club	1	North	Yes	Unknown	Square
20	Cirencester Cricket Club	1	South	Yes	Good	Square
21	Cirencester Deer Park School	1	South	Yes - unused	Unknown	Standalone
24	Coln House School	1	South	Yes - unused	Unknown	Standalone
45	Cirencester Kingshill School	1	South	Yes - unused	Unknown	Standalone
18	Cotswold Leisure Chipping Campden	1	North	Yes - unused	Unknown	Standalone
33	Fairford Cricket Club	1	South	Yes	Poor	Square
35	Farmors Sports Centre	1	South	Yes - unused	Unknown	Standalone
46	Lechlade Cricket Club	1	South	Yes	Unknown	Square
48	Longborough & Sezincote Cricket Club	1	Middle	Yes	Good	Square
59	Royal Agricultural University	1	South	Yes	Unknown	Standalone
70	SWR Leisure Centre	1	South	Yes-unused	Standard	Standalone
72	Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground	1	South	Yes	Good	Square
26	The Cotswold School	2	Middle	Yes-unused	Unknown	Standalone
84	Westonbirt School	1	South	No	Unknown	Standalone

An NTP is considered able to take 60 matches per season although this may include training sessions where on occasions mobile nets may be used as a practice facility. Currently, No NTPs are recorded as being utilised for competitive match play within the District.

### **Ancillary facilities**

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

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## ***Security of tenure***

The nature of site tenure between cricket clubs in the Cotswold District varies but most are considered to have secured use through either ownership or long term leasehold of the site.

## **4.3: Demand**

There are 38 cricket clubs identified as playing within the Cotswold District during the 2016 season, ranging from having one to four senior teams playing on Saturdays. Sixteen clubs also have senior men's Sunday teams playing either league or friendly fixtures. Generally, junior fixtures are played midweek in either the Gloucestershire Youth Cricket League or the Cotswold District Cricket Association junior leagues. In total, there are 74 senior men's teams (of which three are U19 teams), four senior ladies' teams and 44 junior teams (of which six are dedicated girl's teams) totalling 122 teams across the District.

Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years. 8-10% of the Whole Sport Plan funding is focused around women and girls and talent ID. A total of five senior women's teams and seven junior teams all play within the Cotswolds District Association Women's & Girls' League. The challenge facing women's and girls' cricket is that there is often demand for specific female teams but not enough players at each club to create one.

The majority of cricket clubs (28 clubs – 76%) do not have junior sections. Generally, cricket in the District is played by singular senior men's teams competing in weekend leagues. Just nine clubs operate junior sections totalling 44 junior teams.

## ***Displaced demand***

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

Only two teams were identified as exporting demand to other local authority areas to play matches. Ullenwood Bharat CC senior men's third and fourth teams play home Saturday fixtures at King George V Playing Fields in Gloucester due to a need to access offsite capacity on Saturday afternoons. The Club is lined up to move to a new home venue proposed to be built in Tewkesbury and plans to relocate (from the South Area) to a site where newly built facilities will meet current ECB specifications. The new site (known as the Invista Cricket Ground) is expected to be operational in 2018 ready for the Club to move in and manage. The Cotswold District Council has initial proposals to build a link road through the current ground next to the A417 to relieve traffic issues. Future plans for its use need to be established to determine whether the site is likely to be lost as sporting provision or whether it will be retained, possibly as a second club site to accommodate those teams currently playing in Gloucester.

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## ***Future demand***

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. These figures are based solely on ONS population data and do not account for areas of targeted housing growth and strategic allocations. For example, proposals are soon due to be submitted for the creation of over 2000 new dwellings in the Cirencester area which is likely to have an impact on future demand for sport in the Cirencester (South) area.

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

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

*Table 4.4: Team generation rates*

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Current population within age group</b>	<b>Current no. of teams</b>	<b>Team generation rate</b>	<b>Future population within age group (2031)</b>	<b>Predicted future number of teams</b>	<b>Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population</b>
Senior Men's (18-55)	18,024	56	322	16,730	52.0	0
Senior Women's (18-55)	18,717	2	9359	17,279	1.8	0
Junior Boys' (7-17)	5,466	6	911	5,829	6.4	0
Junior Girls' (7-17)	5,306	0	0	5,757	0.0	0

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### 3.4: Capacity analysis

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

To help calculate square capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality natural turf wicket should be able to take 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults). This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.5: Natural turf cricket square capacity (community use)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership/ management	Available for community use?	Teams accommodated	Quality rating <sup>10</sup>	No. of pitches	No. of grass wickets	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
1	Adlestrop Park	Middle	Unknown	Yes	Adlestrop CC	Standard	1	6	9	30	21
80	Aldsworth Cricket Club	Middle	Sports Club	Yes	Aldsworth CC	Standard	1	4	8	20	12
2	Ampney Cruis Cricket Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	Ampney Crucis CC	Standard	1	6	6	30	24
4	Andoversford Village Hall & Sports Club	Middle	Sports Club	Yes	Andoversford CC	Standard	1	8	19	40	21
6	Avening & Cherington Cricket Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	Avening & Cherington CC	Good	1	8	15	40	25
79	Barnsley Park	South	Sports Club	Yes	Barnsley Beeches CC	Good	1	4	13	20	7
8	Bibury Cricket Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	Bibury CC	Good	1	6	10	30	20
11	Blockley Sports & Social Club	North	Sports Club	Yes	Blockley CC	Standard	1	8	6	40	34
14	Bourton Vale Cricket Club	Middle	Sports Club	Yes	Bourton Vale CC	Standard	1	14	60	70	10
16	Chipping Campden Cricket Club	North	Sports club	Yes	Chipping Campden CC	Good	1	6	15	30	15
20	Cirencester Cricket Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	Cirencester CC Royal Agricultural University	Standard	2	16	62	80	18
								6	13	30	17
37	Great Rissington Cricket Club	Middle	Sports Club	Yes	Great Rissington CC	Good	1	10	31	50	19
75	Crickley Park	South	Sports Club	Yes	Ullenwood Bharatt CC	Poor	1	7	33	35	2
78	Cockrup Farm	South	Unknown	Yes	Williamstrip CC	Standard	1	6	8	30	22
81	The Cricket Ground	South	Unknown	Yes	Cowley CC	Standard	1	4	13	20	7
29	Ebrington Cricket Club	North	Sports Club	Yes	Ebrington CC	Standard	1	6	10	30	20
30	Englands Sports Ground	South	Sports Club	Yes	Poultton CC	Good	1	12	47	60	13
33	Fairford Cricket Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	Fairford CC	Standard	1	10	39	50	11
37	Great Rissington Cricket Club	Middle	Sports Club	Yes	Great Rissington CC	Good	1	10	31	50	19
41	Kempsford CC	South	Sports Club	Yes	Kempsford CC	Standard	1	6	8	30	22
43	King George V Playing Field	Middle	Unknown	Yes	Northleach Town CC	Standard	1	4	6	20	14
46	Lechlade Cricket Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	Lechlade CC	Good	1	8	35	40	5
48	Longborough & Sezincote Cricket Club	Middle	Sports Club	Yes	Longborough & Sezincote CC	Standard	1	4	10	20	10
49	Mickleton Sports Club	North	Sports Club	Yes	Mickleton CC	Standard	1	6	6	30	24
51	Moreton-In-Marsh Cricket Club	North	Sports Club	Yes	Moreton-In-Marsh Cricket Club/ North Cotswold Young Cricketers	Standard	1	15	40	75	35
53	Naunton Recreation Ground	Middle	Unknown	Yes	Naunton CC	Standard	1	4	8	20	12
54	North Cerney Cricket Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	North Cerney CC	Good	1	4	10	20	10
56	Notgrove Cricket Club	Middle	Sports Club	Yes	Notgrove CC	Standard	1	6	6	30	24
61	Shipton Monye Recreation Ground	South	Unknown	Yes	Shipton CC	Standard	1	4	8	20	12
64	Slaughters Cricket Club	Middle	Sports Club	Yes	Slaughters CC	Good	1	6	40	30	10

<sup>10</sup> As derived from the non technical site assessments  
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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership/ management	Available for community use?	Teams accommodated	Quality rating <sup>10</sup>	No. of pitches	No. of grass wickets	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
69	Stowell Park Estate	South	Unknown	Yes	Stowell Park CC	Standard	1	6	9	30	21
65	Stow on the Wold Cricket Club	Middle	Sports Club	Yes	Stow on the Wold CC	Poor	1	8	7	40	33
71	Tarbarrow Cricket Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	Tarbarrow CC	Standard	1	5	5	25	20
72	Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground	South	Town Council	Yes	Tetbury CC	Standard	1	10	14	50	36
76	Walnut Tree Playing Fields	South	Parish Council	Yes	South Cerney CC	Standard	1	6	8	30	22
83	Withington Playing Field	Middle	Parish Council	Yes	Withington CC	Standard	1	4	6	20	14
90	Chedworth Cricket Club	South	Sports Club	Yes	Chedworth CC	Good	1	4	10	10	10

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## 4.5: Supply and demand analysis

### *Spare capacity*

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for use of natural turf cricket squares for senior cricket is Saturday afternoon (38 of 74 senior teams - 51%) whilst peak time for junior use is midweek (30 of 44 junior teams – 68%). It should be noted that for senior cricket there are 18 teams which also play midweek and 18 which play on Sunday afternoons.

Of those sites with existing community use, there are 29 which show potential spare capacity on senior grass squares in the Cotswold District. Barnsley Park, The Cricket Ground (Cowley CC), North Cerney CC, Chedworth CC and Longborough & Sezincote CC have all been discounted from the summary analysis below as each site has potential capacity of fewer than 12 match sessions per season. Senior men's teams playing on Saturday afternoons require an average of 12 match sessions per season, therefore the three sites aforementioned cannot accommodate an additional team at peak time despite the pitch being available for use.

*Table 4.6: Actual spare capacity summary*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Match sessions available (Sat PM)	Status
1	Adlestrop Park	Middle	21	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
80	Aldsworth Cricket Club	Middle	12	1	Actual spare capacity for additional use
2	Ampney Cruis Cricket Club	South	24	1	Actual spare capacity for additional use
4	Andoversford Village Hall & Sports Club	Middle	21	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
6	Avening & Cherington Cricket Ground	South	25	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
79	Barnsley Park	South	7	0.5	Site discounted from overall capacity due to being unable to accommodate a full season of regular season matches.
9	Bibury Cricket Club	South	20	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
11	Blockley Sports &	North	34	0.5	Actual spare capacity

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Match sessions available (Sat PM)	Status
	Social Club				for additional use
16	Chipping Campden Cricket Club	North	15	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
20	Cirencester Cricket Club	South	17	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
78	Cockrup Farm	South	22	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
81	The Cricket Ground (Cowley CC)	South	7	1	Site discounted from overall capacity due to being unable to accommodate a full season of regular season matches.
29	Ebrington Cricket Club	North	20	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
41	Kempsford Cricket Club	South	22	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
43	King George V Playing Field	Middle	14	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
48	Longborough & Sezincote Cricket Club	Middle	10	0.5	Site discounted from overall capacity due to being unable to accommodate a full season of regular season matches.
49	Mickleton Sports Club	North	24	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
51	Moreton-In-Marsh Cricket Club	North	35	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
53	Naunton Recreation Ground	Middle	12	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
54	North Cerney Cricket Club	South	10	0.5	Site discounted from overall capacity due to being unable to accommodate a full season of regular season matches.
56	Notgrove CC	Middle	24	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
61	Shipton Monye Recreation Ground	South	12	1	Actual spare capacity for additional use
65	Stow on the Wold Cricket Club	Middle	33	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
69	Stowell Park Estate	South	21	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
71	Tarbarrow Cricket Club	South	20	1	Actual spare capacity for additional use
72	Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground	South	36	0.5	Actual spare capacity for additional use
76	Upper Up Playing	South	22	0.5	Actual spare capacity

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Match sessions available (Sat PM)	Status
	Fields (South Cerney CC)				for additional use
83	Withington Playing Field	Middle	14	1	Actual spare capacity for additional use
90	Chedworth CC	South	10	0.5	Site discounted from overall capacity due to being unable to accommodate a full season of regular season matches.
<b>Total</b>				<b>14.5</b>	

In practice, there are 24 sites across the District considered able to accommodate additional senior use at peak time, amounting to a total of 14.5 match sessions. The level of actual spare capacity is mainly due to the fact that a significant proportion of clubs operate just one senior team but the rural nature of the study area makes sharing use of pitches and travel times to access them difficult, therefore many pitches serve an important function on a micro level within some small and comparatively more remote local communities.

Sunday cricket is limited due to a preference for clubs to play in traditional and established Saturday league structures. Just two clubs (Ampney Crucis CC and Tetbury CC) play in Sunday competitions. Generally, Sunday play extends to friendly fixtures or competitive Women's fixtures.

### **Overplay**

There is just one site identified as being overplayed in the Cotswold District located at Slaughters CC. The square is of good quality and the current level of overplay (ten match sessions) can be sustained through rigorous maintenance and repair, though additional capacity would be required to allow for any possible future increases in demand onsite.

### **4.6: Conclusions**

Overall there is a sufficient supply of cricket pitches district wide to cater for demand from clubs at peak time both at present and in the future. Supply can also adequately accommodate demand for senior cricket on Sundays and for midweek junior and short format cricket.

Overplayed sites are notably those which accommodate large amounts of both senior and junior demand. There is sufficient capacity available in all three Analysis Areas to sufficiently accommodate both displaced demand and existing overplay, however the rural nature of the study area and the hyper local need for cricket provision dictates that there is a need to address solutions to overplayed pitches on a site by site basis and that access to additional capacity at sites elsewhere may not necessarily represent a solution due to travel time and the remote nature of some communities where clubs are based.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### Cricket summary

- ◀ In total, there are 41 grass cricket squares in the Cotswold District of which 37 are available for community use.
- ◀ Three cricket squares are identified as being disused due to the resident clubs folding in recent years.
- ◀ In total, there are 17 non-turf pitches (NTPs) located across 16 sites in the Cotswold District with two NTPs situated at the Cotswold School. Of these, seven are situated alongside natural turf squares and ten are standalone NTPs.
- ◀ There are 17 good quality squares, 22 standard quality squares and two poor quality squares. Poor quality squares are at Ullenwood Bharat CC and Stow on the Wold CC.
- ◀ In total, there are 73 senior men's teams (of which three are U19 teams), four senior women's teams and 44 junior teams (of which six are dedicated girl's teams) totalling 121 teams across the District.
- ◀ Ullenwood Bharat CC exports demand for one match session on Saturday afternoons to Gloucester. The Club is also lined up to move to a proposed new cricket site in Tewkesbury.
- ◀ Of those sites with existing community use, there are 24 which show spare capacity on natural turf squares, amounting to 14.5 match sessions.
- ◀ Slaughters CC is the only overplayed site in the District.
- ◀ Overall there is sufficient capacity within Cotswold District to accommodate both current and future demand on existing squares at both senior and junior peak times.

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## PART 5: RUGBY UNION

### 5.1: Introduction

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

### 5.2: Supply

In total, there are 23 rugby union pitches in Cotswold District, consisting of 21 senior, one junior and one mini pitch located across ten sites. Thirteen pitches are available for community use and presently used, whilst three pitches at school sites are reported to be available but are unused by clubs. Though there are dedicated junior and mini pitches, most junior and mini rugby takes place on senior pitches. There are no World Rugby certified 3G pitches in the district.

Table 5.1: Supply of rugby union provision in Cotswolds

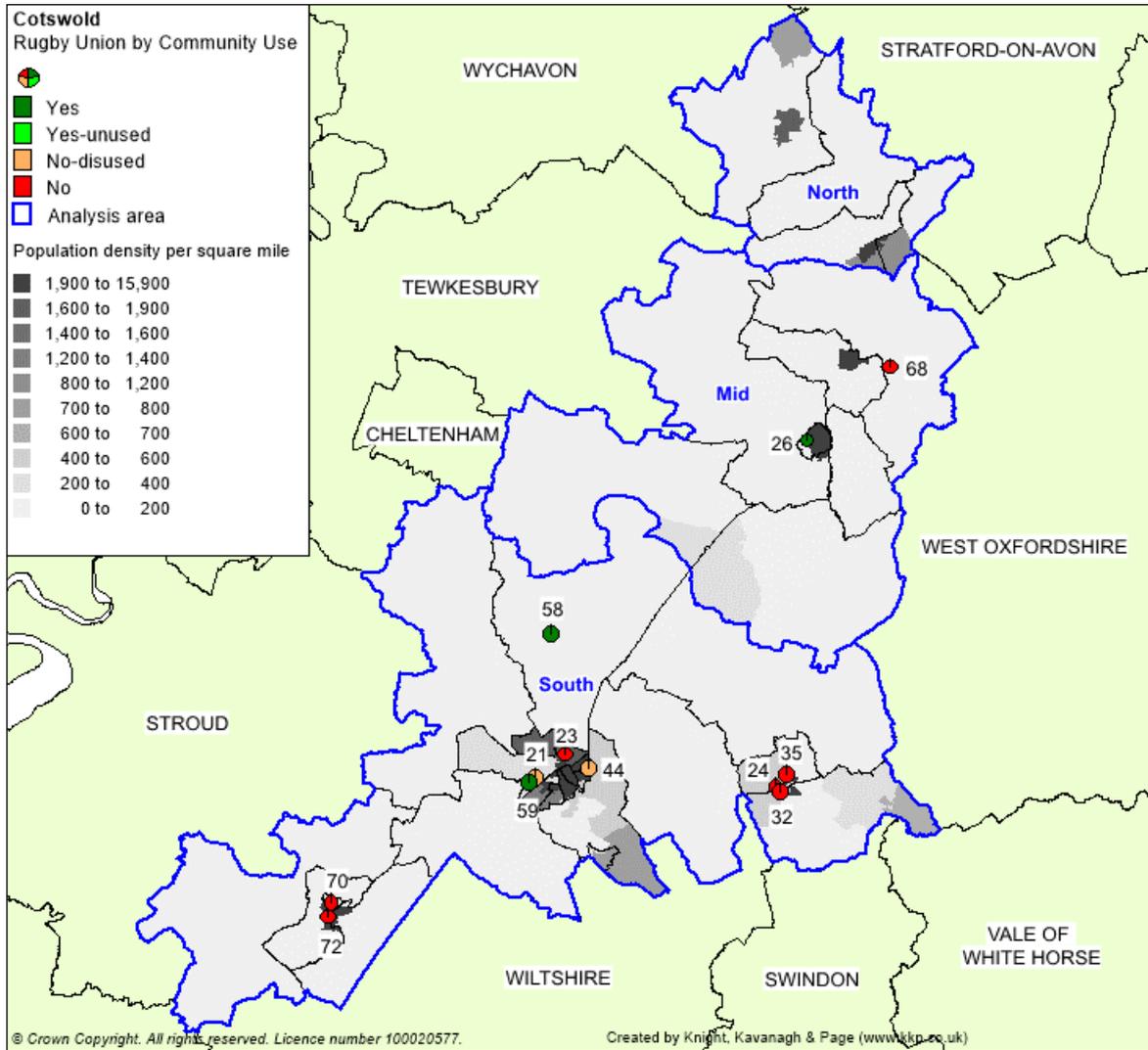
Analysis area	Availability			Total
	Yes	Yes - unused	No	
North	-	-	-	-
Middle	3	-	2	5
South	10	3	5	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>

The majority of all pitches are located in the South Analysis Area (72%). The Middle Analysis Area has five pitches (18%) and there are no pitches situated in the North of the Cotswold District.

NB: The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to the RFU guidelines; 'Grass Pitches for Rugby' at [www.rfu.com](http://www.rfu.com)

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches in Cotswold



# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## ***Future supply***

Tetbury RFC is exploring opportunities to acquire Pike Field from a private land owner to develop two senior pitches to cater for the majority of club demand. The Club has an agreement with a local car dealership to use the car park of the site to store fleet cars which in turn will give the Club a revenue stream for the foreseeable future.

## ***Ownership/management***

Rugby union in Cotswold is generally focused at club sites, with some use of pitches at schools as additional secondary supply to support main sites.

Both Stow on the Wold RFC and Cirencester RFC both have secure tenure in that both clubs each have either freehold or long term leasehold of its site. In addition to this, Fairford RFC has freehold of its newly opened site (containing one junior and one mini pitch). However, Fairford RFC also has a requirement for additional pitch usage at both Farmors School and Coln House School which are identified as having Unsecure tenure. It should be noted that Coln House School closed in 2016 and the future of the site is uncertain.

Similarly, Tetbury RFC accesses pitches at both Tetbury Memorial Ground and Sir William Romney School. The Club annually rent pitches from both sites and is therefore considered to have Unsecure tenure.

Pitches at school sites are all deemed to have unsecure tenure as schools can dictate the usage of pitches and are therefore able to vacate clubs if the quality of the pitches is too negatively affected thus offering clubs no long term security. It is recommended that clubs accessing school pitches explore opportunities to enter into more formal community use agreements.

## ***Pitch quality***

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

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

*Table 5.2: Definition of maintenance categories*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.3: Definition of drainage categories

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

Table 5.4: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores:

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

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

Of the 16 pitches available for community use, two are rated as good quality, 13 as standard quality and two as poor quality at Tetbury RFC and Kingshill Lane Sports College.

Table 5.5: Quality of pitches available for community use

Senior pitches			Junior pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
1	11	2	-	1	-	-	1	-

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The table below shows quality ratings for each of the sites in Cotswold based on non-technical site assessment scores.

Table 5.6: Summary of pitch quality ratings (sites currently used)

Site ID	Site name	Management	Community use?	Pitch type	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Comments
23	Cirencester RFC	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	M1/D1	Standard	3	In addition to the three senior pitches on site, the Club has access to a dedicated floodlit training area which is used for all midweek training as well as ad hoc mini training dependent on Sunday pitch usage.
32	Fairford RFC	Sports Club	Yes	Junior	M1/D1	Standard	1	Two pitches opened in September 2016. Senior teams play at Coln House School and Farmors School.
				Mini	M1/D1	Standard	1	
65	Stow-on-the-Wold RFC	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	M2/D2	Good	1	Main first team pitch.
					M1/D1	Standard	2	Two standard quality pitches each with 100 lux (training standard) floodlighting.
72	Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	M1/D0	Poor	1	One senior pitch with inadequate natural drainage. Club uses makeshift floodlights away from match pitch.
59	Royal Agricultural University	University	No	Senior	M2/D1	Good	1	Pitch used solely by University teams.
					M1/D1	Standard	2	One pitch partially floodlit from adjacent AGP.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.7: Site quality ratings (school sites)

Site ID	Site name	Management	Community use?	Pitch type	Quality score	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Comments
21	Cirencester Deer Park School	School	Yes - unused	Senior	Standard	M1/D1	2	Pitches available for community use however limited demand exists locally. Pitches are not floodlit and cannot be used for evening matches/training.
24	Coln House School	School	Yes - used	Senior	Standard	M1/D1	1	Pitch used by Fairford RFC senior teams.
26	Cotswold Academy	Academy	No	Senior	Standard	M1/D1	2	Pitches not available for community use.
35	Farmors School	Trust/ Academy	Yes - used	Senior	Standard	M1/D1	1	Pitch used by Fairford RFC junior teams.
44	Kingshill Lane Sports College	Trust/ Academy	Yes - unused	Senior	Poor	M0/D1	1	Pitches available for community use however limited demand exists locally. Pitches are not floodlit and cannot be used for evening matches/training.
58	Rendcomb College	Independent	No	Senior	Standard	M1/D1	2	Pitches not available for community use.
70	Sir William Romney School	School	Yes - used	Senior	Standard	M1/D1	2	Pitches used by Tetbury RFC mini section.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### ***Ancillary facilities***

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

Fairford RFC current shares ancillary facilities with Fairford Cricket Club. It is reported that the facilities are too small and inadequate for rugby union use, as such expansion is needed at the site to suitable accommodate the Club's senior teams. It is expected that the Club will work in partnership with Fairford Cricket Club in the future to improve facilities. In addition, Tetbury RFC has long term aspirations to relocate from the current site to Pike Field and develop a new rugby site with high quality ancillary facilities.

Data captured by the RFU as part its National Facilities Audit identifies priority actions for development at sites where clubs have secured tenure through leasehold or freehold. Priority actions for sites in South Gloucestershire where clubs responded to the audit are shown in Table 5.8, some of which include development or improvement of ancillary facilities.

*Table 5.8: RFU priority site actions (National Facilities Audit)*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Facility Priority 1</b>	<b>Facility Priority 2</b>	<b>Facility Priority 3</b>
Cirencester RFC	Floodlighting	Car Parking	Social Space
Fairford RFC	New Seniors pitch	Temporary changing rooms	Cricket club clubhouse redevelopment
Stow-on-the-Wold RFC	No response		
Tetbury RFC	Relocation	Pitches	Floodlighting provision

### **5.3: Demand**

Demand for rugby pitches in Cotswold District tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play, organised training.

#### ***Competitive play***

Five rugby union clubs play in Cotswold District, made up of a total of 55 teams. There are ten senior men's, 19 junior (of which three are dedicated girls' teams) and 26 mini teams of various age groups.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.9: Summary of demand by analysis area

Club	Analysis area	Number of rugby union teams				
		Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mini
Cirencester RFC	South	3	-	5	1	6
Fairford RFC	South	2	-	3	-	6
Royal Agricultural University (RAU)	South	2	-	-	-	-
Stow on the Wold RFC	Middle	2	-	5	2	7
Tetbury RFC	South	1	-	3	-	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>

Almost all rugby union demand in Cotswold is based in the South Area with the exception of Stow on the Wold RFC. Aside from RAU student teams, the four community clubs are comparatively sized and each has senior, junior and mini teams. It should be noted that there are a large number of girls training at Cirencester RFC but not in large enough numbers to establish teams playing competitive games.

### **Training**

In the Cotswold District, all teams have access to floodlights (of variable quality) to accommodate team training. Of the four clubs, only Stow on the Wold RFC trains on floodlit match pitches whilst Cirencester RFC, Fairford RFC and Tetbury RFC all access dedicated floodlit training areas.

Despite Cirencester RFC and Tetbury RFC having floodlit training areas, both clubs have desire for additional floodlighting. Cirencester RFC has aspirations to develop match grade floodlighting (200 lux) to use for match play and to transfer some demand from the training area. In addition, Tetbury RFC has poor quality floodlighting which is in need of replacement. It should be noted that Cirencester RFC teams train for a total of three match sessions midweek on its floodlit training area in addition to weekend usage from its mini teams and that Tetbury RFC train on its floodlit training area for two match sessions per week.

### **Future demand**

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. It is predicted that future population increases on an Analysis Area level will generate enough demand for two mini teams in the South Area.

Table 5.10: Team generation rates

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2031)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (19-45)	11,213	10	1:1121	11,198	10.0	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	11,466	0	0	11,249	0.0	0
Junior Boys' (13-18)	2,853	17	1:168	2,965	17.7	0
Junior Girls' (13-18)	2,666	5	1:533	2,820	5.3	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	5,253	26	1:202	5,841	28.9	2

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

## 5.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

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

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

	Maintenance
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## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

### ***The peak period***

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for senior rugby union matches in Cotswold District is Saturday afternoons and junior and mini teams regularly play on senior pitches on Sundays. Therefore, the peak time for requirement of senior pitches is actually Sundays, but not for senior rugby as the majority of demand these pitches comes from junior and mini teams.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

Site ID	Site name	Tenure	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating <sup>11</sup>	Comments
21	Cirencester Deer Park School	Unsecure	South	Yes-unused	Senior	Standard	No	2	2	-	Two senior pitches available to the community but unused, however, the pitches are assumed to be played to capacity through curricular usage.
					Senior	Standard	No	2	2	-	
23	Cirencester RFC	Secure	South	Yes	Senior	Standard	No	2	2	-	1 <sup>st</sup> xv pitch. Used for senior and junior matches.
						Standard	No	1.75	2	0.25	Pitches used to cater for all junior/mini training (Sunday) and matches.
						Standard	No	1.75	2	0.25	
24	Coln House School	Unsecure	South	Yes	Senior	Standard	No	1	2	1	Pitch used once per week for a senior game by Fairford RFC. School site is now closed; however, site will remain in use for rugby but as unsecure tenure.
32	Fairford RFC	Secure	South	Yes	Junior	Standard	No	0.75	2	1.25	Pitches used to cater for all the Fairford RFCs mini match/training demand and some junior demand.
					Mini	Standard	No	0.75	2	1.25	
35	Farmors School & Sports Centre	Unsecure	South	Yes	Senior	Standard	No	2	2	-	Pitches used by Fairford RFC junior section for matches/training. Site at capacity with school and external use.
44	Kingshill Lane Sports College	Unsecure	South	Yes- unused	Senior	Poor	No	1.5	1.5	-	Pitch available for community use but unused, however, the pitch is assumed to be played to capacity through curricular use.
65	Stow on the Wold RFC	Secure	Middle	Yes	Senior	Good	No	2	3.25	1.25	First team pitch used only for senior and junior matches.
					Senior	Standard	Yes	2.75	2	0.75	Pitches both floodlit and accommodate all midweek training demand for seniors and juniors. In addition, used for matches and training for juniors/minis on weekends.
					Senior	Standard	Yes	3	2	1	
70	SWR Leisure Centre	Unsecure	South	Yes	Senior	Standard	No	2	2	-	Pitches used by all Tetbury RFC mini teams. Pitch assumed to be at capacity with curricular use and external club use.
					Senior	Standard	No	2	2	-	
72	Tetbury Memorial Recreation Ground	Unsecure	South	Yes	Senior	Poor	No	1.5	1.5	-	Pitch used by Tetbury RFC senior men's team and junior sides.

<sup>11</sup> All school pitches are assumed to be at capacity through curricular usage.

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## 5.5: Supply and demand analysis

### *Actual spare capacity*

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

There are three identified sites which display potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play totalling 2.75 match sessions per week, however, no sites can be deemed to carry actual spare capacity.

*Table 5.13: Summary of actual spare capacity on senior pitches (Saturday PM)*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Potential capacity	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Comments
23	Cirencester RFC	South	0.5	-	No actual spare capacity due to the pitch being in use by Cirencester RFC.
24	Coln House School	South	1	-	Spare capacity on a pitch which has unsecure tenure.
65	Stow on the Wold RFC	North	1.25	-	No actual spare capacity due to the pitch being in use by Stow on the Wold RFC.

In addition to this there is 1.25 match sessions of potential spare capacity at Fairford RFC across one junior and one mini pitch, however, no actual spare capacity exists as the pitches are used during peak times.

It should be noted that pitches situated at education sites are all assumed to be played to capacity through curricular use and extracurricular use; in addition, it is not uncommon for school pitches, regardless of pitch format to be used as ad-hoc play time areas contributing additional usage on pitches. As such, no school pitch, regardless of any current club use is featured in the spare capacity table.

### *Overplay*

There are two pitches across two sites across the District which are identified as being overplayed. Stow on the Wold is overplayed by a combined 1.75 match sessions each week. The site is overplayed as a consequence of the Club operating both large numbers of junior and mini teams which regularly train and play competitive matches.

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## 5.6: Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand above, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas, based on match equivalent sessions.

Table 5.14: Summary of demand for senior rugby pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>12</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Unmet Demand	Current demand	Future demand	Total
North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middle	-	1.75	-	1.75	-	1.75
South	-	-	-	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>1.75</b>	-	<b>1.75</b>	<b>1<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>2.75</b>

Overall there is a current requirement for 1.75 additional match equivalent sessions on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand. This is further exacerbated when considering future demand from population growth, although this does not account for any specific growth ambitions by clubs within the District. For example, Cirencester RFC has aspirations to develop a large ladies and girls section.

Shortfalls are directly attributed to overplay at Stow on the Wold RFC. Stow on the Wold RFC operates a total of 16 teams across three pitches (of which, two are floodlit and accommodate all midweek training demand). The first team pitch does appear to have potential spare capacity; however, it is not uncommon for clubs to operate a limited number of games on senior first team pitches to help protect quality and retain pitch condition.

In addition, the lack of mini pitches also contributes to overplay on senior sized pitches particular across the two aforementioned sites. In addition to the above, the senior pitch situated at Tetbury Memorial Ground is identified as being played to capacity.

It is notable that there are two clubs in the District (Fairford RFC and Tetbury RFC) which are reliant on availability of pitches at three school sites. As such, this illustrates that tenure at the three school sites is considered to be Unsecure. Without the protection of a lease or a formal community use agreement, it is possible the clubs would be asked to vacate the sites at short notice causing issues with relocating teams.

<sup>12</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>13</sup> Future demand accounts for two mini teams predicted by TGR growth, based on two mini teams being accommodated on one senior pitch each week as mini teams do not play in a prescriptive home and away format but require pitches almost every week for matches or training.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### Rugby union summary

- ◀ In total, there are 23 rugby union pitches in Cotswold District, consisting of 21 senior, one junior and one mini pitches located across ten. Of these, 13 pitches are available for community use and used; whilst three pitches at school sites are reported to be available but unused.
- ◀ There are five clubs in the Cotswold District (including RAU), providing 55 teams, as a breakdown this consists of ten senior men's teams, 19 junior teams (of which three are dedicated girls' teams) and 26 mini teams.
- ◀ Tenure in the Cotswold District is mixed with only two clubs (Cirencester RFC and Stow on the Wold RFC) having freehold of pitches and ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Fairford RFC has aspirations to work in partnership with Fairford Cricket Club to improve ancillary facilities which are currently inadequate for rugby union use.
- ◀ Tetbury RFC has aspirations to relocate to Pike Field to develop a new rugby site with high standard ancillary provision.
- ◀ Two clubs in the District (Fairford RFC and Tetbury RFC) are reliant on availability of pitches at three school sites and access is considered unsecure.
- ◀ Of the senior pitches, which are available for community use is one good quality, 11 are standard quality, and one is assessed as poor quality at Kingshill Lane Sport College.
- ◀ Team generation rates forecast the creation of at least two mini rugby teams in the South Area. Based on a preference for play on senior pitches, this equates to a requirement for an additional one match session per week on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ There is actual spare capacity of just 0.5 match equivalent sessions on senior rugby union pitches at senior peak time.
- ◀ All school sites are assumed to be played to capacity due to curricular and extracurricular use.
- ◀ In total, there are two pitches overplayed by a total of 1.75 match sessions. Overplay is generally due to sustained weekly use of pitches by junior and mini teams.
- ◀ Overall there is a current requirement for 1.75 additional match equivalent sessions on senior rugby union pitches to meet demand. This is further exacerbated to 2.75 match sessions when considering future demand from population growth.
- ◀ Shortfalls are directly attributed to overplay at Stow on the Wold RFC
- ◀ Cirencester RFC has a requirement for floodlighting on site.

# COTSWOLD

## PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### PART 6: HOCKEY

#### 6.1: Introduction

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

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

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

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

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

For senior teams, a full sized pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.5 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides & three metres at the ends England Hockey preference is for four metre side & five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.5 x 63 metres though a minimum overall area of 97.5 x 59 metres is accepted.

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

## 6.2: Supply

There are currently five AGPs in the district suitable for hockey, of which four offer full or restricted community use. All five pitches are located at different venues and there are no double pitch sites. There are no sites identified as being disused or lapsed.

*Table 6.2: Summary of full sized hockey suitable AGPs*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Management	Floodlit	Surface type	Community Use
18	Chipping Campden High School	North	Sports Centre	Yes	Sand dressed	Yes
21	Cirencester Deer Park School	South	School	Yes	Sand filled	Yes
26	The Cotswold School – Bourton on the Water	Middle	Academy School	Yes	Sand dressed	Yes
58	Rendcomb College	South	School	Yes	Sand filled	No
59	Royal Agricultural University – Cirencester	South	University	Yes	Sand filled	Restricted <sup>14</sup>

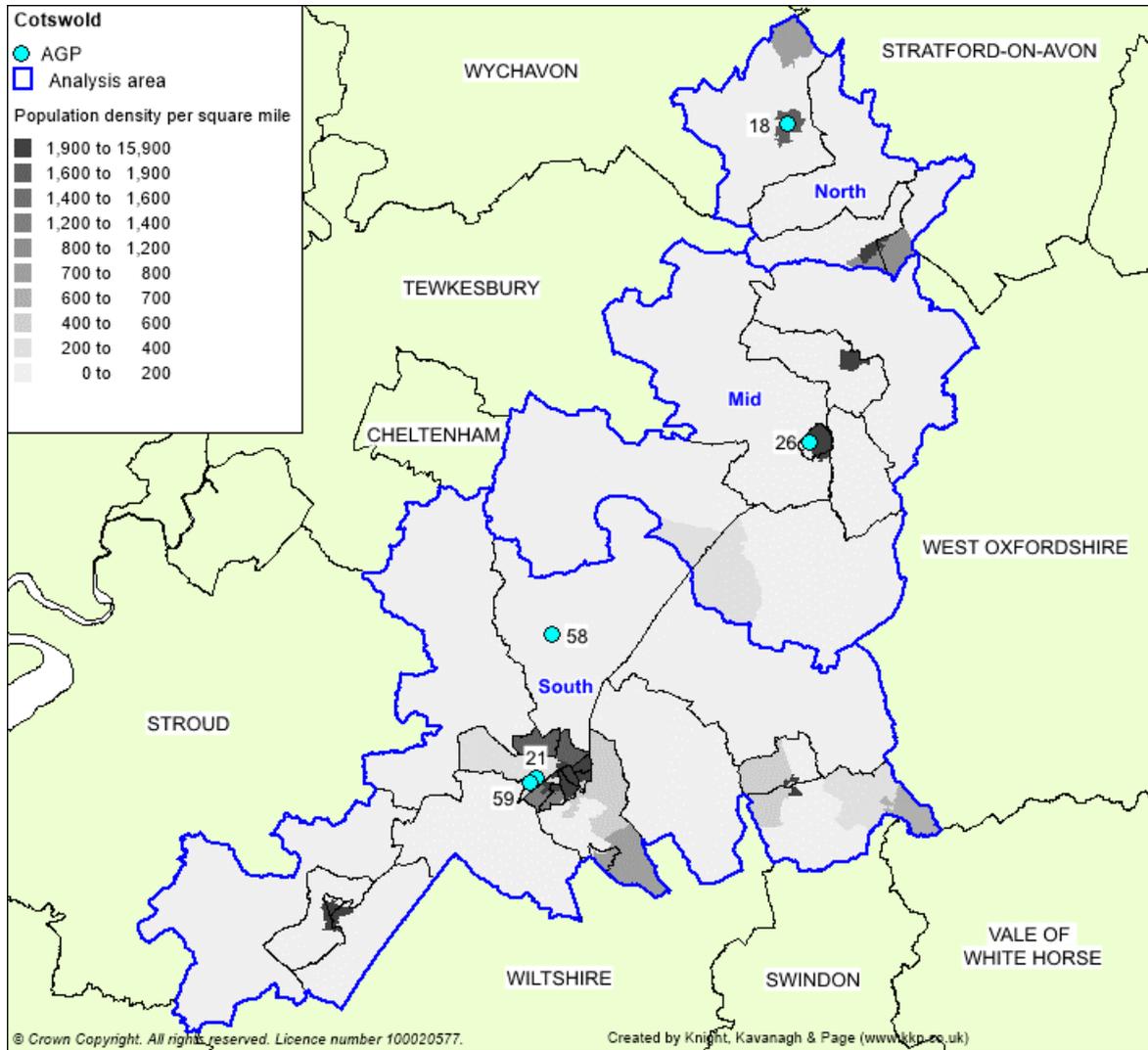
Each Analysis Area has at least one hockey suitable AGP with the majority located in the South Analysis Area, two of which are available for community use.

As each AGP is located at a school site it should be noted that access to pitches is limited to evening use during the week. Generally, community access is available between 17:30-22.00 (dependent on floodlight restrictions). This is the case at all sites in the Cotswold District which offer full community use. The pitch situated at Rendcomb College has no community use of any level and is reserved entirely for internal school use, whilst floodlighting is reported to be poor quality offering insufficient lux levels of illumination. The pitch at the Royal Agricultural University offers restricted community use in that it is used by Cirencester Hockey Club for ad hoc matches on Saturday on a special personal agreement but no further community use is permitted on the pitch.

<sup>14</sup> Only available for university use and ad hoc use by Cirencester Hockey Club based on personal relationship.

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: Location of all AGP's in Cotswold District



# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## Quality

Of the five hockey suitable AGPs in the District, three are identified as being poor quality. Poor quality is often associated with poor grip underfoot, poor line markings and moss growth and therefore it is essential that surfaces are well maintained to stop quality deterioration and surfaces becoming unusable for club training and match play.

Table 6.3: Summary of hockey suitable AGP quality

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Quality	Year built (refurbished)	Floodlit?
18	Chipping Campden High School	Sand dressed	Good	2015	Yes
21	Cirencester Deer Park School	Sand filled	Poor	2003	Yes
26	The Cotswold School – Bourton on the Water	Sand dressed	Poor	2005	Yes
58	Rendcomb College	Sand filled	Standard	1999 (2010)	Yes
59	Royal Agricultural University – Cirencester	Sand filled	Poor	1989 (2003)	Yes

It is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately 10 years (depending on levels of use), though its lifespan can be prolonged in some cases where maintenance is of particularly high quality and rigor. As shown in Table 5.3, three AGPs are in excess of the recommended ten-year lifespan and should be considered for surface replacement. Cirencester Deer Park School has plans to replace the AGP and to retain a hockey suitable surface. The current surface is 13 years old and is quickly deteriorating in quality and usability, yet is well used by the school for curricular use, Stratton United FC, South Cerney FC and Poulton FC for football training and Cirencester Hockey Club and is therefore an essential facility to cater for local sporting demand given the rural nature of the area. Cirencester HC highlighted that it is in danger of losing its most talented players to clubs with better quality pitches and that it feels the Club could lose members if the quality of the pitch is not addressed.

The majority of the existing supply is in excess of the recommended surface lifespan, representing a key issue for hockey. Should pitches deteriorate in quality due to age or insufficient maintenance then there is a possibility that they could be deemed unsafe for play, impacting on provision available.

## Conversion to 3G surfaces

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

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and the applicants will need to show that there is sufficient

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

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

A 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Primarily a 3G surface is dedicated pitch for football, whilst a sand based AGP is considered to be used for multiple sports and is favoured by some schools for its ability to accommodate multiple sports. Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

### ***Ownership/management***

All hockey suitable AGPs in the district are owned by the education sector, either by schools, academies or the Royal Agricultural University (RAU). All community clubs hire hockey provision and none hold ownership or leasehold of their respective sites other than student teams at RAU. No clubs are identified as having secured tenure through a user agreement with any pitch provider in the district, therefore with the exception of RAU teams, tenure for all other hockey clubs is considered to be Unsecure. Given the nature of pitch management, the increase academisation of the school sector and increased control schools have over community use and pitch lettings, this means that securing access and use of school pitches is of a key priority.

### ***Ancillary provision***

Access to ancillary facilities at school sites can often be restricted for security reasons where changing rooms are located in the main school building or where there is a lack of staffing to open and manage access. This is generally not the case where schools operate as dual use sports centre style facilities which are externally accessible, such as Chipping Campden School/Leisure Centre.

A common drawback of playing at school sites as the main home venue is a lack of onsite social space or clubhouse provision despite sufficient access to changing rooms. The lack of onsite social provision may impact on the potential for clubs to generate revenue and develop a club social infrastructure if players and away teams choose not to travel to an offsite venue.

### **6.3: Demand**

There are 27 teams playing in Cotswold District across four clubs, made up of seven men's teams, 12 women's teams and eight junior teams. There are also a further two student senior teams at the Royal Agricultural University, one men's and one women's. Junior hockey is generally played as part of festival style format competitions run by the Gloucestershire Hockey Association.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.4: Summary of team demand in Cotswold

Club	Number of teams			Number of members	
	Men's	Women's	Junior	Senior	Junior
Blockley Ladies Hockey Club	-	2	-	26	11
Bourton & Sherborne Hockey Club	2	4	-	58	106
Chipping Campden Hockey Club	-	1	-	25	4
Cirencester Hockey Club	5	5	8	131	235
Royal Agricultural University	1	1	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>356</b>

### **Displaced demand**

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

### **Future demand**

Since 2011 there has been a 36% growth in total number of players and 80% in U16s nationally. At a local level growth in Gloucestershire has been almost 40% in U16s, which equates to an increase of over 400 junior participants. England Hockey's aspiration is to double the number of participants in the sport over the next ten years.

In addition to traditional 11-a-side league hockey, England Hockey are encouraging clubs to increase their informal hockey offerings, such as small-sided-game sessions and play and pay sessions to engage new participants and increase participation in the sport, especially where lifestyle means players would not be able to commit to regular training and matches.

Blockley Ladies Hockey Club currently is a club that consists of senior ladies only. This season this club is actively seeking to develop a junior section and maximise the potential that the relatively new AGP at Chipping Campden offers. In addition, this club has intentions to offer the opportunity for men to play hockey in a festival style in the summer that in turn may see the club expand to include a men's section. The club has already reported they would like to secure additional pitch time to support growth of the club.

For Cirencester Hockey Club to increase their junior section, a current barrier is access to further pitch time. Access to pitch time is also a barrier for the club to offer alternative playing options for encouraging new players.

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

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.5: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2031)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (16-45)	18,992	7	2713	17,708	6.5	0
Senior Women's (16-45)	19,646	10	1965	18,251	9.3	0
Junior Boys (11-15)	2,222	3	741	2,450	3.3	0
Junior Girls (11-15)	2,185	5	437	2,423	5.5	0

TGRs indicate that no additional teams are likely to be created based on population demographics and figures alone. However, it is important to note that TGRs do not account for mid-week training sessions, specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools.

It should be noted that the expected Cirencester housing development in Cirencester will create 2,350 houses and as such, it can be expected that demand for hockey could potentially rise and put additional pressures on the current pitch stock. Cirencester Hockey Club is situated in close proximity to the housing development and it is expected additionally created demand will be heavily absorbed by the Club. As previously mentioned, the AGP used by the Club is in a poor condition and is in need of a surface replacement, it is likely that additional and sustained use of the pitch will make the pitch unsuitable for competitive hockey.

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### Availability & Usage

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

Of the five hockey compliant AGPs, four offer full peak time community use. Only Rendcomb College does not offer community use.

Table 6.6: Usage of full sized sand based AGPs (available for community use)

Site ID	Site	Analysis Area	Floodlit?	Community use hours in the peak period (per AGP)	Clubs/groups using the pitch (teams)	Training capacity	Match capacity	Comments
18	Chipping Campden High School	North	Yes	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekend: 16 hours Total: 32 hours	Chipping Campden HC (1) Blockley Ladies HC (2)	Blockley Ladies HC accesses the pitch for an hour every Tuesday for training. In addition, Chipping Campden HC accesses a quarter of the AGP every Thursday for an hour.	A total of three teams between the two clubs use the pitch for matches, therefore spare capacity exists to accommodate additional match play.	Pitch is used by 13 football teams (three clubs) across the week for training.
21	Cirencester Deer Park School	South	Yes	Weekdays: 13 hours Weekend: 16 hours Total: 29 hours	Cirencester HC (17)	The Club has three training slots per week on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for a total of 6.5 hours. In addition, the junior section of the Club trains before league matches begin on Saturdays.	All eight senior teams as well as a badger/junior team use the pitch on Saturdays, as well as some occasional Vets matches on Monday nights. Consequently, there is no spare capacity for additional use at peak time and the Club already has to make use of RAU as an overspill when required.	Pitch additionally used by Stratton FC, South Cerney FC and Poulton FC. Across a month, football clubs get a total of 28.5 hours of midweek use of the pitch, the same as Cirencester HC. Weekend use is solely by Cirencester HC. Limited spare capacity exists on the pitch with only unfavourable time slots available.
26	Cotswold School – Bourton on the Water	Middle	Yes	Weekdays: 18 hours Weekend: 16 hours Total: 32 hours	Bourton & Sherborne HC (6)	The Club uses the pitch for a total of three hours per week for training, on Monday and Wednesday.	The Club has six teams using the pitch, requiring access to three match sessions per week. Subsequently, spare capacity to accommodate one additional match session is available.	Used for football training by Northleach Juniors FC.
59	Royal Agricultural University – Cirencester	South	Yes	Weekends: 2 hours	RAU University HC (2) Cirencester HC	Pitch used by university teams for training but no use by club teams.	Pitch used for British Universities & Colleges Sport League (BUCS) matches midweek and as an overspill venue for Cirencester HC when required for match play	Pitch has no community use other than ad hoc use from Cirencester HC based on.

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## ***EH Player Pathway***

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

Both AGPs at Deer Park School and Royal Agricultural University are used by the Gloucestershire HA for DC. The AGPs at the Cotswold School and Chipping Campden School may be used in the future to cater for juniors originating from that area of the county.

## ***Peak time demand***

The majority of men's and women's teams (18) play matches on a Saturday. Junior teams tend to play friendly matches or tournaments which can be played on a variety of days but are most often held on Sundays on an infrequent basis.

## **6.4 Supply and demand analysis**

All four available AGPs are accessed by hockey clubs on Saturdays, the peak time for senior match play. Currently there are 18 senior teams which require a pitch on fortnightly basis throughout the season. Based on a floodlit AGP being able to accommodate a maximum of eight teams (four matches per week), there is a current need for three AGPs with floodlighting and full availability within the peak period on Saturdays. However, in practice there is a need to retain all four currently used pitches in order to ensure pitch provision available in each of the three Analysis Areas whilst there is a need to retain a second AGP in the South Area to continue to provide for university teams and demand from Cirencester HC unable to all be accommodated at Cirencester Deer Park School.

## **6.5: Conclusion**

The current supply of AGPs is sufficient to accommodate both current and forecast future demand district wide for both senior and junior hockey. However, due to the rural nature of the study area, clubs are somewhat geographically isolated and based at one venue so there is a need to retain hockey provision in each of the three Analysis Areas. Additionally, the level of demand at Cirencester HC and regular use of RAU as an overspill facility highlights that in practice there is a need to retain all four presently available hockey pitches. Club training demand can be accommodated on the same pitches used by respective clubs for matches and access to sufficient capacity for training is not currently identified as a key issue.

Of greatest priority for hockey in the district is the need to address pitch quality issues, as three of the four floodlit pitches used by clubs for match play are poor quality, in excess of the recommended surface lifespan and in need of replacement or substantial repair. It is imperative that the quality of these pitches is reviewed and addressed to allow continued use for competitive hockey before it impacts on performance and ultimately safety for use. These three pitches represent the entirety of floodlit hockey provision in the Middle and South Analysis Areas and loss of one or more would have a significant impact on hockey in the

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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area. As a priority, the AGP at Cirencester Deer Park School should be resurfaced in the short term as loss of use would impact significantly on Cirencester HC which is the largest club in the district and accounts for over 60% of hockey demand, with the pitch being the most heavily used for hockey in Cotswold.

### **Cotswold hockey summary**

- ◀ There are currently five full size AGPs suitable for hockey in Cotswold District, three of which offer full community use. The AGP located at Rendcomb College is unavailable and floodlighting is reported to offer poor lux levels, whilst the Royal Agricultural University AGP is generally only used for internal university use and as an overspill for Cirencester HC (based on a personal relationship).
- ◀ All pitches are managed by schools and consequently no clubs have security of tenure.
- ◀ The AGP at Chipping Campden High School is considered to be of good quality. In contrast, Cirencester Deer Park School, RAU and The Cotswold School in Bourton on the Water are all rated as poor quality and exceed the recommended surface lifespan.
- ◀ There are four hockey clubs playing in the Cotswold District made up of 27 teams, equating to seven men's teams, 12 women's teams and eight junior teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates based exclusively on population figures forecast that no additional hockey teams are likely to be created. This does not reflect mid-week training sessions and NGB initiatives of alternative ways to play.
- ◀ The current supply of AGPs is sufficient to accommodate both current and forecast future demand district wide for both senior and junior hockey. All four pitches are used and required to accommodate current levels of match play in each Analysis Area, therefore all four floodlit pitches should be retained.
- ◀ Of greatest priority for hockey in the district is the need to address pitch quality issues, as three of the four floodlit pitches used by clubs for match play are poor quality, in excess of the recommended surface lifespan and in need of replacement or substantial repair. It is imperative that the quality of these pitches is reviewed and addressed to allow continued use for competitive hockey before it impacts on performance and ultimately safety for use.

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## PART 7: OTHER SPORTS

### LACROSSE

Lacrosse is governed nationally by English Lacrosse. Competitive matches are played on grass pitches or artificial grass pitches (110x60 metres) with additional space needed for safety run offs and substitute areas. Please refer to the English Lacrosse guidance for pitch requirements: <https://www.englishlacrosse.co.uk/lacrosse-rules-and-regulations/>

For community clubs, fixtures for lacrosse run from September through until April.

#### Supply

In total, there are ten grass lacrosse pitches in the Cotswold District spread across three sites. Of these, two offer available community use at some level with access to Westonbirt School restricted to ad hoc events managed by England Lacrosse. All pitches are situated in the South Analysis Area with no pitches being identified in either the North or the Middle of the Cotswold District.

Table 7.1: Summary of lacrosse pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	Community use?
58	Rendcomb College	South	4	Yes
59	Royal Agricultural University	South	1	Yes
84	Westonbirt School	South	5	Restricted

#### Management

All sites are managed internally by school/university management. As such this provides little opportunity for external club users to have control of pitch usage and pitch maintenance. In addition to this, it can create issues with unsecure tenure as clubs do not have security to play on a site for the foreseeable future if the education provider no longer wishes to let pitches for community use. At present, there are no identified tenure agreements in place across the Cotswold District. It is recommended that clubs operating without security of tenure attempt to enter into a community user agreement to guarantee site use for the foreseeable future.

#### Ancillary facilities

As all lacrosse pitches are situated at education sites in the Cotswold District it is assumed that changing facilities at these sites are adequate for club use. However, a common drawback of playing at education sites as the main home venue is a lack of onsite social space or clubhouse provision despite sufficient access to changing rooms. The lack of onsite social provision may impact on potential for clubs to generate revenue and develop a club social infrastructure if players and away teams choose not to travel to an offsite venue.

#### Demand

There are currently no community lacrosse clubs situated in the Cotswold District. Cirencester Lacrosse Club was previously based within the District but has since amalgamated with Gloucester Lacrosse (juniors) and Cheltenham Cougars (seniors).

## COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Lacrosse is however played at the Royal Agricultural University which fields one senior women's team competing in the BUCS league. The sport is also played by both by Rendcomb College and Westonbirt School.

### Conclusion

There are five senior sized grass pitches identified as being available for community use in the South Analysis Area of the Cotswold District. As demand is generally internally based inside education sites and with just two clubs (including RAU) competing in competitive fixtures, there is a sufficient supply of pitches to cater for both current and future demand.

There is no identified demand for lacrosse in either the North Analysis Area or the Middle Analysis Area and therefore not a requirement for pitches in either Analysis Area.

#### Lacrosse summary

- ◀ There is a total of ten lacrosse pitches in the Cotswold District across three sites of which five are available for community use across two sites.
- ◀ There are currently no lacrosse clubs identified as playing within the Cotswold District. Lacrosse is however played by the RAU and both Rendcomb College and Westonbirt School.
- ◀ There is an adequate amount of senior grass lacrosse pitches to meet the needs of both current and future demand.

### Polo

Polo is governed by the Federation of International Polo. Competitive matches are played on grass pitches a maximum of 275 meters and a minimum of 230 meters between goals and 180 meters in width if unboarded; 140 meters to 80 meters in width if boarded<sup>15</sup>. Additionally, a safety run off area of 10x30 yards is required to allow players to slow down when traveling at speed on horseback.

### Supply

There are 34 grass polo pitches across five sites in Cotswold, all of which are available for community use. The majority of polo pitches (91%) are situated in the South Analysis Area, with three (9%) in the Mid Area and none in the North.

Table 7.2: Summary of polo pitches

Site ID	Site	Number of pitches	Analysis area
85	Beaufort Polo Club	7	South
86	Cirencester Polo Club	8	South
87	Cirencester Park Polo Club (Jackbarrow Site)	11	South
88	Edgeworth Polo Club	5	South
89	Longdole Polo Club	3	Mid

<sup>15</sup><http://www.fippolo.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/THE-INTERNATIONAL-RULES-FOR-POLO-August-2010.pdf>

# COTSWOLD PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## **Site management**

All sites and pitches are managed by the respective resident club and use is considered to be secure.

## **Demand**

There are currently four polo clubs based in the Cotswold District:

- ◀ Beaufort Polo Club - (South Analysis Area)
- ◀ Cirencester Polo Club - (South Analysis Area)
- ◀ Edgeworth Polo Club - (South Analysis Area)
- ◀ Longdole Polo Club - (Mid Analysis Area)

Of the four clubs, three are based in the South Analysis Area. Demand for polo across Cotswold is varied with both high level competitive matches taking place as well as more social based competition available at each club.

## **Conclusion**

The current supply of polo pitches is deemed adequate to meet both current and future demand. There is no identified demand for lacrosse in the North Analysis Area and therefore not a requirement for pitches within the Analysis Area.

### **Polo summary**

- ◀ There is a total of 34 polo pitches across the Cotswold District situated across five sites.
- ◀ There are four polo clubs situated across the Cotswold District.
- ◀ There is an adequate amount of polo pitches to meet the needs of both current and future demand.

### APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

#### **National context**

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

#### ***National Planning Policy Framework***

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)***

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

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

### **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan**

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Clubs and leagues*
  - ◀ *Kids*
  - ◀ *Communities*
  - ◀ *Casual*
- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Pathway*
  - ◀ *Support*
  - ◀ *Elite Teams*
  - ◀ *England Teams*

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- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Fan focus*
  - ◀ *New audiences*
  - ◀ *Global stage*
  - ◀ *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Integrity*
  - ◀ *Community programmes*
  - ◀ *Our environments*
  - ◀ *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
  - ◀ *People*
  - ◀ *Revenue and reach*
  - ◀ *Insight*
  - ◀ *Operations*

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

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

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

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

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

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

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

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### ***England Hockey Strategy***

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

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

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

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

#### **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. There needs to be more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

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

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

### ***The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy***

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- ◀ Sustainable clubs
- ◀ Environmental Sustainability
- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website [www.rffacilitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.rffacilitiestrust.co.uk) provides further information on:

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

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Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◀ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◀ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017