



UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

WINTER ASSESSMENT REPORT JUNE 2024

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

CONTENTS

GLOSSARY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

- 1.1: Introduction
- 1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- 1.3: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision (Stage B)
- 1.4: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Stage C)
- 1.5: Develop the strategy (Stage D)

PART 2: FOOTBALL

- 2.1: Introduction
- 2.2: Supply
- 2.3: Demand
- 2.4: Capacity analysis
- 2.5: Supply and demand analysis
- 2.6: Conclusion

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

- 3.1: Introduction
- 3.2: Current provision
- 3.3: Demand
- 3.4: Supply and demand analysis
- 3.5: Conclusion

PART 4: RUGBY UNION

- 4.1: Introduction
- 4.2: Supply
- 4.3: Demand
- 4.4: Capacity analysis
- 4.5: Supply and demand analysis
- 4.6: Conclusion

PART 5: HOCKEY

- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2: Supply
- 5.3: Demand
- 5.4: Supply and demand analysis
- 5.5: Conclusion

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

APPENDIX 2: SUMMER SPORT REVIEW

APPENDIX 3: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation Turf
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide
CC	Cricket Club
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
ECFA	Essex County Football Association
EH	England Hockey
EFA	Essex FA
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
NGB(s)	National Governing Body (of sport)
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf pitch
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RFC	Rugby Football Club
UDC	Uttlesford District Council
U	Under

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been appointed by Uttlesford District Council (UDC) to produce a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS). This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting relevant provision within the local authority area.

The overarching aim of the project is to provide:

- ◀ An evidence-based assessment of existing sport and recreation facilities.
- ◀ An assessment of the sport and recreational needs of the future residents of Uttlesford up to 2031.

Separate indoor and built sports facilities and open space needs assessments have also been commissioned. All needs assessment reports will be followed by individual strategies which will contribute to the overall stated project outcomes to:

- ◀ Create sustainable communities by directing sports provision to areas of planned growth and areas of deficiency.
- ◀ Secure S106 contributions.
- ◀ Protect and enhance existing facilities, ensuring better provision through re-development (unless provision is good).
- ◀ Incorporate a robust up to date needs assessment which supports the Council and meets the requirements of the amended National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- ◀ Reflect and address the needs and demands of the local population that will grow in line with the changes defined by the Local Plan.

Thereby:

- ◀ Encouraging greater participation in sport and recreation.
- ◀ Promoting healthier communities.
- ◀ Justifying on-site provision and financial support for facilities.
- ◀ Involving the community in decisions affecting provision.
- ◀ Reinforce partnerships in delivering health outcomes.

This report, known as the Assessment Report, presents a supply and demand assessment of outdoor sports facilities in the area. It is delivered in accordance with Sport England's PPOSS Guidance, which details five stages for the developing the study:

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

Stages A to C for winter sports are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the proceeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing once the work has been approved. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date. As part of the Stage E process, the PPOSS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off. Such a review will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the Strategy is being developed

The PPOSS provides an update to the existing study, which was completed in 2019 and is nearing the end of its recommended lifespan. Its primary purpose is to ensure the strategic framework remains up-to-date so that the Council can ensure that the provision of playing pitches can meet the local and community needs of existing and future residents in Uttlesford, as well as visitors.

In addition, an up-to-date PPOSS is required to inform local planning policy and to conform with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of this is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 102 stating that “planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.”

Paragraph 103 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

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

Local context

Corporate Plan 2023-2027

Uttlesford’s Corporate Plan sets out the key priorities for the next 5 years. Its vision within this period is ‘to make Uttlesford the best place to live, work and play’, through the following themes:

Theme	Description
Active place-maker for our towns and villages	To create a renewed focus on strategic master-planning in partnership with towns and villages to create better resident-centred places to live. This will result in new policies and plans to give our towns and villages a strong sense of purpose and place.
Progressive custodian of our rural and historic environment	Residents will see the Council is a strong protector of the physical and historic environment and the Council is taking affirmative action on combating the effects of climate change at a local level.
Champion for the district	Residents will feel that the Council is proactively working on their behalf for the good of the district with other authorities and

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

	organisations. This will improve Uttlesford's connectivity and create a better local health service for residents.
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To ensure that Uttlesford's towns and villages develop a strong sense of purpose and place, the authority will promote healthy lifestyles in diverse and inclusive communities. This will be achieved through:

- ◀ Working with partners, including the voluntary sector, to improve the general quality of life for residents, including for residents that experience social isolation, poor mental health, obesity, addiction and dementia.
- ◀ Continuing to be an active partner of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership, to promote healthy lifestyles.

Uttlesford Local Plan

The new Uttlesford Local Plan will be part of the statutory planning framework for the district guiding decisions on all aspects of development. It will set out how and where new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure will be delivered and the type of places and environment that will be created.

Submission of the draft Local Plan is expected in Summer 2024. This will be followed by an examination period with the adopted Local Plan envisaged in early 2026.

This needs assessment report will therefore act as an important evidence base to help inform future priorities and requirements.

Uttlesford's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2028

The health of people in Uttlesford is generally better than the England average. However, there are key issues associated with the rurality of the area and the potential to overlook local inequalities, which are masked by Uttlesford's generally affluent socio-economic profile.

To reduce these inequalities, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy vision is to ensure that all children, young people and adults across the whole of Uttlesford can live healthy, fulfilling and long lives.

To achieve this, the Strategy list five key priorities – which are to:

1. Improve and support mental wellbeing.
2. Enable people to live healthy, active lifestyles throughout their lives.
3. Build healthy, resilient, active communities.
4. Alleviate pressures associated with increased costs of living.
5. Improve access to services and facilities.

To improve access to facilities, including leisure centres, the authority will review and enhance the sustainable public transport network to all key facilities. It will also ensure that facilities are of the highest of standards to ensure they are accessible. Providing accessible attractive facilities will increase the health of the Uttlesford community and create opportunities for social interaction.

Fit for the Future: Active Essex Implementation Plan 2021-31

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Launched in July 2021, the Fit for the Future Plan provides a rallying call to action for the thousands of organisations and people across Essex who recognise the enormous contribution physical activity and sport makes to the health and wellbeing of everyone.

As of June 2021, over 1.6 million people were living in Greater Essex of whom 901,000 are active adults who participate in over 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Active Essex wishes to increase this number, unite in one direction and over the next 10 years, create an active Essex to improve everyone's health and wellbeing. To achieve this, the Local Partnership sets out the following key objectives.

- ◀ **Strengthening Communities** - all communities across Essex, Southend and Thurrock use the power of physical activity and sport to build resilience, connection and wellbeing.
- ◀ **Active Environments** - to work collectively to develop and provide well connected, accessible places and spaces that encourage people to be active.
- ◀ **Children and Young People** - to ensure every child has the best start in life, whereby they are active, healthy and happy.
- ◀ **Levelling Up Health and Wellbeing** - to change behaviours, which will enable and empower people to do things for themselves and their local communities. Physical activity is the highest priority for good health.
- ◀ **Sport and Physical Activity** - to support the recovery, development and growth of our sport and physical activity sector, to collectively increase opportunities for all.

Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2022 – 2026

Every local area must have a JHWS setting out the priorities identified through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) that local government, the NHS and other partners will deliver together through the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).

Essex JHWS aims to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents in Essex by creating a culture and environment that reduces inequalities and enables residents of all ages to live healthier lives. To achieve this, the JHWS identifies five key priorities, all of which have specific development outcomes which need to be achieved through partnership work, as outlined in Table 2.1.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 1.1: Essex JHWS priorities and outcomes

Priority	Outcome
Improving mental health and wellbeing	Supported the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and families with a focus on the vulnerable. Reduced loneliness and social isolation. Reduced suicide through a focus on system support.
Physical activity and healthy weight	Enabled children, young people and their families to be more physically active. Improved levels of physical activity amongst adults by helping them find ways to integrate physical activity into their daily lives. Improved nutritional awareness, healthy eating, and help low-income households access affordable healthy food options.
Supporting long term independence	Improved access to advice and guidance including financial support so that residents with long-term conditions and their carers can better manage their conditions. Reduced digital exclusion to improve access to advice and support online. Help all residents have better access to opportunities in education, work, skills, housing, and their social lives.
Alcohol and substance misuse	Improve access to advice, support and treatment for residents experiencing alcohol or substance use issues. Work across the system to help address the challenges of county lines and drugs related criminality. Educate children, young people, adults, and families on the risks associated with alcohol and substance misuse.
Health inequalities & the wider determinants of health	Ensure that all children have access to quality parenting, early years provision and education that provide the foundations for later in life. Address food poverty and ensure that all children can access healthy food. Improve access to employment, education and training for adults and young people in our most deprived communities. Embed the use of health impact assessments in planning practice to ensure new planning proposals do not negatively impact on health, health services or widen health inequalities.

Scope

The PPOSS encompasses all relevant facilities regardless of ownership and management. The following are included within the scope:

- ◀ Football pitches (grass and third generation turf (3G))
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches (artificial grass pitches (AGPs))
- ◀ Outdoor tennis courts
- ◀ Outdoor netball courts
- ◀ Outdoor bowling greens
- ◀ Athletics tracks

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

A bespoke section for third generation turf (3G) pitches is also included within this report. This is relevant to several sports, predominately football but also rugby union. It is separated out from other sections due to this multi-sport nature.

Study area

The study will cover provision within the Uttlesford administrative boundary area. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas are applied to allow more localised assessment of provision and examination of supply and demand at the local level. Using analysis areas allows local circumstances and issues to be considered. In total, four analysis areas will be used, these are:

- ◀ North Uttlesford
- ◀ Rural North & Thaxted
- ◀ Rural South
- ◀ South Uttlesford

The breakdown of the areas and the whole study area can be further seen overleaf.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

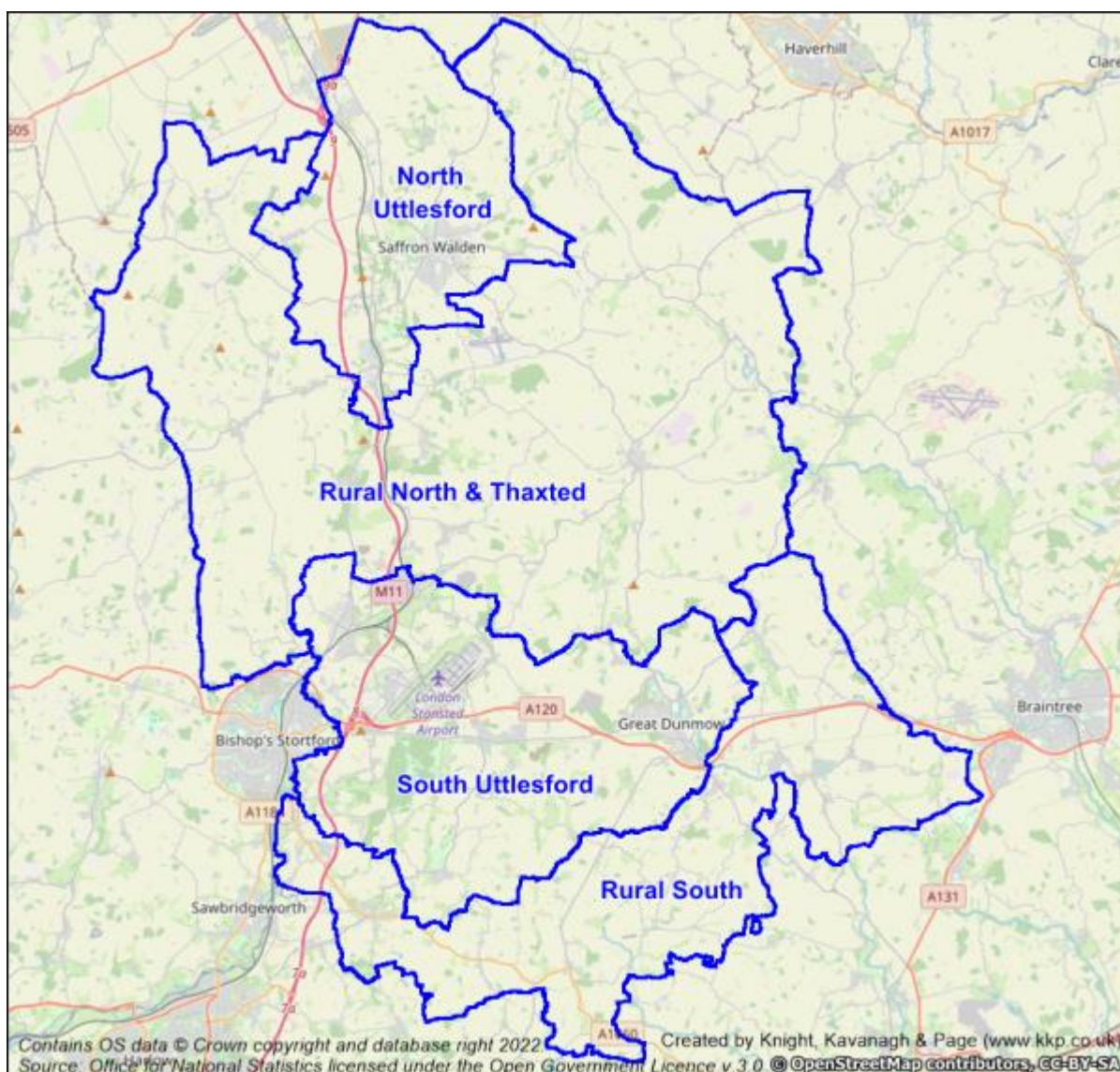


Figure 1.1: Map of Uttlesford and its analysis areas

Cross boundary issues are explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries.

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

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Quantity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accessibility

Not all playing pitch sites offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility also influences their actual availability for community use. As such, each site included in the PPOSS is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - provision in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

- ◀ **Available but unused** - provision that is available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues. This most often applies to school sites but can apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - provision which as a matter of policy or practice is not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club sites and some semi-professional club sites where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** - sites that have previously been used for sport but are not currently being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either (often being unmarked). Once sites are disused for five or more years, these fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still must be assessed using the criteria in NPPF paragraph 103, with Sport England still likely to challenge a proposed loss which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of such a site is still that of a playing field until such time as its use is formally changed or it is developed for non-sport use.

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

Quality

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

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

For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPOSS refers to playing facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. The age of the facilities can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

Standard quality refers to playing provision that has, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but need minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and the provision of toilets, although some level of improvement/modernisation may be required.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

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

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

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

Gather demand information and views

Current demand

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

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play
- ◀ Unofficial use

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified).

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition. In comparison, latent demand is the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of playing pitch facilities (and ancillary provision) was available.

Exported and imported demand refers to those playing outside of their local authority area of choice. This therefore includes Uttlesford-based demand that travels outside of the district to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the district (imported demand). This can often be linked to capacity and/or quality issues within an authority, although nationally some leagues and competitions operate a central venue system that can necessitate the displacement.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues from each sport (as identified by the Council and the relevant NGBs), thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and further interrogation of key issues. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have been contacted, including town and parish councils as well as schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

Future demand

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

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication as to how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). This ratio can then be applied to predicted participation, population and housing growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

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

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

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

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

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

Understanding the situation at individual sites

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Each pitch is then said to have potential spare capacity, be at capacity, or be overplayed – as follows:

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

Pitches have a limit on how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use. One team accessing one whole pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

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

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches in match equivalent sessions

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

More detailed sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

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

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to be overcome through better utilising the existing stock, such as through quality improvements or through improving community access.

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

Identify the key findings and issues

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

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

1.5: Develop the strategy (Stage D)

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

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

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in Uttlesford is Essex County Football Association (ECFA). It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaches and delivering national football schemes.

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

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

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

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

Part 3 of this report captures supply and demand for third generation (3G) pitches, which is the preferred artificial surface type for football. There is a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, in addition to training needs, especially to accommodate mini and youth football. For the purposes of this PPOSS, 11v11 3G pitches are defined as those which meet FA minimum dimension criteria for adult football (91 x 55 metres), albeit pitches should be constructed to 100 x 64 meters as per recommended adult dimensions where possible.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

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

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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

The LFFP for Uttlesford was produced in 2019¹. As it is a 'live' document it will be updated by the FF and County FA following the completion of this study, as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

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

Consultation

A total of 33 football clubs play in Uttlesford, with 21 responding to consultation requests (64% of clubs). This equates to a team response rate of 85% (179 out of 211 teams). Most clubs that have not responded are small clubs fielding just one or two teams.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 73 football pitches across 34 sites in Uttlesford. Of these, 72 pitches are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used). The only unavailable pitch is at Carver Barracks.

Table 2.2: Summary of pitch types available for community use

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North Uttlesford	3	4	3	3	7	20
Rural North & Thaxted	4	3	3	5	-	15
Rural South	8	-	1	1	-	10
South Uttlesford	3	6	5	6	7	27
Uttlesford	18	13	12	15	14	72

The South Uttlesford Analysis Area contains the largest offering with 27 pitches (38%), followed by the North Uttlesford Analysis Area with 20 (28%) pitches. The fewest number of pitches are identified in the Rural South Analysis Area, providing ten pitches (14%).

The largest number of pitches is identified amongst adult pitches, with 18 (25%), whilst the fewest number of pitches are represented amongst youth 9v9 pitches, with 12 (17%).

Figure 2.1 overleaf identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Uttlesford.

¹<https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/uttlesford/uttlesford-executive-summary/>

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

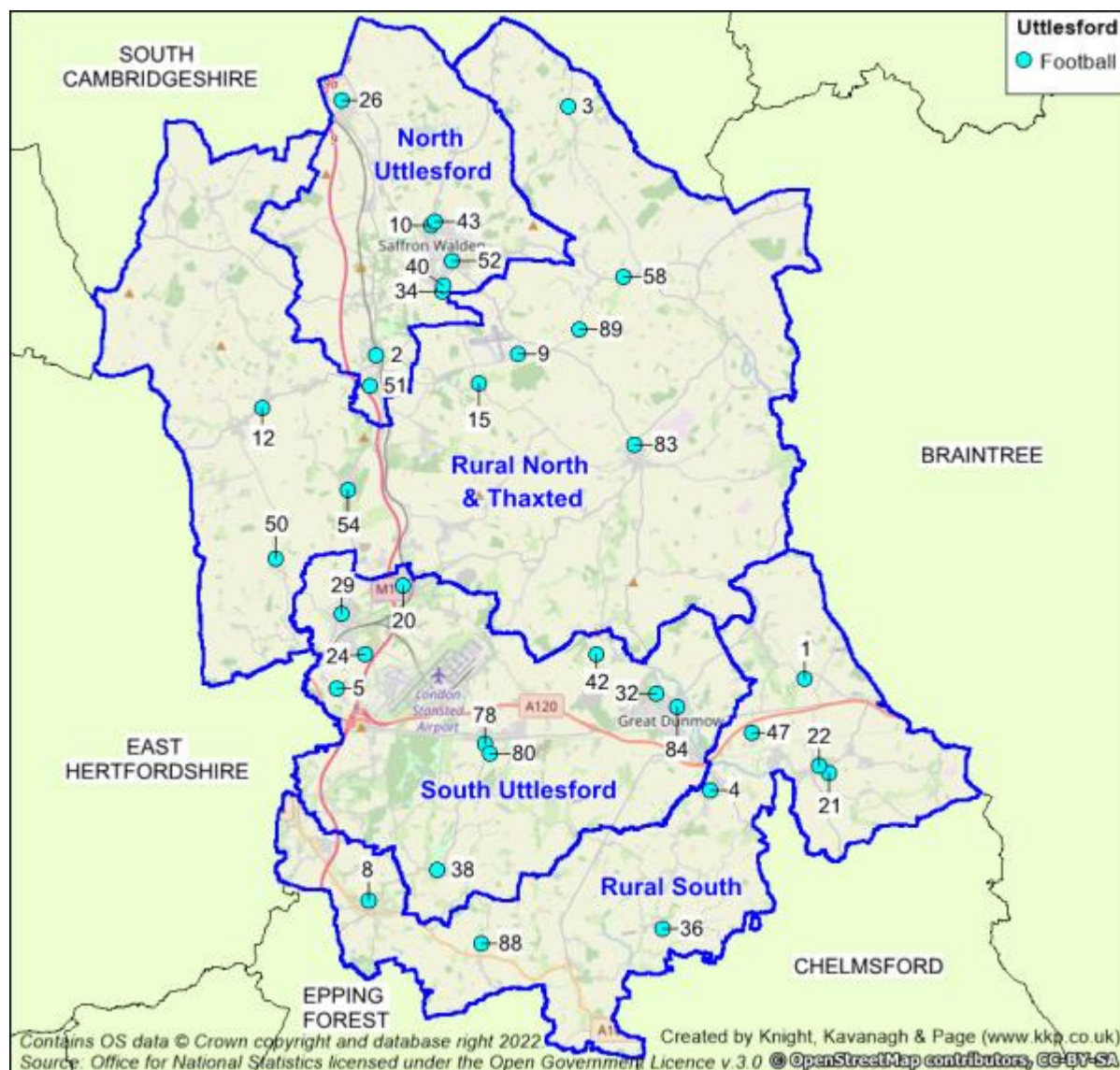


Figure 2.1: Location of grass football pitches in Uttlesford

Disused sites

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

Overall, there are four disused sites in Uttlesford. Exact details surrounding each site are referenced in the table below.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 2.3: Disused pitches/sites within Uttlesford (football)

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Comments
7	Burns Playing Field	CM6 2EB	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch, <i>circa</i> 2022. The pitch is no longer marked out.
71	Stansted Airport Pitch	CM24 1RY	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, <i>circa</i> 2023. The pitches are no longer marked out.
90	Woodfield	CM22 6QR	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch, <i>circa</i> 2020. The pitch is no longer marked out.
94	Friends School (Walden School)	CB11 3NY	Site previously accommodated three grass pitches ² , <i>circa</i> 2017. The pitches are no longer marked out.

The disused pitches at Stansted Airport were previously used by Elsenham FC for its home matches. As part of the mitigation for the ultimate loss of the pitch, the Airport has committed to improving pitch quality at Elsenham Recreation Ground, as well as wider plans for 3G pitch provision at Forest Hall School.

In the next few years, the youth 11v11 pitch at Helena Romanes School will fall out of use, following the expected closure of the site due to a housing development. The School will be re-provided, further details of which can be found below.

In addition to the above, there are 13 sites that are still in use recreationally that previously provided formal football pitches but no longer do so. Sport England would not classify these sites as disused as the sites remain accessible.

² Configurations unknown.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 2.4: Unmarked pitches within Uttlesford (football)

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Comments
5	Birchanger Social Club	CM23 5QJ	One adult pitch which is not currently marked out.
9	Carver Barracks	CB10 2YA	One adult pitch which is not currently marked out.
21	Felsted Playing Field	CM6 3DS	One youth 9v9 pitch which is not currently marked out.
23	Fritch Green Community Centre	CM6 3GG	One youth 9v9 pitch, two mini 7v7 pitches and one mini 5v5 pitch which are not currently marked out.
28	Hadstock Recreation Ground	CB21 4PD	One adult pitch which is not currently marked out.
31	Hatfield Heath Primary School	CM22 7EA	One mini 7v7 pitch which is not currently marked out.
49	Littlebury Recreation Ground	CB11 4TA	One adult pitch which is not currently marked out.
51	Newport Recreation Ground	CB11 3PU	Two adult pitches which are not currently marked out.
56	R A Butler Academy	CB11 3DG	Two mini 7v7 pitches which are not currently marked out.
79	Takeley Primary School	CM6 1YE	One mini 7v7 pitch which is not currently marked out,
80	Takeley Sports Field	CM22 6TG	Two adult pitches which are not currently marked out.
92	Great Dunmow Primary School	CM6 1ZR	One mini 7v7 pitch which is not currently marked out,
93	Henham & Ugley Primary & Nursery School	CM22 6BP	One mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch which are not currently marked out.

A scenario will be added in the forthcoming Strategy & Action Plan reviewing the impact which reinstating pitches on these sites would have on the supply and demand balance identified for football within the conclusions of this report.

Future provision

To mitigate the loss of Helena Romanes School, Essex County Council plans to build a new secondary school on land to the south of Stortford Road. The new school is expected to provide grass pitches, although the size dimensions are not yet known.³

Three additional residential developments have been approved across Uttlesford that are expected to provide future grass pitch provision. Firstly, at land north of Henham Road in Elsenham⁴, permission has been granted for two new grass pitches to be built, one youth 9v9 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch. Elsewhere, at land east of Highworth Quarry in Great Dunmow⁵, permission has been granted to construct adult pitches (quantity unknown). Finally, at land west of Woodside Way, also in Great Dunmow, two small sports facilities are expected to be built, catering for mini football (pitch sizes unknown)⁶.

³ Planning reference: CC/UTT/90/20

⁴ Planning reference: UTT/21/3269/DFO

⁵ Planning reference: UTT/21/1708/OP

⁶ Planning reference: UTT/23/0119/DFO

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The following table outlines the current status of each proposed development and its anticipated delivery timeframe.

Table 2.5: Status of future provision and timeframes

Site name	Current situation	Anticipated delivery date
Land east of Highworth Quarry	S106 requires delivery of sports pitches prior to 45% of development completed. Prolonged timeframe given the application is for 1,000-1,200 dwellings and it is only at the outline stage.	10 to 15 years
Land north of Henham Road	The second phase of the development is underway and sports pitch delivery is the fourth phase.	Three to five years
Land south of Stortford Road	No start has been made on the development and conditions have not yet been discharged. Running out of time to implement permission.	Five to ten years
Land west of Woodside Way	One condition discharged so far but pre-commencement conditions remain. A start has not been made on pitches specifically, but progress has been made on surrounding development parcel.	Three years

In addition, Thaxted Rangers FC are exploring the potential to develop a new site with three youth 11v11 pitches. Early Discussions have taken place with FF and ECFA, as well as with a local landowner around securing a long term lease with Thaxted Parish Council for such a development.

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Uttlesford is generally secure. A site is thought to provide security of tenure if there is a long-term lease agreement in place or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years.

To attract external funding, clubs and sites generally need long-term security of tenure. Linked to this, the table below reflects the clubs in Uttlesford currently operating at their home grounds under a lease arrangement.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 2.6: Summary of football clubs' lease agreements

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Comments
4	Barnston Association Football Club	Barnston FC	Lease from private landlord (three years remaining) ⁷
10	Catons Lane	Saffron Walden Town FC	Lease from Saffron Walden Town Council (99-year lease)
34	Herberts Farm Playing Fields	Saffron Walden Community FC	Lease from Saffron Walden Town Council (50-year lease)
52	Peasland Road Football Pitch	Plantation Youth FC	Lease from Saffron Walden Town Council ⁸
83	Thaxted Recreation Ground	Thaxted Rangers FC	Lease from the Thaxted Parish Council ⁹

Barnston AFC is currently negotiating with the private landowner which owns its site to secure a longer-term tenure; however, the landowner is considering a redevelopment of the site, meaning the Club would need to find a new home ground. Therefore, the Club's tenure is currently unsecure.

Security of tenure is provided for clubs which own freehold of their home ground. This is identified for the following:

- ✦ Hatfield Heath FC (at Claves Pasture)
- ✦ Stansted FC (at Hargrave Park)
- ✦ Takeley FC (at Takeley Football Club)
- ✦ White Roding FC (at White Roding Sports & Social Club)

In addition, most parish/town council sites in Uttlesford ensure long-term security of tenure as part of their ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offer. In total, seven responding clubs indicate they rent use of parish/town council-owned pitches, predominately on a seasonal basis. These clubs are:

- ✦ Dunmow Rovers Youth FC (at Little Dunmow Recreation Ground and The Causeway Recreation Ground)
- ✦ Elsenham FC (at Elsenham Recreation Ground)
- ✦ Felsted Rovers FC (at Felsted Playing Field)
- ✦ Hatfield Broad Oak Youth FC (at High Street Recreation Ground)
- ✦ Newport FC (at Newport Recreation Ground)
- ✦ Saffron Walden Community FC (at Newport Recreation Ground, Radwinter Recreation Ground and Wimbish Recreation Ground)
- ✦ Swards End Dragons FC (at Quendon Athletic Football Club)

In contrast, tenure is unsecure at most other venues, most notably at education sites where long-term access is not guaranteed.

⁷ Start date of lease unknown.

⁸ Lease length unknown.

⁹ Lease length unknown.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Pitch quality

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

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

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in Uttlesford. As seen, most pitches are assessed as standard quality, with 32 (44%) being rated as such. Of the remaining pitches, 26 (36%) community available pitches are assessed as poor quality and 14 (19%) are assessed as good quality.

Table 2.7: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	7	8	3
Youth 11v11	2	4	7
Youth 9v9	1	7	4
Mini 7v7	-	7	8
Mini 5v5	4	6	4
Total	14	32	26

The 14 good quality pitches are identified across the following sites:

- ◀ Barnston Association Football Club
- ◀ Felsted Playing Field
- ◀ Felsted School
- ◀ Hargrave Park
- ◀ High Street Recreation Ground
- ◀ Lime Avenue Playing Fields
- ◀ Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust
- ◀ White Roding Sports & Social Club
- ◀ Wimbish Recreation Ground

In contrast, 26 community available pitches located across 14 sites are assessed as poor quality. In the main, these pitches show signs of significant wear and are not comprehensively maintained (comparatively to the sites listed above):

- ◀ Alcott Playing Field
- ◀ Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland
- ◀ Ashdon Recreation Ground
- ◀ Calves Pasture
- ◀ Carver Barracks
- ◀ Clavering Jubilee Fields

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

- ◀ Elsenham Recreation Ground
- ◀ Great Chesterford Recreation Ground
- ◀ Herberts Farm Playing Fields
- ◀ Katherine Semar Junior School
- ◀ Laundry Lane
- ◀ Little Dunmow Recreation Ground
- ◀ Radwinter Recreation Ground
- ◀ The Causeway Recreation Ground

Mitigation for the loss of Stansted Airport Football Pitch (disused) also includes improving the quality of the grass pitches at Elsenham Recreation Ground.¹⁰

Although some parish/town council-owned pitches are assessed as poor quality (19 pitches), most are assessed as standard quality (25 pitches) when considering the maintenance regime undertaken. As such, the main reasons for some parish/town council pitches being assessed as poor quality relates more to waterlogging issues and/or unofficial use exacerbating problems due to the open access nature of many sites.

From consultation responses, just 13% of clubs report that pitch quality has worsened in recent years (at their home ground), whilst 47% report an improvement. The remaining 40% report no change. For clubs whose pitches have deteriorated in recent years, a common theme is that inadequate drainage systems, unfavourable weather and overuse have led to such deterioration. In comparison, clubs whose pitches have improved in recent years attribute this to a more thorough maintenance regime being undertaken.

Dunmow Rovers Youth FC, Felsted Rovers FC, Hatfield Broad Oak Youth FC, Plantation Youth FC, Newport FC, Saffron Walden Community Girls FC, Swards End Dragons and Thaxted Rangers FC all report that their sites have suffered from vandalism recently at their respective home grounds.

A full breakdown of the quality ratings can be found in Table 2.23.

Pitch improvement

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

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

¹⁰ Planning reference: UTT/22/0434/OP

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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

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

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

Table 2.8: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

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

In Uttlesford, three sites have received a recent PitchPower assessment¹¹. The findings of these compared to PPOSS findings are shown in the table below.

Table 2.9: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
4	Barnston Association Football Club	1	Adult	Good	Good
4	Barnston Association Football Club	1	Adult	Poor	Good
38	High Street Recreation Ground	1	Youth (11v11)	Basic	Standard
38	High Street Recreation Ground	1	Mini (7v7)	Basic	Standard
38	High Street Recreation Ground	2	Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
38	High Street Recreation Ground	1	Mini (5v5)	Basic	Standard
78	Takeley Football Club	1	Adult	Basic	Standard

PitchPower reports have also been completed at Flitch Green Community Centre (now disused) and The Causeway Recreation Ground; however, as these were carried out longer than 12 months ago, the results of these reports have not informed the PPOSS assessments.

¹¹ Only Pitch Power reports conducted post 2022 have been considered as the findings of those older than this are no longer considered to be reliable.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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

Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF). As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the GMA (formerly Institute of Groundsmanship).

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

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

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

Over marked pitches

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

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The table below highlights all sites containing over marked pitches in Uttlesford.

Table 2.10: Sites containing over marked pitches

Site ID	Site	Comments
26	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	One youth 11v11 pitch is overmarked by one youth 9v9 pitches.
51	Newport Recreation Ground	One adult pitch which is overmarked by one youth 9v9 pitch.
52	Peasland Road Football Pitch	One adult pitch is overmarked by one youth 9v9 pitch.

Despite overmarkings, only the pitch at Great Chesterford is assessed as poor quality, suggesting that the over marked pitches at Newport Recreation Ground and Peasland Road Football Pitch are being maintained relatively well. However, capacity issues are evident at both Newport Recreation Ground and Peasland Road Football Pitch, partly because of the additional usage.

Ancillary facilities

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

Where changing room facilities are not provided, this can make sites inaccessible to some clubs and teams, particularly for adult football and female activity. The provision of appropriate changing facilities can be a league requirement. Overall, seven community available sites are not serviced by an ancillary clubhouse facility in Uttlesford.

Of those sites serviced by provision, nine have good quality facilities, six have standard quality facilities and seven have poor quality facilities. This is further summarised in the following table.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 2.11. Summary of ancillary facilities' quality (community available)

Site ID	Site name	Quality rating ¹²
1	Alcott Playing Field	Poor
3	Ashdon Recreation Ground	Poor
4	Barnston Association Football Club	Standard
5	Birchanger Social Club	Poor
8	Calves Pasture	N/A
10	Catons Lane	Standard
12	Clavering Jubilee Fields	Good
15	Debden Recreation Ground	Poor
20	Elsenham Recreation Ground	N/A
21	Felsted Playing Field	N/A
26	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Good
29	Hargrave Park	Standard
34	Herberts Farm Playing Fields	Good
36	High Easter Playing Fields	Good
38	High Street Recreation Ground	N/A
42	Laundry Lane	Poor
43	Lime Avenue Playing Fields	Good
47	Little Dunmow Recreation Ground	Standard
50	Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust	Good
51	Newport Recreation Ground	Standard
52	Peasland Road Football Pitch	Good
54	Quendon Athletic Football Club	N/A
58	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Poor
78	Takeley Football Club	Poor
80	Takeley Sports Field	N/A
83	Thaxted Recreation Ground	Good
84	The Causeway Recreation Ground	N/A
88	White Roding Sports & Social Club	Good
89	Wimbish Recreation Ground	Standard

At Alcott Playing Field, Ashdon Recreation Ground, Debden Recreation Ground, Laundry Lane and Takeley Football Club (poor quality ancillary facilities), the ancillary facilities are outdated and basic in terms of what they provide, whereas at Radwinter Recreation Ground, the facilities are not outdated but instead are more often utilised to serve other purposes and are not deemed to be dedicated provision.

Some school sites offer access to ancillary provision; however, such provision is generally considered to be impractical for community football clubs with very little schools offering dedicated ancillary provision and instead clubs have to use existing provision provided from a curricular perspective. As such, no quality ratings have been provided for school sites.

In addition to site assessments, of the clubs that responded to consultation requests, 40% report they have access to good quality clubhouse and/or changing provision at their respective home venues, whilst standard quality facilities report accessing by 27% of clubs

¹² Quality ratings have been determined via a combination of site assessment visits and consultation with both clubs and wider steering group.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

and 7% access poor quality facilities. The remaining 26% report that they are without such ancillary provision.

As previously mentioned, eight sites providing community available provision are not equipped with ancillary facilities. In total, 56 teams across seven clubs are using pitches at sites which are without ancillary facilities. The following table provides a breakdown of the teams playing matches at such sites.

Table 2.12. Summary of teams using sites without ancillary facilities (community available)

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Number of teams
8	Calves Pasture	Hatfield Heath FC	1
20	Elsenham Recreation Ground	Elsenham Youth FC	20
21	Felsted Playing Field	Felsted Rovers FC	2
38	High Street Recreation Ground	Hatfield Broad Oak Youth FC	6
54	Quendon Athletic Football Club	Elsenham Youth FC	3
80	Takeley Sports Field	Little Canfield Stars HBO Girls FC	4
80	Takeley Sports Field	Takeley Youth FC	4
84	The Causeway Recreation Ground	Dunmow Rovers Youth FC	16

The sites referenced in the table above should be prioritised for future ancillary investment, especially those catering for the greatest demand. It should be noted that some sites included in the table below are serviced by accessible provision such as communal village halls. These are however not always accessible and typically come with a rental cost for use.

Away from clubhouse provision, 58% of responding clubs are reported to have inadequate car parking facilities at their home grounds.

These sites include:

- ◀ Elsenham Recreation Ground
- ◀ Felsted Playing Field
- ◀ Hargrave Park
- ◀ Herberts Farm Playing Fields
- ◀ Newport Recreation Ground
- ◀ Thaxted Recreation Ground
- ◀ The Causeway Recreation Ground

This is a particular issue during peak times at multi-pitch sites when several matches are scheduled at the same time. Additionally, seven sites do not offer any car parking provision. These sites include:

- ◀ Alcott Playing Field
- ◀ Ashdon Recreation Ground
- ◀ Calves Pasture
- ◀ High Street Recreation Ground
- ◀ Quendon Athletic Football Club
- ◀ Takeley Football Club (FSI Stadium)
- ◀ Takeley Sports Field

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

A further five clubs also have ancillary provision aspirations. The table below summarises these plans.

Table 2.13: Summary of clubs' ancillary development aspirations

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
4	Barnston Association Football Club	Barnston AFC	Changing room refurbishment
10	Catons Lane	Saffron Walden Town/Community FC	Changing room development
38	High Street Recreation Ground	Hatfield Broad Oak FC	Clubhouse & changing rooms development
51	Newport Recreation Ground	Newport FC	Changing room refurbishment
84	The Causeway Recreation Ground	Dunmow Rovers Youth FC	Clubhouse construction

Saffron Walden Town/Community FC have aspirations to develop two NLS compliant changing rooms within the footprint of the existing stadia at Catons Lane. It is to be hoped that this provision could be made accessible for grass pitches at Lime Avenue Playing Fields. This is in anticipation for the removal of the existing ancillary provision at Lime Avenue Playing Fields (which was only provided temporarily as a result of the S106 agreement).

At Debden Recreation Ground, planning permission was granted in 2020 for the existing pavilion (assessed as poor quality) to be demolished and replaced with a new village hall and pavilion, for which a revised application is currently being determined. Elsewhere at The Causeway Recreation Ground, a planning application is currently being determined for a new toilet block and car park to support the grass pitches.¹³

National League system

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

Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation¹⁴ requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements.

Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from Regional Feeder League. Please refer to the FA website¹⁵ for the full specifications for each.

The general principle for clubs in the NLS is that they must achieve the appropriate Stadium Accreditation grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore

¹³ Planning reference: UTT/23/2494/FUL

¹⁴ <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

¹⁵ <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. There has been a restructure of the NLS, with the former Step 7 repositioned as Regional Feeder Leagues to the NLS to be more aligned to the County FA network as the highest level of regional/local football. Clubs playing in Regional Feeder leagues remain eligible to access grant funding through the Premier League Stadium Fund (PLSF), on the condition that the Club has applied for promotion to Step 6, with any grant awarded conditional to grant of promotion. Clubs will retain access to cup competitions, but the restructure will help to establish a clear and consistent process for clubs coming in at Step 6 and will allow County FAs to develop local pyramid structures.

In Uttlesford, six teams operate within the football pyramid as summarised below.

Table 2.14: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Saffron Walden Town FC First Team	Essex Senior Football League – Premier Division	Step 5
Stansted FC First Team	Spartan South Midlands Football League – Premier Division	Step 5
Takeley FC First Team	Essex Senior Football League – Premier Division	Step 5
Barnston FC First Team	Essex & Suffolk Border League - Premier Division	Regional Feeder League
Fritch United FC First Team	Essex & Suffolk Border League - Premier Division	Regional Feeder League
Thaxted Rangers FC First Team	Cambridgeshire County League – Premier Division	Regional Feeder League

None of the clubs reports any ground grading issues. However, for clubs operating within regional feeder leagues it should be noted that promotion to Step 6 typically requires a “step up” regarding facilities. As an example, the pitch used by the Club must be sports lit, the pitch must be fenced around its perimeter and there is a need for a turnstile for spectators to enter the site (amongst other things). For clubs within the regional feeder leagues, promotion is not always achievable due to these facility constraints.

Women’s National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women’s National League System, similar to the adult men’s, which provides structure to the adult female game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each tier requiring differing Stadium Accreditation requirements.

Although women’s clubs are still required to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men’s National League System. Ratings range from Grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women’s National League System is akin to Tier 3 and 4 of the men’s National League System, but it is not the same. Within Uttlesford, no clubs operate in the Women’s National League System.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 211 teams across 33 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Uttlesford for the 2023/24

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

season. This consists of 32 senior men's, one senior women's, 86 youth boys', 14 youth girls' and 78 mini soccer teams (including any designated girls only mini teams).

Table 2.15: Summary of number of competitive teams currently playing in Uttlesford

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North Uttlesford	9	28	10	15	12	74
Rural North & Thaxted	3	13	10	10	4	40
Rural South	13	2	2	6	-	23
South Uttlesford	8	25	10	14	17	74
Uttlesford	33	68	32	45	33	211
2019 PPOSS study	38	38	26	30	31	163

Both the North Uttlesford and South Uttlesford analysis areas offer the largest number of teams with 74 each (148 teams/70%), whilst the Rural North & Thaxted and Rural South analysis areas provide the fewest number of teams, with 40 (19%) and 23 (11%) respectively.

There are more youth 11v11 teams (68) when compared to other formats of play, with youth 9v9 teams being the least represented (32).

Participation trends

Since the previous PPOSS study produced in 2019, the total number of teams in Uttlesford has increased from 163 teams to 211 teams in 2023. This is broken down as an overall increase of 23%, consisting of five additional adult teams, 30 additional youth 11v11 teams, six additional youth 9v9 teams, five additional mini 7v7 teams and two additional mini 5v5 teams.¹⁶

More clubs report a growth in demand in recent years compared to those reporting a decrease. In total, 40% of clubs report an increase in the number of adult teams, whilst 57% report an increase in youth teams and another 57% report an increase in mini teams. Furthermore, only 13% of clubs report some degree of decrease in participation.¹⁷

Women's and girls' demand

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

As indicated above, there are currently 15 dedicated female teams playing within Uttlesford, representing 7% of the total number of teams. There are also additional female participants within mixed mini teams.

In addition, Wildcat centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, providing opportunities for girls aged 5-11 to develop fundamental skills and

¹⁶ Comparisons cannot be drawn from the previous PPOSS study at a localised Analysis Area level as different geographical boundaries have been applied.

¹⁷ The majority of clubs did not quantify the increase or decrease in participation.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

experience football in a safe and fun environment and Squad sessions for 12-16 year olds follow the same format. All organisations delivering Wildcat centres or Squad sessions receive a £900 grant over two years and equipment in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation. There are currently two Wildcats centres operating in Uttlesford, at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre and Takeley Primary School.

Exported/Imported demand

In total, nine teams are identified as exporting demand outside of the district into neighbouring authorities, with this consisting of four adult teams and five youth 11v11 teams.

Table 2.16: Summary of exported match play demand into other local authorities

Club	Exported demand (teams)	Venue	Surface	Local authority
Dunmow United FC	1 x adult	Finchfield Playing Fields	Grass	Braintree
Takeley Youth FC	4 x youth 11v11	Mark Hall Sports Centre	3G	Harlow
Thaxted Rangers Youth FC	1 x youth 11v11	Finchfield Playing Fields	Grass	Braintree
The Rodings FC	2 x adult	Roxwell Blues Cricket Club	Grass	Chelmsford
The Rodings FC	1 x adult	Melbourne Park	3G	Chelmsford

In addition, Dunmow Rovers Youth FC forecasts that it will need to consider exporting some of its match demand outside of the district if it is to meet its current and future demand.

No imported demand is identified.

Latent demand

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

Of responding clubs, 13 indicate that they could field more teams if they had access to more grass pitches, which represents a high level of latent demand and suggests existing capacity issues.¹⁸

The full list of responsive clubs which identify latent demand are:

- ◀ Dunmow Rovers FC
- ◀ Elsenham FC
- ◀ Felsted Rovers FC
- ◀ Hatfield Broad Oak Youth FC
- ◀ Manuden Juniors FC
- ◀ Saffron Walden Community FC
- ◀ Saffron Walden Community Girls FC
- ◀ Swards End Dragons FC
- ◀ Stansted FC
- ◀ Takeley FC

¹⁸ Most clubs did not quantify such latent demand.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

- ◀ Takeley Youth FC
- ◀ Thaxted Rangers FC
- ◀ The Rodings FC

Due to the latent demand expressed by Thaxted Rangers FC, the Club has engaged with FF and ECFA to discuss aspirations to develop a new site with three youth 11v11 pitches. Discussions have also taken place with a local land owner around securing a long term lease with Thaxted Parish Council.

Given the high level of future demand noted above, it is considered that this latent demand will also be absorbed by participation increases and population growth. As such, the quantifiable figures should be merged rather than being considered separately.

Future demand

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

Future population growth

Based on population projections to 2041¹⁹ (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. This is through using the current and future populations in each relevant age groups together with the current team numbers. Team generation rates have then been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference, the total current population in Uttlesford of 91,348 is projected to increase to 107,507 by 2041. The table below shows the number of new teams that are forecasted to be generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions that this will require.

Table 2.17: Projected future demand from population growth

Age group	Team generation rate (TGR)	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent session ²⁰
Adult Mens (18-45)	1:468	5.53	6	3
Adult Womens (18-45)	1:15561	0.17	0	0
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:42	9.83	10	5
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:217	1.90	2	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:43	5.00	5	2.5
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:402	0.52	1	0.5
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:55	7.77	8	4

¹⁹ ONS projections do not account for the scale and distribution of future demand generated through housing growth.

²⁰ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Age group	Team generation rate (TGR)	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent session ²⁰
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:75	5.70	6	3

As seen, it is anticipated that there will be a likely growth of six adult, 12 youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, eight mini 7v7 and six mini 5v5 teams. This represents relatively substantial growth.

At a localised level, the largest future demand generated is identified in both the North and South Uttlesford analysis areas, with seven match equivalent sessions respectively (14 teams each). The Rural North & Thaxted and Rural South analysis areas yield three (six teams) and two (four teams) match equivalent sessions of future demand respectively.

Table 2.18: Summary of future demand generated via population growth (by analysis area)

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
North Uttlesford	1	3	1	1	1	7
Rural North & Thaxted	-	1	1	1	-	3
Rural South	1	-	-	1	-	2
South Uttlesford	1	2	1	1	2	7
Uttlesford	3	6	3	4	3	19

Participation increases

From respondents, eight clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide for and quantify this potential growth. This equates to a predicted growth of 41 teams and is summarised by club, in the following table.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 2.19: Potential team increases identified by club

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions
Dunmow Rovers Youth FC	South Uttlesford	1x youth 11v11 girls'	Youth (11v11)	0.5
Dunmow Rovers Youth FC	South Uttlesford	1x youth 9v9 girls'	Youth (9v9)	0.5
Dunmow Rovers Youth FC	South Uttlesford	2x mini 7v7	Mini (7v7)	1
Dunmow Rovers Youth FC	South Uttlesford	2x mini 5v5	Mini (5v5)	1
Elsenham Youth FC	South Uttlesford	1x youth 9v9 girls'	Youth (9v9)	0.5
Elsenham Youth FC	South Uttlesford	1x mini 7v7	Mini (7v7)	0.5
Hatfield Broad Oak Youth FC	South Uttlesford	1x adult men's	Adult	0.5
Hatfield Broad Oak Youth FC	South Uttlesford	1x youth 9v9 boys'	Youth (9v9)	0.5
Hatfield Broad Oak Youth FC	South Uttlesford	1x mini 5v5	Mini (5v5)	0.5
Hatfield Broad Oak Youth FC	South Uttlesford	1x mini 7v7	Mini (7v7)	0.5
Newport FC	North Uttlesford	1x adult men's	Adult	0.5
Saffron Walden Community Girls FC	North Uttlesford	3x youth 9v9 girls'	Youth (9v9)	1.5
Saffron Walden Community Girls FC	North Uttlesford	2x mini 7v7	Mini (7v7)	1
Saffron Walden Community Girls FC	North Uttlesford	1x mini 5v5	Mini (5v5)	0.5
Takeley FC	South Uttlesford	1x adult women's	Adult	0.5
Takeley Youth FC	South Uttlesford	2x youth 11v11 boys'	Youth (11v11)	1
Takeley Youth FC	South Uttlesford	3x youth 11v11 girls'	Youth (11v11)	1.5
Takeley Youth FC	South Uttlesford	3x youth 9v9 boys'	Youth (9v9)	1.5
Takeley Youth FC	South Uttlesford	2x youth 9v9 girls'	Youth (9v9)	1
Takeley Youth FC	South Uttlesford	1x mini 7v7	Mini (7v7)	0.5
Takeley Youth FC	South Uttlesford	1x mini 5v5	Mini (5v5)	0.5
Thaxted Rangers FC	Rural North & Thaxted	1x adult men's	Adult	0.5
Thaxted Rangers Youth FC	Rural North & Thaxted	4x youth 11v11 boys'	Youth (11v11)	2
Thaxted Rangers Youth FC	Rural North & Thaxted	2x youth 9v9 boys'	Youth (9v9)	1
Thaxted Rangers Youth FC	Rural North & Thaxted	1x mini 5v5	Mini (5v5)	0.5
Thaxted Rangers Youth FC	Rural North & Thaxted	1x mini 7v7	Mini (7v7)	0.5
Total	-	-	-	20.5

The total future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 20.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Just over half of this is identified in the South Uttlesford Analysis Area (12.5 match equivalent sessions), whilst none is expressed in the Rural South Analysis Area. The most future demand is identified amongst youth 9v9 teams (6.5 match equivalent sessions), whilst the least is for adult teams (2 match equivalent sessions).

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 2.20: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North Uttlesford	0.5	-	1.5	1	0.5	3.5
Rural North & Thaxted	0.5	2	1	0.5	0.5	4.5
Rural South	-	-	-	-	-	0
South Uttlesford	1	3	4	2.5	2	12.5
Uttlesford	2	5	6.5	4	3	20.5

Future demand summary

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

Notwithstanding the above, the Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are realised. It will also contain a scenario exploring the participation trends for football since the previous Uttlesford PPS was established and what impact this trend will have on demand if it continues locally.

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

As a guide, the FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its current quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings are used in Uttlesford:

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

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

Match equivalent sessions

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Pitches have a limit on how much play they can accommodate over a certain time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.

As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

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

Education sites

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

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

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

Informal use

Several football pitches in the district, such as Thaxted Recreation Ground, are on open access sites. These pitches are subject to informal use in the form of, for example, dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time, which can differ for each pitch type depending on when leagues operate for each format of play.

In Uttlesford, peak time is considered Sunday AM for adult, youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, whereas it is Saturday AM for youth 9v9 pitches. As such, peak time varies by playing format, as shown in the table below.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 2.21: Summary of peak time for playing formats

Playing format	Peak time
Adult	Sunday AM
Youth 11v11	Sunday AM
Youth 9v9	Saturday AM
Mini 7v7	Sunday AM
Mini 5v5	Sunday AM

On occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed, or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than the overall spare capacity that exists. This is because most or all the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period. Where this is the case, given that peak time usage should not be utilised over and above overall capacity, adjustments have been made.

A pitch is only said to have ‘actual spare capacity’ if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play.

Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

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

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

The table below identifies the way actual spare capacity is represented in Table 2.23.

Table 2.22: Spare capacity examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	If the cell has a dash in it, this means that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it was to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 2.23: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
1	Alcott Playing Field	CM6 3SY	Rural South	Stebbing Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	CB11 3TR	North Uttlesford	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	CB11 3TR	North Uttlesford	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	At capacity.
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	CB11 3TR	North Uttlesford	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	At capacity.
3	Ashdon Recreation Ground	CB10 2HY	Rural North & Thaxted	Ashdon Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	At capacity.
4	Barnston Association Football Club	CM6 1LZ	Rural South	Private	Unsecure	Adult	-	Yes	Good	2	2.5	6	3.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
5	Birchanger Social Club	CM23 5QJ	South Uttlesford	Sports & Social Club	Secure	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	At capacity.
8	Calves Pasture	CM22 7ER	Rural South	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
9	Carver Barracks	CB10 2YA	Rural North & Thaxted	MOD	Unsecure	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
9	Carver Barracks	CB10 2YA	Rural North & Thaxted	MOD	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	No	Poor	-	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
10	Catons Lane	CB10 2DU	North Uttlesford	Saffron Walden Town Council/Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	2	0	8	8	2	Actual spare capacity.
10	Catons Lane	CB10 2DU	North Uttlesford	Saffron Walden Town Council/Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	1	3	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
12	Clavering Jubilee Fields	CB11 4QS	Rural North & Thaxted	Clavering Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
15	Debden Recreation Ground	CB11 3LB	Rural North & Thaxted	Debden Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
20	Elsenham Recreation Ground	CM22 6BY	South Uttlesford	Elsenham Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	1	2	2	0	0	At capacity.
20	Elsenham Recreation Ground	CM22 6BY	South Uttlesford	Elsenham Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	2	2	4	2	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
20	Elsenham Recreation Ground	CM22 6BY	South Uttlesford	Elsenham Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	1.5	1	0.5	-	Overplay.
20	Elsenham Recreation Ground	CM22 6BY	South Uttlesford	Elsenham Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	4.5	1	3.5	-	Overplay.
21	Felsted Playing Field	CM6 3DS	Rural South	Felsted Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
22	Felsted School	CM6 3JL	Rural South	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	Yes	Good	1	1	3	2	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
24	Forest Hall School	CM24 8TZ	South Uttlesford	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	2	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
24	Forest Hall School	CM24 8TZ	South Uttlesford	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
26	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	CB10 1NS	North Uttlesford	Great Chesterford Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
29	Hargrave Park	CM24 8BX	South Uttlesford	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	2	3	1	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
32	Helena Romanes School & Sixth Form	CM6 2AU	South Uttlesford	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
34	Herberts Farm Playing Fields	CB11 3JS	North Uttlesford	Saffron Walden Town Council/Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
34	Herberts Farm Playing Fields	CB11 3JS	North Uttlesford	Saffron Walden Town Council/Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	2	2	8	6	2	Actual spare capacity
34	Herberts Farm Playing Fields	CB11 3JS	North Uttlesford	Saffron Walden Town Council/Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	3.5	1	2.5	-	Overplay.
34	Herberts Farm Playing Fields	CB11 3JS	North Uttlesford	Saffron Walden Town	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	7.5	1	6.5	-	Overplay.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
				Council/Sports Club											
36	High Easter Playing Fields	CM1 4QR	Rural South	High Easter Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
38	High Street Recreation Ground	CM22 7HG	South Uttlesford	Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Good	2	0.5	12	11.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
38	High Street Recreation Ground	CM22 7HG	South Uttlesford	Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
38	High Street Recreation Ground	CM22 7HG	South Uttlesford	Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Good	1	1	6	5	1	Actual spare capacity.
38	High Street Recreation Ground	CM22 7HG	South Uttlesford	Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
40	Katherine Semar Junior School	CB11 4DU	North Uttlesford	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	2	2	4	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
42	Laundry Lane	CM6 2JW	South Uttlesford	Great Dunmow Town Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	2	3	4	1	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
42	Laundry Lane	CM6 2JW	South Uttlesford	Great Dunmow Town Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	6	1	5	-	Overplay.
43	Lime Avenue Playing Fields	CB10 2GE	North Uttlesford	Saffron Walden Town Council/Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Good	2	5.5	12	6.5	2	Actual spare capacity.
43	Lime Avenue Playing Fields	CB10 2GE	North Uttlesford	Saffron Walden Town Council/Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	1.5	4	2.5	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
47	Little Dunmow Recreation Ground	CM6 3HU	Rural South	Little Dunmow Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	2	2	0	0	At capacity.
50	Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust	CM23 1EH	Rural North & Thaxted	Trust	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	3	4	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
50	Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust	CM23 1EH	Rural North & Thaxted	Trust	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
50	Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust	CM23 1EH	Rural North & Thaxted	Trust	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	3.5	3	0.5	-	Overplay.
51	Newport Recreation Ground	CB11 3PU	North Uttlesford	Newport Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
51	Newport Recreation Ground	CB11 3PU	North Uttlesford	Newport Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	-	Overplay.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
52	Peasland Road Football Pitch	CB11 3AY	North Uttlesford	Saffron Walden Town Council	Secure	Adult	-	Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	-	Overplay.
54	Quendon Athletic Football Club	CB11 3YG	Rural North & Thaxted	Quendon & Rickling Parish Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	At capacity.
58	Radwinter Recreation Ground	CB10 2TX	Rural North & Thaxted	Radwinter Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	2	0	4	4	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
78	Takeley Football Club	CM22 6QA	South Uttlesford	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	0	At capacity.
80	Takeley Sports Field	CM22 6TG	South Uttlesford	Takeley Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
80	Takeley Sports Field	CM22 6TG	South Uttlesford	Takeley Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	2	4	2	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
83	Thaxted Recreation Ground	CM6 2PT	Rural North & Thaxted	Thaxted Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	2	2.5	8	5.5	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
83	Thaxted Recreation Ground	CM6 2PT	Rural North & Thaxted	Thaxted Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
84	The Causeway Recreation Ground	CM6 2AA	South Uttlesford	Great Dunmow Town Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	1	1.5	2	0.5	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
84	The Causeway Recreation Ground	CM6 2AA	South Uttlesford	Great Dunmow Town Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	4	2.5	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
84	The Causeway Recreation Ground	CM6 2AA	South Uttlesford	Great Dunmow Town Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
84	The Causeway Recreation Ground	CM6 2AA	South Uttlesford	Great Dunmow Town Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
84	The Causeway Recreation Ground	CM6 2AA	South Uttlesford	Great Dunmow Town Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	-	Overplay.
88	White Roding Sports & Social Club	CM6 1RT	Rural South	Sports & Social Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Good	1	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity.
88	White Roding Sports & Social Club	CM6 1RT	Rural South	Sports & Social Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	1.5	3	1.5	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.
89	Wimbish Recreation Ground	CB10 2XE	Rural North & Thaxted	Wimbish Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplay.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
89	Wimbish Recreation Ground	CB10 2XE	Rural North & Thaxted	Wimbish Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	2.5	4	1.5	0	No spare capacity during the peak period.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Uttlesford. It totals 18 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 20 pitches at 12 sites.

Table 2.24: Actual (peak time) spare capacity site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
10	Catons Lane	North Uttlesford	Mini (5v5)	2	2
10	Catons Lane	North Uttlesford	Adult	1	1
15	Debden Recreation Ground	Rural North & Thaxted	Adult	1	1
21	Felsted Playing Field	Rural South	Adult	1	1
34	Herberts Farm Playing Fields	North Uttlesford	Mini (5v5)	1	1
34	Herberts Farm Playing Fields	North Uttlesford	Mini (7v7)	2	2
36	High Easter Playing Fields	Rural South	Adult	1	0.5
38	High Street Recreation Ground	South Uttlesford	Mini (5v5)	3	2
38	High Street Recreation Ground	South Uttlesford	Mini (7v7)	1	1
43	Lime Avenue Playing Fields	North Uttlesford	Mini (5v5)	2	2
50	Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust	Rural North & Thaxted	Mini (7v7)	1	0.5
51	Newport Recreation Ground	North Uttlesford	Youth (9v9)	1	1
83	Thaxted Recreation Ground	Rural North & Thaxted	Youth (9v9)	1	1
84	The Causeway Recreation Ground	South Uttlesford	Youth (9v9)	1	1
88	White Roding Sports & Social Club	Rural South	Youth (9v9)	1	1
-	Totals	-	-	20	18

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, most actual spare capacity is identified on mini 5v5 pitches (seven match equivalent sessions per week) and in the North Uttlesford Analysis Area (nine match equivalent sessions per week).

Table 2.25: Actual spare capacity summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North Uttlesford	1	-	1	2	5	9
Rural North & Thaxted	1	-	1	0.5	-	2.5
Rural South	1.5	-	1	-	-	2.5
South Uttlesford	-	-	1	1	2	4
Uttlesford	3.5	0	4	3.5	7	18

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Uttlesford, 10 pitches across eight sites are overplayed by 22 match equivalent sessions per week.

In total, half of the overplayed pitches in Uttlesford are overused due to their poor quality, whilst the remaining five pitches are overplayed due to the degree of demand accommodated.

Table 2.26: Overplay site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)
20	Elsenham Recreation Ground	South Uttlesford	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
20	Elsenham Recreation Ground	South Uttlesford	Youth (11v11)	1	3.5
34	Herberts Farm Playing Fields	North Uttlesford	Youth (9v9)	1	2.5
34	Herberts Farm Playing Fields	North Uttlesford	Youth (11v11)	1	6.5
42	Laundry Lane	South Uttlesford	Youth (11v11)	1	5
50	Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust	Rural North & Thaxted	Adult	1	0.5
51	Newport Recreation Ground	North Uttlesford	Adult	1	1
52	Peasland Road Football Pitch	North Uttlesford	Adult	1	1
84	The Causeway Recreation Ground	South Uttlesford	Youth (11v11)	1	1
89	Wimbish Recreation Ground	Rural North & Thaxted	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
-	Totals	-	-	10	22

Overplay is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the following table. The highest level of overplay is identified on youth 11v11 pitches (16 match equivalent sessions per week) and in the North Uttlesford Analysis Area (11 match equivalent sessions per week). No overplay is identified on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches or in the Rural South Analysis Area.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 2.27: Overplay summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
North Uttlesford	2	6.5	2.5	-	-	11
Rural North & Thaxted	0.5	-	0.5	-	-	1
Rural South	-	-	-	-	-	0
South Uttlesford	-	9.5	0.5	-	-	10
Uttlesford	2.5	16	3.5	0	0	22

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is then also considered, based on team generation rates which are driven by population projections to 2041.

Adult football

Overall, adult pitches in Uttlesford are currently operating with spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session per week. At a localised level, spare capacity is identified in the Rural North & Thaxted and Rural South analysis areas, whilst a shortfall is identified in the North Uttlesford Analysis Area. The South Uttlesford Analysis Area is at capacity.

Table 2.28: Supply and demand position for adult pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
North Uttlesford	1	2	1
Rural North & Thaxted	1	0.5	0.5
Rural South	1.5	-	1.5
South Uttlesford	-	-	0
Uttlesford	3.5	2.5	1

When accounting for future demand on a district-wide level, six additional teams are expected to be generated (three match equivalent sessions per week), leading to a future shortfall of two match equivalent session per week, as shown in the table below. At a localised level, a future shortfall is identified in the North and South Uttlesford analysis areas, whilst future spare capacity is identified in the Rural North & Thaxted and Rural South analysis areas.

Table 2.29: Future supply and demand position for adult pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North Uttlesford	1	1	2
Rural North & Thaxted	0.5	-	0.5
Rural South	1.5	1	0.5
South Uttlesford	0	1	1
Uttlesford	1	3	2

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Youth 11v11 football

Youth 11v11 pitches are currently operating with a shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions per week. At a localised level, a shortfall is identified in both the North and South Uttlesford analysis areas, whilst the Rural North & Thaxted and Rural South analysis areas are at capacity.

Table 2.30: Supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
North Uttlesford	-	6.5	6.5
Rural North & Thaxted	-	-	0
Rural South	-	-	0
South Uttlesford	-	9.5	9.5
Uttlesford	0	16	16

When accounting for future demand, 12 additional teams are expected to be generated (six match equivalent sessions per week), leading to a future shortfall of 22 match equivalent sessions per week across the district, as shown below. At a localised level, future shortfalls would be identified in the North Uttlesford, Rural North & Thaxted and South Uttlesford analysis areas, whilst the Rural South Analysis Area would be at capacity.

Table 2.31: Future supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North Uttlesford	6.5	3	9.5
Rural North & Thaxted	0	1	1
Rural South	0	-	0
South Uttlesford	9.5	2	11.5
Uttlesford	16	6	22

Youth 9v9 football

Youth 9v9 pitches are currently operating with spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. At a localised level, a shortfall is identified in the North Uttlesford Analysis Area, whilst spare capacity is identified in the Rural North & Thaxted, Rural South and South Uttlesford analysis areas.

Table 2.32: Supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
North Uttlesford	1	2.5	1.5
Rural North & Thaxted	1	0.5	0.5
Rural South	1	-	1
South Uttlesford	1	0.5	0.5
Uttlesford	4	3.5	0.5

When accounting for future demand, six additional teams are expected to be generated (three match equivalent sessions per week), leading to a future shortfall of 2.5 match

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

equivalent sessions per week across the district, as shown below. At a localised level, future shortfalls are identified in each of the North Uttlesford, Rural North & Thaxted and South Uttlesford analysis areas, whilst future spare capacity is identified in the Rural South Analysis Area.

Table 2.33: Future supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North Uttlesford	1.5	1	2.5
Rural North & Thaxted	0.5	1	0.5
Rural South	1	-	1
South Uttlesford	0.5	1	0.5
Uttlesford	0.5	3	2.5

Mini 7v7 football

Mini 7v7 pitches currently have spare capacity of 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week. At a localised level, spare capacity is identified in the North Uttlesford, Rural North & Thaxted and South Uttlesford analysis areas, whilst the South Uttlesford Analysis Area is at capacity.

Table 2.34: Supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
North Uttlesford	2	-	2
Rural North & Thaxted	0.5	-	0.5
Rural South	-	-	0
South Uttlesford	1	-	1
Uttlesford	3.5	0	3.5

When accounting for future demand, eight additional teams are expected to be generated (four match equivalent sessions per week), leading to a future shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions across the district, as shown below. At a localised level, future shortfalls are identified in both the Rural North & Thaxted and Rural South analysis areas, whilst the South Uttlesford Analysis Area is at capacity and a future spare capacity is identified in the North Uttlesford Analysis Area.

Table 2.35: Future supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North Uttlesford	2	1	1
Rural North & Thaxted	0.5	1	0.5
Rural South	0	1	1
South Uttlesford	1	1	0
Uttlesford	3.5	4	0.5

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Mini 5v5 football

Mini 5v5 pitches are currently operating with spare capacity of seven match equivalent sessions per week. At a localised level, spare capacity is identified in the North Uttlesford and South Uttlesford analysis areas, whilst the Rural North & Thaxted and Rural South analysis areas are at capacity.

Table 2.36: Supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
North Uttlesford	5	-	5
Rural North & Thaxted	-	-	0
Rural South	-	-	0
South Uttlesford	2	-	2
Uttlesford	7	0	7

When accounting for future demand, six additional teams are expected to be generated (three match equivalent sessions per week). This will lead to a future spare capacity of four match equivalent sessions per week, as seen below. At a localised level, each of the Rural North & Thaxted, Rural South and South Uttlesford analysis areas are at capacity, whilst the North Uttlesford Analysis Area reflects a future spare capacity.

Table 2.37: Future supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
North Uttlesford	5	1	4
Rural North & Thaxted	0	-	0
Rural South	0	-	0
South Uttlesford	2	2	0
Uttlesford	7	3	4

2.6: Conclusion

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

Table 2.38: Summary of supply and demand in match equivalent sessions

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	3.5	2.5	1	3	2
Youth 11v11	-	16	16	6	22
Youth 9v9	4	3.5	0.5	3	2.5
Mini 7v7	3.5	-	3.5	4	0.5
Mini 5v5	7	-	7	3	4

Overall, it is determined that there is current spare capacity on adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, whilst a shortfall is evident on youth 11v11 pitches. After factoring in future demand, current spare capacity amongst adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches would be eradicated, leaving future shortfalls for each. Furthermore, the current shortfall of youth

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

11v11 pitches would worsen and the current spare capacity of mini 5v5 pitches would reduce.

The existing shortfall identified amongst youth 11v11 pitches is spread across just four pitches, the majority of which derives from the North and South Uttlesford analysis areas.

The following tables portray the supply and demand balance by analysis area.

North Uttlesford

Across North Uttlesford, there is a current shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches have spare capacity. When accounting for future demand, shortfalls across adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches worsen, whilst the spare capacity amongst mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches diminishes slightly.

Table 2.39: Summary of supply and demand in match equivalent sessions (North Uttlesford Analysis Area)

North Uttlesford Analysis Area					
Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	1	2	1	1	2
Youth 11v11	-	6.5	6.5	3	9.5
Youth 9v9	1	2.5	1.5	1	2.5
Mini 7v7	2	-	2	1	1
Mini 5v5	5	-	5	1	4

Rural North & Thaxted

Across Rural North & Thaxted, there is current spare capacity of adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches, whilst youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches are at capacity. When accounting for future demand, spare capacity across youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches is lost, leaving a future shortfall for both. Furthermore, an additional future shortfall would emerge for youth 11v11 pitches. In contrast, there would be no change for adult and mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 2.40: Summary of supply and demand in match equivalent sessions (Rural North & Thaxted Analysis Area)

Rural North & Thaxted Analysis Area					
Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	1	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Youth 11v11	-	-	0	1	1
Youth 9v9	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.5
Mini 7v7	0.5	-	0.5	1	0.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	0	-	0

Rural South

Across Rural South, there is current spare capacity of adult, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches, whilst youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 are at capacity. When accounting for future demand, spare capacity diminishes for adult pitches, whilst spare capacity is lost entirely for mini 5v5

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

pitches, and a future shortfall would exist for mini 7v7 pitches. In contrast, there would be no change for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 2.41: Summary of supply and demand in match equivalent sessions (Rural South Analysis Area)

Rural South Analysis Area					
Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	1.5	-	1.5	1	0.5
Youth 11v11	-	-	0	-	0
Youth 9v9	1	-	1	-	1
Mini 7v7	-	-	0	1	1
Mini 5v5	2	-	2	2	0

South Uttlesford

Across South Uttlesford, there is current spare capacity of youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, whilst adult pitches are at capacity and youth 11v11 pitches have a large shortfall. When accounting for future demand, the shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches would worsen, whilst additional future shortfalls would emerge for adult and youth 9v9 pitches. In addition, the current spare capacity of mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches would be lost, leaving a balanced capacity for both.

Table 2.42: Summary of supply and demand in match equivalent sessions (South Uttlesford Analysis Area)

South Uttlesford Analysis Area					
Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	-	-	0	1	1
Youth 11v11	-	9.5	9.5	2	11.5
Youth 9v9	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.5
Mini 7v7	1	-	1	1	0
Mini 5v5	2	-	2	2	0

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Football – supply and demand summary

- ◀ In total, 20 pitches display actual spare capacity across 12 sites, equating to 18 match equivalent sessions, whilst 10 pitches are overplayed across eight sites by a total of 22 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall, it is determined that there is current spare capacity on adult, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches, whilst a shortfall is evident on youth 11v11 pitches.
- ◀ After factoring in future demand, current spare capacity amongst adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches would be eradicated, leaving future shortfalls for each. Furthermore, the current shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches would worsen and the current spare capacity of mini 5v5 pitches would be reduced.

Football – supply summary

- ◀ The audit identifies 73 football pitches across 34 sites in Uttlesford, with 72 pitches available at some level for community use.
- ◀ There are four disused sites across Uttlesford.
- ◀ In total, 14 community available pitches were assessed as good quality, 32 as standard quality and 26 as poor quality.
- ◀ A total of seven sites are identified as being serviced by poor quality ancillary provision, whilst another seven have no changing facilities.

Football - demand summary

- ◀ 211 teams across 33 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Uttlesford, consisting of 32 senior men's, one senior women's, 86 youth boys', 14 youth girls' and 78 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ Since the previous PPOSS study produced in 2019, the total number of teams in Uttlesford has increased from 163 teams to 211 teams in 2023. This is broken down as an overall increase of 23%,
- ◀ Nine teams are identified as exporting demand outside of the district into neighbouring authorities, with this consisting of four adult teams and five youth 11v11 teams.
- ◀ 13 clubs indicate that they could field more teams if they had access to more grass pitches, which represents a high level of latent demand and suggests existing capacity issues.
- ◀ Population growth suggests an increase amounting to six adult, 12 youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, eight mini 7v7 and six mini 5v5 teams, whilst eight clubs aspire to grow by a total of 41 teams.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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

3.1: Introduction

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

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

Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session. Providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would therefore be recommended to consider this opportunity.

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

3.2: Current provision

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

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

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

There is currently one 11v11 3G pitch in Uttlesford, provided at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre. The pitch is serviced by sports lighting and is available for community use.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 3.1: 11v11 3G pitches in Uttlesford

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lit?	Size (metres)	FA accreditation
63	Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre	CB11 4UH	North Uttlesford	Yes	Yes	105 x 70	31/05/2025

The pitch is provided in the North Uttlesford Analysis Area.

As well as the 11v11 3G pitch, there are two smaller size 3G pitches in Uttlesford, located at Katherine Semar Junior School and Rodings Primary School. Both, however, are unavailable to the community and are not serviced by sports lighting.

Table 3.2: Additional supply of 3G provision

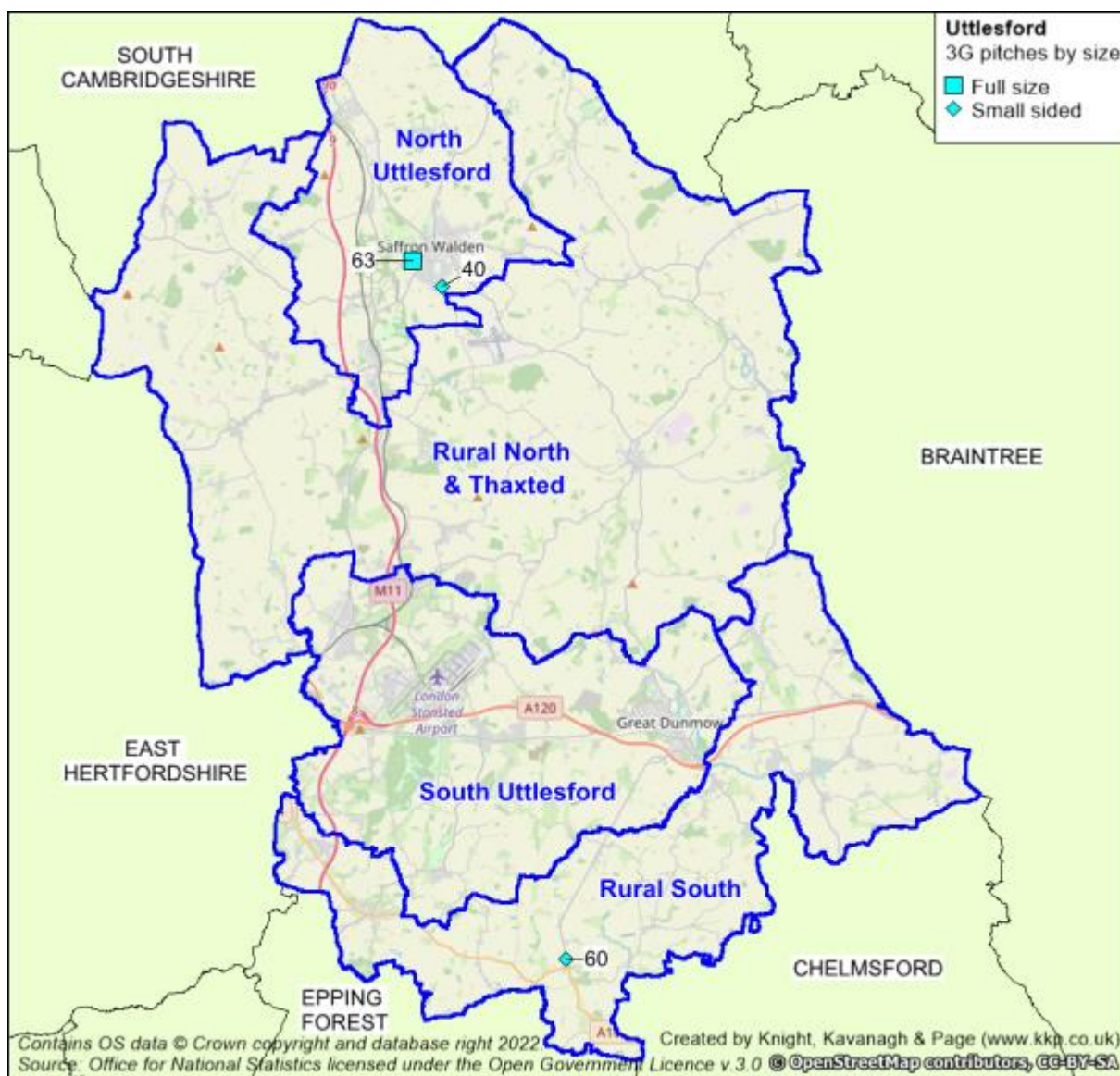
Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lit?	Size (metres)
40	Katherine Semar Junior School	CB11 4DU	North Uttlesford	No	No	60 x 42
60	Rodings Primary School	CM6 1PZ	Rural South	No	No	40 x 23

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

Given the above, there are no smaller size 3G pitches in Uttlesford suitable for purposeful use (the pitch at Rodings Primary School is too small, even if it was available and serviced by sports lighting).

Figure 3.1 overleaf identifies the location of all 3G pitches currently in Uttlesford, regardless of size.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY



Future provision

A planning application is in place for the construction of a 11v11 3G pitch to be built at Forest Hall School.²¹ The development is part of a mitigation scheme by Stansted Airport to offset the loss of the pitches on its site.

As part of the wider plans at Helena Romanes School, a new secondary school is proposed to be built at land south of Stortford Road, whereby Essex County Council are proposing a 11v11 3G pitch to be provided.²² The delivery of such a development is expected to be around five years, should permission be implemented.

²¹ Planning reference: UTT/23/2032/FUL

²² Planning reference: CC/UTT/90/20

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

FA pitch register

For competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA 3G Pitch Register, which can be found at:

<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard.

Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours.

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

In Uttlesford, the pitch at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre is FA/FIFA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. Re-testing is required annually at these sites to ensure that this remains the case.

The smaller size pitches at Katherine Semar Junior School and Rodings Primary School are not FA/FIFA approved and the latter is too small for any purposeful competitive play, meaning both cannot be used officially for matches.

World Rugby compliant pitches

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

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

In Uttlesford, there are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. The nearest World Rugby compliant 3G pitch is identified at Davey Field (Shelford Rugby Football Club) in South Cambridgeshire.

The following Strategy Report will explore the feasibility of any new 3G provision being able to accommodate rugby union provision, in attempt to minimise/alleviate rugby union grass pitch shortfalls currently identified.

Management/ownership

The 11v11 3G pitch at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre is owned by the school; however, Saffron Walden Community FC (operators of the site) manage the bookings and have a 50-year community use agreement with the school.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Elsewhere, the smaller size pitches at Katherine Junior School and Rodings Primary School are both managed by the schools. Nationally, schools are common operators.

Availability (opening hours)

The 11v11 3G pitch at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre is fully available to the community within the peak period (34 hours per week). However, it must be noted that a considerable degree, if not all of capacity is taken up by the operators of the site, Saffron Walden Town FC and Saffron Walden Community FC.

The picture is similar for the smaller size pitches at Katherine Semar Junior School and Rodings Primary School, with no community use offered and with the lack of sports lighting likely to limit availability even if this was not the case.

Quality

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

The 11v11 3G pitch at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre is assessed as good quality, having been installed in 2022.

Table 3.3: Age and quality of 11v11 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
63	Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre	2022	Good

Similarly, the smaller size pitch at Katherine Semar Junior School is assessed as good quality having been installed in 2023. However, the smaller size pitch at Rodings Primary School is assessed as poor quality; the pitch has exceeded its recommended lifespan, having been installed in 2006.

Ancillary facilities

At Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre, where the single community available 11v11 3G pitch is situated, ancillary facilities are considered to be good quality; with Saffron Walden Community FC (site operators) citing no issues at the site.

3.3: Demand

With only one 3G pitch in Uttlesford offering community use, the provision is considered to be at capacity at peak times, especially in winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). All of the availability is taken up by Saffron Walden Town FC and Saffron Walden Community FC.

The table below summarises usage levels of the 3G pitch at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre based on booking sheets during the 2023/2024 playing season. This is compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM), which applies an overall peak period of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 3.4: Current usage of 3G pitch at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre

Day	Peak time	Usage/capacity comments
Monday	17:00-21:00	Saffron Walden Community FC use the pitch from 17:00 to 22:00.
Tuesday	17:00-21:00	Saffron Walden Community FC use the pitch from 17:00 to 22:00.
Wednesday	17:00-21:00	Saffron Walden Community FC use the pitch from 17:00 to 22:00.
Thursday	17:00-21:00	Saffron Walden Community FC use the pitch from 17:00 to 22:00.
Friday	19:00-21:00	Saffron Walden Community FC use the pitch from 17:00 to 22:00.
Saturday	09:00-17:00	Saffron Walden Community FC use the pitch from 09:00 to 17:00.
Sunday	09:00-17:00	Saffron Walden Community FC use the pitch from 09:00 to 17:00.

As seen, there is currently no midweek or weekend availability.

All existing usage of the pitch is football related, with no other sports currently accommodated.

Unmet/latent demand

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

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

In Uttlesford, 12 clubs that responded to the consultation report they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a high proportion of unmet demand. This is to be expected with only one community available pitch currently existing.

Across the clubs, 136 teams are represented, which is significant, with 62 of the 136 teams not currently accessing any 3G provision for training. 25 of the 62 teams not currently accessing 3G pitches for training, use grass pitches for their training demand, a further 36 teams use hockey pitches for training demand and one team does not train at all (Sewards End Dragons FC).

In contrast, three clubs, Saffron Walden Community FC, Saffron Walden Community Girls FC and Takeley Youth FC currently access 3G pitches (74 teams in total); however, the latter do so outside of the district (in Harlow).

A further breakdown of the current training facilities utilised by clubs reporting latent demand is detailed below.

Table 3.5: Current training facilities of clubs reporting unmet/latent demand

Club name	Site ID	Site used	Surface
Dunmow Rovers Youth FC	27	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	AGP
Dunmow Rovers Youth FC	47	Little Dunmow Recreation Ground	Grass
Felsted Rovers FC	21	Felsted Playing Field	Grass
Hatfield Broad Oak Youth FC	38	High Street Recreation Ground	Grass
Manuden Juniors FC	50	Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust	AGP

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Club name	Site ID	Site used	Surface
Manuden Juniors FC	-	Bishop's Stortford College (exported demand)	AGP
Saffron Walden Community FC	63	Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre	3G
Saffron Walden Community Girls FC	63	Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre	3G
Sewards End Dragons FC	-	²³	-
Stansted FC	29	Hargrave Park	Grass
Takeley FC	80	Takeley Sports Field	Grass
Takeley Youth FC	-	Mark Hall School (exported demand)	3G
Thaxted Rangers FC	51	Newport Recreation Ground	Grass
Thaxted Rangers Youth FC	83	Thaxted Recreation Ground	Grass
The Rodings FC	5	Birchanger Social Club	Grass

As an example, Saffron Walden Community FC reports a waiting list of 150 children; the Club emphasises the need to access an additional 11v11 3G pitch to meet such unmet demand.

Exported/imported demand

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

Table 3.5 shows two clubs currently exporting training demand outside of Uttlesford in order to access 3G or sand-based pitches. This applies to Manuden Juniors FC (at Bishop's Stortford College) and Takeley Youth FC (at Mark Hall School). Both clubs state that they would prefer to accommodate such demand within Uttlesford.

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, potential growth from population projections equates to 38 football teams to 2041. If this growth was realised, and if all additional teams wanted or needed to train on 3G provision, it would increase the number of 3G pitches required. The following Strategy Report will explore the impact of future demand generated via participation growth (41 additional teams) on the number of 3G pitches required.

In addition, although no rugby union demands currently access 3G pitches (with none suitable for such activity), it is clear that future access could provide a solution to the deficits identified in Part 4 of this report. This not only applies to Wendens Ambo RFC (shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week) but is particularly the case for Saffron Walden RFC (shortfall of five match equivalent sessions per week) given the current overplay of their grass pitches.

²³ No training currently.
June 2024

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football - Training demand

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

It also has an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch, although this doesn't take into consideration any recreational activities and it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based pitches to ensure the sustainability of them.

Using the above, with current demand in Uttlesford totalling 211 teams, it is feasible that at least 5.5 11v11 3G pitches are required (rounded down from 5.55). This means an existing shortfall of 4.5 11v11 3G pitches (given that only the pitch at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre currently contributes to the model).

Table 3.6: Current shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Current demand (number of teams)	3G pitch requirement	Current number of 3G pitches available to the community	Current shortfall (number of 3G pitches)
211	5.5	1	4.5

To further this analysis, the table below explores where the 3G pitch shortfalls exist, by analysis area, on the presumption that all demand will want to train within the area that they play matches in. On this basis, the overall shortfall of 4.5 pitches equates to shortfalls in all analysis areas.

Table 3.7: Current shortfall for 3G pitches by analysis area for training demand

Analysis area	Current demand	Current 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall (number of 3G pitches)
North Uttlesford	74	2	1	1
Rural North & Thaxted	40	1	0	1
Rural South	23	0.5	0	0.5
South Uttlesford	74	2	0	2
Uttlesford	211	5.5²⁴	1	4.5

Demand from three of the four analysis areas is sufficient to warrant the creation of a 11v11 3G pitch, with the only exemption being Rural South, whereby a smaller size pitch could be warranted.

When factoring in future demand identified through population growth to 2041, the overall requirement would increase to 6.5 11v11 3G pitches potentially required (rounded down from 6.55), leaving a future shortfall of 5.5 pitches.

²⁴ Totals rounded to nearest 0.5.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 3.8: Future shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Analysis areas	Future demand (number of teams)	3G pitch requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
North Uttlesford	88	2.5	1	1.5
Rural North & Thaxted	46	1	-	1
Rural South	27	0.5	-	0.5
South Uttlesford	88	2.5	-	2.5
Uttlesford	249	6.5	1	5.5

At a localised level, the largest shortfall is identified in the South Uttlesford Analysis Area (2.5 pitches), whilst the least is identified in the Rural South Uttlesford Analysis Area (0.5 pitches). A future shortfall is identified in each analysis area.

It must be noted that the degree of future demand has the potential to be greater than that identified via population growth (to 2041), especially if participation rates continue to rise on a similar trajectory to what has occurred in the previous five years. This will be explored greater in the following Strategy Report.

Football - Match play demand

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

In Uttlesford, the 11v11 3G pitch at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre is FA approved to host competitive matches. It is currently used by 30 teams for matches, which is a good level for one pitch.

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

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

Rugby union

No rugby union teams based in Uttlesford utilise a 3G pitch for either match or training demand.

Access to 3G provision for Saffron Walden RFC and Wendens Ambo RFC would be beneficial given the level of overplay of their grass pitches, although other solutions could

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

also be possible and neither report of aspirations to do so. This is further explored in the forthcoming Strategy & Action Plan.

Other sports

No demand for access to 3G pitches has been uncovered for any other sports in Uttlesford.

3.5: Conclusion

For football, with only one 3G pitch currently available for community use, and with capacity fully utilised on this supply when access is most required, there is a clear need to increase provision. With the FA model suggesting that there is a shortfall of 4.5 pitches to meet training requirements, priority should be placed on the creation of new provision.

3G – supply and demand summary

- ◀ With 211 football teams currently affiliated to Uttlesford there is a potential shortfall of 4.5 11v11 3G pitches to meet training demand, with this rising to a future shortfall of 5.5 11v11 3G pitches when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ For football, with only one 3G pitch currently available for community use, and with capacity fully utilised on this supply when access is most required, there is a clear need to increase provision.

3G – supply summary

- ◀ There is currently one 11v11 3G pitch in Uttlesford, provided at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre. The pitch is serviced by sports lighting and is available for community use.
- ◀ There are two smaller size 3G pitches in Uttlesford, located at Katherine Semar Junior School and Rodings Primary School. Both of these are unavailable to the community and are not served by sports lighting.
- ◀ The 11v11 3G pitch is FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches (none of the smaller sized pitches are).
- ◀ The 11v11 3G pitch at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre is assessed as good quality, having been installed in 2022.

3G – demand summary

- ◀ With only one 3G pitch in Uttlesford offering community use, the provision is considered at capacity, with no spare capacity available.
- ◀ For football, 12 clubs that responded to the consultation (representing 136 teams) report they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a high proportion of unmet demand.
- ◀ Three clubs, Saffron Walden Community FC, Saffron Walden Community Girls FC and Takeley Youth FC currently access 3G pitches (41 teams in total); however, the latter do so outside of the district (in Harlow).
- ◀ Future demand from population growth for football will likely result in increased demand for 3G provision, whilst it could also entail further need for World Rugby compliant provision.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

PART 4: RUGBY UNION

4.1: Introduction

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

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

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

Consultation

Two rugby union clubs play within Uttlesford, and both responded to consultation requests.

4.2: Supply

There are 12 grass rugby union pitches identified in Uttlesford across five sites, with six pitches available for community use across four sites.

The remaining six pitches are unavailable for community use, all are located at Felsted School. Of the pitches available for community use, five are senior pitches and one is an age grade pitch.

Table 4.1: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. senior pitches	No. of age grade pitches	Total
North Uttlesford	1	-	1
Rural North & Thaxted	3	1	4
Rural South	-	-	0
South Uttlesford	1	-	1
Uttlesford	5	1	6

As shown in the table above, most community available pitches (four) are identified within the Rural North & Thaxted Analysis Area, whilst no pitches are identified in the Rural South Analysis Area.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches that are serviced by goalposts (posted pitches).

However, there are some additional marked spaces that are used, without goalposts, particularly for age grade rugby. It is also common nationally for age grade matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones, particularly at sites used by clubs.

Recommended pitch dimensions for all formats of play are shown in the table overleaf.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.2: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ²⁵
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U15	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U16	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U17	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U18	Colts	100 x 70
Senior	Senior	100 x 70

Disused provision

A disused site is a site that has previously been used for sport but is not currently being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either (often being unmarked). Sites containing disused pitches are still in use recreationally but previously provided formal rugby union pitches, but no longer do so.

There is one disused rugby union pitch identified in Uttlesford, at Friend's School (now closed), whereby one age grade pitch had previously existed.

In addition, there are two sites that are still in use recreationally that previously provided formal rugby union pitches but no longer do so. The following table outlines these sites.

Table 4.3: Unmarked pitches within Uttlesford (for rugby union)

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Comments
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	CB11 3TR	One age grade pitch which is currently not marked out.
63	Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre	CB11 4UH	One senior pitch and one age grade pitch which are currently not marked out.

The figure overleaf identifies all grass rugby union pitches currently servicing Uttlesford. For a key to the map, see Table 4.8.

²⁵ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY



Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Uttlesford

Management and security of tenure

Security of tenure is mixed for the two clubs based in Uttlesford, as summarised in the table below.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.4: Ownership/management arrangements for rugby clubs in Uttlesford

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club users	Arrangement	Tenure
9	Carver Barracks	Rural North & Thaxted	Wendens Ambo RFC	Rent from MOD	Unsecure
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club a)	Rural North & Thaxted	Saffron Walden RFC	Freehold	Secure
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club b)	Rural North & Thaxted	Saffron Walden RFC	Lease from private landowner (12-years remaining)	Unsecure

Saffron Walden RFC owns freehold of its main ground (at Saffron Walden Rugby Club), meaning it has security of tenure. However, the adjoining site, on which all its mixed age grade teams use, is leased from a private landowner. Whilst the lease has 12 years remaining, it has a 12-month break clause, meaning the landowner can terminate the agreement at any time, which means that it is unsecure tenure.

Elsewhere, Wendens Ambo RFC rents use of the pitch at Carver Barracks, signifying unsecure tenure as there is no long-term security of community use continuing.

Pitch quality

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

Table 4.5: Definition of maintenance categories

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

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Table 4.6: Definition of drainage categories

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

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.7: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

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

The pitches which are available for community use in Uttlesford, one is good quality, two are of standard quality and three are poor quality. However, there are six good quality pitches at Felsted School, all of which are unavailable for community use.

The sole good quality pitch within the district is identified at Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club. The maintenance at the site is high level and a functional drainage system has been established.

Saffron Walden RFC reports an improvement in the quality of its pitches (at Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club); however, the Club acknowledges its age grade pitch receives a considerable degree of demand due to being regarded as the dedicated training pitch. Consequently, the age grade pitch has deteriorated.

Similarly, Wendens Ambo RFC reports a slight improvement in the quality of the senior pitch at Carver Barracks.

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.8: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	Management	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	CB11 3TR	North Uttlesford	Unsecure	Education	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor
9	Carver Barracks	CB10 2YA	Rural North & Thaxted	Unsecure	MOD	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1/D0	Poor
22	Felsted School	CM6 3JL	Rural South	Unsecure	Education	No	1	Senior	No	M2/D3	Good
22	Felsted School	CM6 3JL	Rural South	Unsecure	Education	No	1	Senior	No	M2/D3	Good
22	Felsted School	CM6 3JL	Rural South	Unsecure	Education	No	1	Senior	No	M2/D3	Good
22	Felsted School	CM6 3JL	Rural South	Unsecure	Education	No	1	Senior	No	M2/D3	Good
22	Felsted School	CM6 3JL	Rural South	Unsecure	Education	No	1	Senior	No	M2/D3	Good
22	Felsted School	CM6 3JL	Rural South	Unsecure	Education	No	1	Senior	No	M2/D3	Good
32	Helena Romanes School & Sixth Form	CM6 2AU	South Uttlesford	Unsecure	Education	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club a)	CM22 6BQ	Rural North & Thaxted	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M2/D2	Good
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club a)	CM22 6BQ	Rural North & Thaxted	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club a)	CM22 6BQ	Rural North & Thaxted	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Age grade	Yes	M1/D1	Standard

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Ancillary facilities

Both clubs in Uttlesford have access to changing room provision for home games. The facilities at both Carver Barracks and Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club are identified as having adequate changing facilities, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.9: Ancillary facilities offered at each rugby club's home ground.

Site ID	Site name	Club	Club-house	Car parking	Dugouts	Stands	Fencing	Overall quality
9	Carver Barracks	Wendens Ambo RFC	✓	✓	x	x	x	Standard
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club	Saffron Walden RFC	✓	✓	x	x	✓	Standard

Saffron Walden RFC is currently utilising a marquee as an extension to its clubhouse; however, it aspires to replace this with a permanent facility. The Club reports that the changing rooms specifically are causing ongoing problems, preventing the growth of any potential future senior women's team(s).

4.3: Demand

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

Competitive demand

There are two rugby union clubs based in Uttlesford, collectively providing a total of 26 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of two senior men's, eight age grade boys' and 18 age grade mixed teams.

The clubs are mixed in terms of what they provide. Saffron Walden RFC offers a mixture of senior, age grade boys' and age grade mixed teams, whilst Wendens Ambo RFC only offers age grade mixed teams. Wendens Ambo RFC is one of the only age grade-only clubs in the country.

Table 4.10: Summary of the number of rugby union teams

Club	Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed	Total
Saffron Walden RFC	Rural North & Thaxted	2	-	8	-	5	15
Wendens Ambo RFC	Rural North & Thaxted	-	-	-	-	11	11
-	Total	2	0	8	0	16	26

Amongst all the rugby teams within the district, age grade mixed teams are the most represented with 16 teams, largely attributed to the large number of age grade mixed teams

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

catered for at Wendens Ambo RFC (11 teams). Conversely, across both rugby clubs within Uttlesford, there are no senior women’s or age grade girls’ teams provided.

Training demand

Throughout the country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed.

A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting, with just one rugby pitch (at Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club) offering this.

The activity for each club and its level is highlighted in the table below.

Table 4.11: Summary of the rugby union club facility use for evening training

Site ID	Site	Club	Training demand	Match equivalent sessions
9	Carver Barracks	Wendens Ambo RFC	One match pitch is used for training, accommodating 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	1.5
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club	Saffron Walden RFC	One match pitch is used for training, accommodating five match equivalent sessions per week.	5

Training demand from Saffron Walden RFC would be greater; however, its five-age grade mixed teams utilise an unposted pitch at the Club’s home ground for all its training demand.

Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the ‘Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby’, more commonly known as ‘Regulation 22’ that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A World Rugby compliant pitch enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

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

There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Uttlesford. The nearest World Rugby compliant 3G pitch is identified at Davey Field (Shelford Rugby Football Club) in South Cambridgeshire.

The following Strategy Report will explore the feasibility of any new 3G provision being able to accommodate rugby union provision, in attempt to minimise/alleviate rugby union grass pitch shortfalls currently identified.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Exported/imported demand

There is no known exported or imported rugby union demand relating to Uttlesford.

Unmet/latent demand

Only Saffron Walden RFC reports latent demand, expressing that if the Club loses access to the area of land (not marked out) adjacent to its match pitches (owned by a private landlord), the Club will need an additional two pitches to meet its training demand. However, it does not quantify such latent demand with any additional teams.

Future demand

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

Future population growth

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

For reference total current population in 2023 of 91,348 will increase to 107,507 by 2041. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by this growth and the requisite match equivalent sessions that it will create. As seen, an increase of one age grade boys' team and three age grade mixed teams are projected.

Table 4.12: District-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions ²⁶
Men (19-45yrs)	1:6665	0.34	0	0
Women (19-45yrs)	1:0	0.00	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:447	1.36	1	0.5
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:0	0.00	0	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:416	3.07	3	0.75

At a localised level, all the future demand generated via population growth is identified within the Rural North & Thaxted Analysis Area.

Future levels of training demand that will emanate from this growth can be calculated via using Sport England's calculator. This demand is based upon access to a sports-lit grass pitch equated into match equivalent sessions.

²⁶ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.13: Future training demand from population growth

Age group	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions)	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions) - rounded figure	Hour/s equivalent
Men (19-45yrs)	0.17	-	0
Women (19-45yrs)	0.00	-	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	0.68	1	0.5
Girls (13-18yrs)	0.00	-	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	0.77	1	0.25

Similarly, all future training demand generated via population growth is identified within the Rural North & Thaxted Analysis Area.

Participation increases

Both rugby union clubs express aspirational future demand. This potential growth is quantified in the table below.

Table 4.14: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Match equivalent sessions
Saffron Walden RFC	Rural North & Thaxted	1 x senior women's	0.5
Saffron Walden RFC	Rural North & Thaxted	1 x age grade girls'	0.5
Wendens Ambo RFC	Rural North & Thaxted	5 x age grade mixed	1.25
-	Total	-	2.25

The total future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 2.25 match equivalent sessions per week; one match equivalent sessions from Saffron Walden RFC and 1.25 match equivalent sessions from Wendens Ambo RFC.

Future demand summary

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

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

The peak period

To fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is Saturday PM as all senior teams play at this time, whereas peak time for age grade rugby is Sunday AM.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

4.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

- ◀ All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this has secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches, with age grade teams playing on overmarked pitches, unless dedicated age grade pitches or unposted pitches are known to be installed.
- ◀ From U13s upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ For senior and age grade boys/girls’ teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on all teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ◀ Age grade mixed teams (U6s-U12s) play on half of a senior pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time.
- ◀ Play per week for age grade mixed teams is set at 0.25 match equivalent sessions for each match played based on teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ◀ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to usage levels (one training session is one match session).
- ◀ Internal use of school pitches is added to current play, where community availability is offered, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.
- ◀ Other usage of pitches (e.g., by football teams) is added as match equivalent sessions based on the level and regularity of play.
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.

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

Table 4.15: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

The table below identifies the way spare capacity and overplay is represented in Table 4.17.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.16: Spare capacity examples

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.17: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Uttlesford

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Quality rating	Sports lighting?	Pitch capacity	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	North Uttlesford	Yes	1	Senior	Poor (M0/D1)	No	1.5	-	-	1.5	Unused by the community.
9	Carver Barracks	Rural North & Thaxted	Yes	1	Senior	Poor (M1/D0)	No	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	Overplayed through match and training demand from Saffron Walden RFC.
22	Felsted School	Rural South	No	1	Senior	Good (M2/D3)	No	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
22	Felsted School	Rural South	No	1	Senior	Good (M2/D3)	No	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
22	Felsted School	Rural South	No	1	Senior	Good (M2/D3)	No	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
22	Felsted School	Rural South	No	1	Senior	Good (M2/D3)	No	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
22	Felsted School	Rural South	No	1	Senior	Good (M2/D3)	No	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
22	Felsted School	Rural South	No	1	Senior	Good (M2/D3)	No	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
32	Helena Romanes School & Sixth Form	South Uttlesford	Yes	1	Senior	Poor (M0/D1)	No	1.5	-	-	1.5	Unused by the community.
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club a)	Rural North & Thaxted	Yes	1	Senior	Good (M2/D2)	Yes	3.25	1	-	2.25	Pitch is used by Saffron Walden RFC for its match demand.
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club a)	Rural North & Thaxted	Yes	1	Senior	Standard (M1/D1)	No	2	4	-	2	Overplayed through match demand from Saffron Walden RFC.
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club a)	Rural North & Thaxted	Yes	1	Age grade	Standard (M1/D1)	Yes	2	-	5	3	Overplayed through match and training demand from Saffron Walden RFC.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Actual spare capacity

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

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

Table 4.18: Actual spare capacity table

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches with spare capacity	Pitch type	Potential spare capacity	Actual spare capacity (peak period)	Comments
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	North Uttlesford	1	Senior	1.5	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
32	Helena Romanes School & Sixth Form	South Uttlesford	1	Senior	1.5	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club a)	Rural North & Thaxted	1	Senior	2.25	0	No spare capacity within the peak period.

Of the three pitches identified as having potential spare capacity in Uttlesford, none are considered to offer actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in rugby.

Overplay

There are two senior pitches across the same number of sites in Uttlesford that are overplayed by 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.19: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of overplayed pitches	Pitch type	Overplay
9	Carver Barracks	Rural North & Thaxted	1	Senior	1.5
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club a)	Rural North & Thaxted	1	Senior	2
65	Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club a)	Rural North & Thaxted	1	Age grade	3
-	-	Total	3	-	6.5

Overplay is only identified in the Rural North & Thaxted Analysis Area (6.5 match equivalent sessions per week). No overplay is identified in the remaining three analysis areas.

Table 4.20: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
North Uttlesford	-
Rural North & Thaxted	6.5
Rural South	-
South Uttlesford	-
Uttlesford	6.5

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay of rugby union pitches in Uttlesford based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on what has been forecast through population growth, although it is only possible to identify this on a district-wide basis.

As seen, there is a current shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with this emanating from a large overplay in the Rural North & Thaxted Analysis Area.

Table 4.21: Current supply and demand analysis in match equivalent sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
North Uttlesford	-	-	0
Rural North & Thaxted	-	6.5	6.5
Rural South	-	-	0
South Uttlesford	-	-	0
Uttlesford	0	6.5	6.5

When accounting for future competitive and training demand, the overall shortfall is projected to increase to 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week, principally due to a significant shortfall in the Rural North & Thaxted Analysis Area (8.5 match equivalent sessions per week).

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.22: Future supply and demand analysis in match equivalent sessions per week (by analysis area)

Analysis area	Current total	Future competitive demand	Future training demand	Future total
North Uttlesford	0	-	-	0
Rural North & Thaxted	6.5	1.25	0.75	8.5
Rural South	0	-	-	0
South Uttlesford	0	-	-	0
Uttlesford	6.5	1.25	0.75	8.5

4.6: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of rugby union provision to meet demand in Uttlesford, with a shortfall identified due to both clubs utilising overplayed provision. This deficit is projected to worsen in the future, meaning that solutions need to be sought.

The quality of pitches across the district is relatively low with just one community available pitch deemed to be good quality. Hence, an improvement in pitch quality across the district could provide a solution to alleviating the current and future shortfalls identified.

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Of the three pitches identified as having potential spare capacity in Uttlesford, none are considered to offer actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in rugby.
- ◀ There are two senior pitches across the same number of sites that are overplayed by 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There is a current overall shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with future demand exacerbating this shortfall to 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Rugby union – supply summary

- ◀ There are 12 grass rugby union pitches identified in Uttlesford across five sites, with six pitches available for community use across four sites.
- ◀ Overall, there are two disused rugby union pitches identified in Uttlesford, at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland and at Friend’s School.
- ◀ Saffron Walden RFC owns freehold of its main ground (at Saffron Walden Rugby Club), meaning it has security of tenure, whereas Wendens Ambo RFC rents use of the pitch at Carver Barracks, signifying an unsecure tenure.
- ◀ Of pitches which are available for community use, one is good quality, two are standard quality and three are poor quality.
- ◀ The facilities at both Carver Barracks and Saffron Walden Rugby Football Club are identified as having adequate changing facilities.

Rugby union – demand summary

- ◀ There are two rugby clubs considered to be based in Uttlesford providing a total of 26 teams.
- ◀ Both Saffron Walden RFC and Wendens Ambo RFC have seen a slight decline in senior teams (one each). In contrast, both clubs have seen an increase in age grade mixed teams and Saffron Walden RFC have also seen an increase in its age grade boy’s teams.
- ◀ Saffron Walden RFC reports latent demand, expressing that if the Club loses access to the area of land (not marked out) adjacent to its match pitches (owned by a private landlord), the Club will need an additional two pitches to meet its training demand.
- ◀ There is no known exported or imported rugby union demand relating to Uttlesford.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a growth of one age grade boys’ team and three age grade mixed teams are projected, whilst both clubs quantify aspirations to increase their current team numbers by a total of seven teams.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

PART 5: HOCKEY

5.1 Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH).

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

Table 5.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

In addition to the above pitch types, EH reports it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2, is a versatile surface that ensures the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it is a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

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

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

Consultation

Saffron Walden HC is the only hockey club identified as playing within Uttlesford and has been consulted to inform this section of the report.

5.2: Supply

There are six full-size, sports-lit hockey suitable pitches in Uttlesford. One (of the two pitches provided) at Felsted School is unavailable for community use, whilst the remaining pitches across the district are available.

Table 5.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Surface type	Size (metres)
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland a)	North Uttlesford	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	100 x 60
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland b)	North Uttlesford	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	100 x 60
22	Felsted School a)	Rural South	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	100 x 65
22	Felsted School b)	Rural South	1	No	Yes	Sand dressed	100 x 65
27	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	South Uttlesford	1	Yes	Yes	Sand dressed	100 x 65
63	Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre	North Uttlesford	1	Yes	No	Sand dressed	100 x 65

As seen in the table above, three of the full-size pitches are located in the North Uttlesford Analysis Area (at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland and Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre), with the remaining pitches identified across the Rural South Analysis Area (at Felsted School) and the South Uttlesford Analysis Area (at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre).

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Disused provision

A disused site is a site that has previously been used for sport but is not currently being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either (often being unmarked). Sites containing disused pitches are still in use recreationally but previously provided formal hockey pitches but no longer do so.

Friend's School (Walden School) closed in 2017 and as such, the smaller size hockey suitable pitch fell out of use.

Smaller size provision

In addition to the five full-size pitches, there are also six smaller size hockey suitable pitches in Uttlesford. However, only one pitch (at Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust) is available for community use. Three of the smaller size pitches are equipped with sports lighting (at Carver Barracks, Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust and R A Butler Academy).

Table 5.3: Smaller sized AGPs in Uttlesford

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Surface type	Size (metres)
9	Carver Barracks	Rural North & Thaxted	1	No	Yes	Sand filled	48 x 35
14	Dame Bradbury School	North Uttlesford	1	No	No	Sand filled	35 x 17
50	Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust	Rural North & Thaxted	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	34 x 37
56	R A Butler Academy	North Uttlesford	1	No	Yes	Sand filled	36 x 19
69	St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	North Uttlesford	1	No	No	Sand filled	30 x 17
105	Stansted St Marys C of E Primary School	South Uttlesford	1	No	No	Sand filled	61 x 44

Nationally, smaller size pitches are considered too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, although some larger ones are utilised for training demand and junior play. However, in Uttlesford, each smaller size pitch is not considered suitable as they are too small. As such, these pitches have been discounted from this section of the report from this point forward.

For the location of the full-size AGP, please see Figure 5.1 overleaf.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

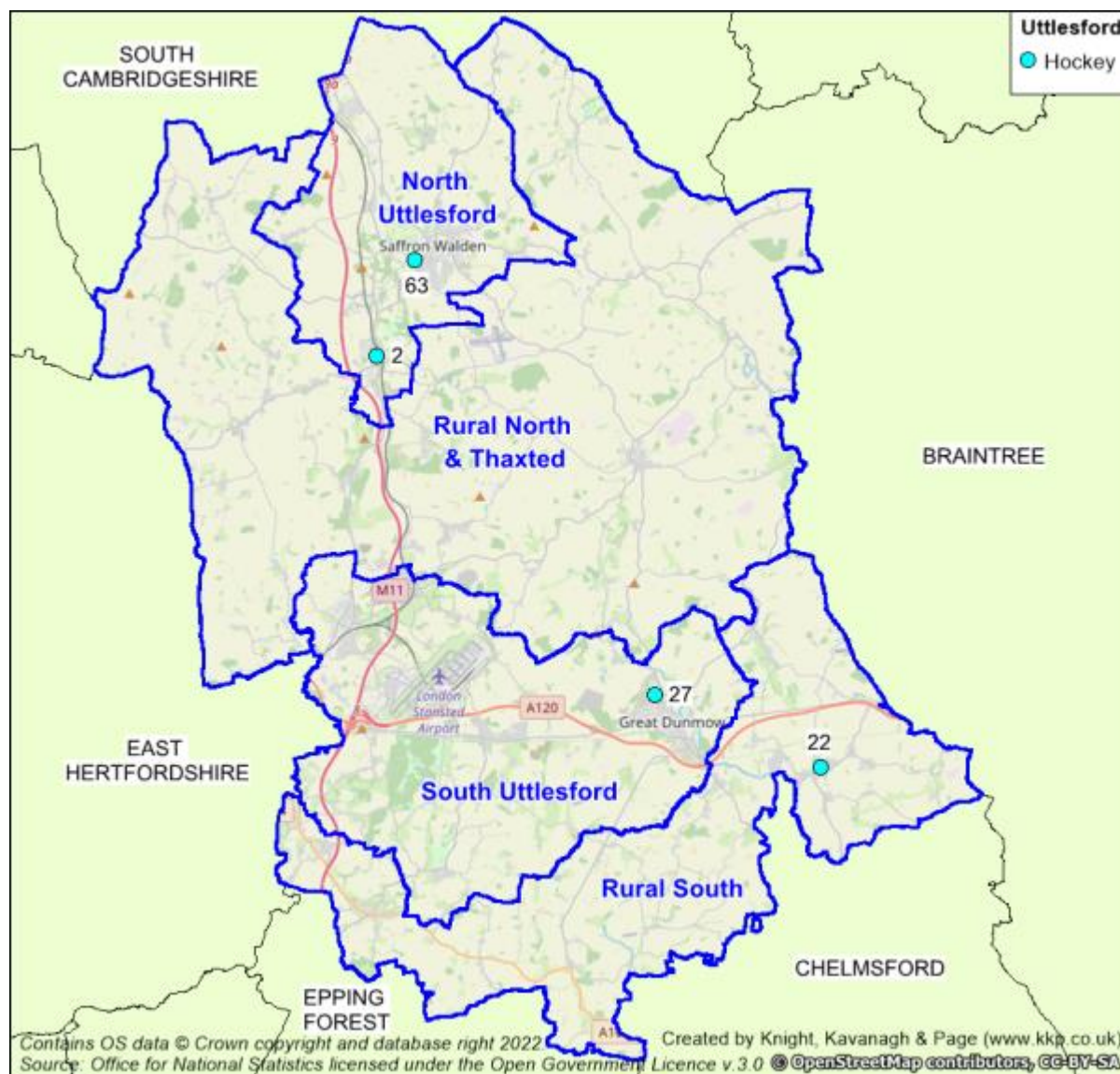


Figure 5.1: Location of full-size hockey suitable AGPs in Uttlesford

Management and security of tenure

Three of the five community available full-size pitches are owned and operated by education providers, with the only exceptions being at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland and Great Dunmow Leisure Centre which are owned by a Trust and the district council respectively.

Saffron Walden HC currently has a 49-year lease with Newport Free Land Trust for use of one of the pitches at the Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland, with its current arrangement due to expire in 2053. The Club also has a long-term community use agreement with the School for access to the second pitch.

Availability

England Hockey applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 18:00-22:00; Friday 18:00-20:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). On this

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

basis, only the full-size pitches at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland and Great Dunmow Leisure Centre are considered to be readily available to the community within the peak period, as both are accessible for 34 hours.

Table 5.4: Availability of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	34	Fully available to the community.
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	34	Fully available to the community.
22	Felsted School	17	Available to the community from 18:00 to 21:00 from Monday to Friday; the pitch is unavailable on Saturdays but open to the community on Sundays from 09:00 to 13:00.
22	Felsted School	0	Unavailable for community use.
27	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	34	Fully available to the community.
63	Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre	6	Available to the community from 09:00 to 15:00 on Saturday.

The full-size pitch at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre offers a reduced level of availability within the peak period (no midweek availability) due to the lack of sports lighting on the pitch.

Quality

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

For the PPOSS, AGPs are assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessment. This rating is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and the maintenance that is undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the full-size community available pitches in Uttlesford, three are good quality, with each having been installed in the last four years (2020). Conversely, the remaining two pitches, at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre and Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre are poor quality, with both not being resurfaced since their installation in 2003 and 1998 respectively.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 5.5: Age and quality of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland a)	1	1994 (2020)	Good
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland b)	1	2023	Good
22	Felsted School a)	1	2005 (2020)	Good
27	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	1	2003	Poor
63	Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre	1	1998	Poor

The unavailable full-size pitch at Felsted School is also poor quality, after it was last resurfaced in 2010.

Ancillary provision

The ancillary facilities at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland are good quality, with Saffron Walden HC reporting that dedicated facilities (separate from the School's facilities) were constructed in 2004 and refurbished in 2023.

5.3: Demand

Saffron Walden HC is the only hockey club currently playing in Uttlesford. The Club consists of 29 teams, which equates to seven senior men's, six senior women's teams, one mixed team and 15 junior teams. In total, it has a current playing membership of 609, as seen below.

Table 5.6: Summary of demand

Name of club	Membership							Total
	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Senior men (17-55)	Junior girls (14-16)	Senior men (17-55)	Junior girls (11-13)	Senior men (17-55)	
Saffron Walden HC	174	95	44	53	54	77	112	609

Exported/imported demand

There is no known exported hockey demand identified in Uttlesford.

Braintree HC (Braintree District) use the full size pitch at Felsted School for some of its training and match demand. Primarily, the youth section of the Club use the facilities at Felsted School, with the U8s to U12s training and playing matches on Sunday morning, whilst the U14s to U16s train on Thursday evening and play matches on Sunday.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand is identified by Saffron Walden HC, with the Club stating it is at capacity and cannot grow further due to limited supply across the district.²⁷

²⁷ The Club did not quantify such latent demand.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Future demand

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

In relation to club aspirations, Saffron Walden HC reports that it does not foresee adding any additional teams.

Additional demand

In addition to club-based hockey activity, there are also various initiatives for hockey which are promoted by EH that can add to the demand in a local authority and necessitate the need for further pitch capacity.

This includes:

- ◀ Hockey Heroes
- ◀ Back to Hockey
- ◀ Walking Hockey

Back to Hockey and Walking Hockey sessions are both held at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland by Saffron Walden HC.

Felsted School delivers a large hockey programme and has close ties with Braintree HC, with the school's U14 and U16 teams playing their matches at Braintree's home ground. Furthermore, a lot of the children at Felsted School often join Braintree HC to play for its men's and women's senior teams. The school's most recent success came with the U16 girls' National Championship victory in 2022.

Peak time demand

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

Usage

Saffron Walden HC requires significant usage of the pitches at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland and accesses both for all its training and match demand. Details of the Club's use of both pitches is summarised in the table below.

Outside of usage by Saffron Walden HC, there is also football use of the full-size pitches at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland, with both pitches occupied on Monday and Thursday evenings between 17:00 to 19:00. Football usage on the pitch is less prominent than on many AGPs nationally due to hockey usage being given clear priority.

In total, 25.5 hours of spare capacity remains during the peak period for further bookings when no hockey or football activity currently takes place.²⁸

²⁸ Booking information/usage is unknown for Great Dunmow Leisure Centre and Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 5.7: Usage of full size AGP for hockey

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Usage in the peak period (hours)	Usage comments
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	34	25	Saffron Walden HC uses the pitch from 19:00 to 22:00 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Club also uses the pitch all day on Saturday and Sunday.
			2	Football clubs use the pitch from 17:00 to 19:00 on Monday and Friday.
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	34	25	Saffron Walden HC uses the pitch from 19:00 to 22:00 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Club also uses the pitch all day on Saturday and Sunday.
			2	Football clubs use the pitch from 17:00 to 19:00 on Monday and Friday.
22	Felsted School	17	5.5	Braintree HC (Braintree District) use the full size pitch at Felsted School for some of its training demand on Thursdays from 19:00 to 20:30 and from 09:00 to 13:00 on Sundays.
22	Felsted School	0	-	No community use.
27	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	34	0	Unused for hockey usage, although it is believed that it is used for recreational football throughout the week. ²⁹
63	Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre	6	0	Unused for hockey usage, although it is believed that it is used for recreational football on Saturdays. ³⁰

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

Match play analysis

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

For senior hockey, on the basis that there are five full-size AGPs which can accommodate hockey matches in Uttlesford, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 40 hockey teams across the district. As such, with 14 senior teams fielded by Saffron Walden HC, this suggests that the current supply is sufficient to accommodate demand.

²⁹ Booking sheet information could not be acquired.

³⁰ Booking sheet information could not be acquired.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

However, as the pitch at Felsted School is not accessible by the community on Saturdays and the pitch at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre is without sports lighting, the actual capacity is perceived to be for 30 teams, as shown below.

Table 5.8: Summary of actual spare for senior hockey (Saturdays)

Site ID	Site	Actual capacity (match equivalent sessions)	No. of teams that can be fielded	Comments
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	4	8	Fully available to the community.
2	Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland	4	8	Fully available to the community.
22	Felsted School	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
22	Felsted School	0	0	No community access on Saturdays.
27	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	4	8	Fully available to the community.
63	Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre	3	6	Available to the community from 09:00 to 15:00 on Saturday.
-	Total	15	30	-

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is generally less than it is for senior hockey. This is because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time). As such, the current supply is also considered sufficient to meet such demand.

Training analysis

In terms of capacity for training, Saffron Walden HC reports no existing issues, with priority access given to the pitches at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland and with some spare capacity existing for growth. Furthermore, additional spare capacity will likely free up if the 3G pitch supply increases in the district (see Part 3).

5.5: Conclusion

There is currently a sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches in Uttlesford to accommodate current and expressed future demand (no future demand), although this will entail fixtures to be programmed accordingly (four matches per day). Furthermore, for this to remain the case, imminent resurfacing of the pitches at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre and Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre is required.

Two of the full size pitches, at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre and at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre are available for community use but are unused for hockey. Both pitches have exceeded their 10-year recommended lifespan and the latter is without sports lighting. If these pitches were to adequately service the community, as previously mentioned, both would require resurfacing and sports lighting would need to be installed at Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre for the pitches to be considered usable for competitive hockey matches.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is currently a sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches in Uttlesford to accommodate current and future demand.
- ◀ Imminent resurfacing of the pitches Great Dunmow Leisure Centre and Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre is required.

Hockey – supply summary

- ◀ There are six full size hockey suitable pitches in Uttlesford.
- ◀ Each pitch is serviced by sports lighting; however, one of the pitches at Felsted School is unavailable for community use, whilst the remaining pitches across the district are available.
- ◀ There are also six smaller size hockey suitable pitches in Uttlesford. However, only one pitch (at Manuden Village Hall & Sports Trust) is available for community use.
- ◀ Saffron Walden HC currently operate at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland under a 49-year lease with Newport Free Land Trust, with its current arrangement due to expire in 2053, signifying a secure tenure.
- ◀ Of the full-size community available pitches in Uttlesford, three are good quality (at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland and Felsted School), with the remaining two pitches, at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre and Saffron Walden County High Sports Centre being poor quality.
- ◀ Ancillary provision is good at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland.

Hockey – demand summary

- ◀ Saffron Walden HC is the only hockey club currently playing in Uttlesford; the Club consists of 29 teams, equating to seven senior men's, six senior women's teams, one mixed team and 15 junior teams.
- ◀ It has a membership of 609.
- ◀ The Club has seen a slight decrease in participation across both its senior men's teams and junior age groups, amounting to a decrease of one senior men's team and three fewer junior teams.
- ◀ There is no known exported hockey demand identified in Uttlesford.
- ◀ Braintree HC (Braintree District) use the full size pitch at Felsted School for some of its training demand.
- ◀ Saffron Walden HC requires significant usage of the pitches at Anglian Leisure Joyce Frankland and accesses it for all its training and match demand.
- ◀ In total, 25.5 hours of spare capacity remains during the peak period for further bookings when no hockey or football activity currently takes place.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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 aware of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department for Culture, Media and Sport - Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It sets out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. To measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities, as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
 - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030
 - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics
 - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
 - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all
 - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
 - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment
 - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, now and for the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It 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 Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

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

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

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPOSS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: Survive. Revive. Thrive. (2020-24)

This new strategy aims to ensure the grassroots game in England will survive, revive, and thrive over the next four years.

The strategy outlines seven transformational objectives through to 2024:

- ◀ **Male Participation:** Modernised opportunities to retain and re-engage millions of male participants in the game.
- ◀ **Female Participation:** A sustainable model based on a world-class, modernised offer.
- ◀ **Club Network:** A vibrant national club network that delivers inclusive, safe local grassroots football and meets community needs.
- ◀ **Facilities:** Enhanced access to good quality pitches across grassroots football.
- ◀ **Grassroots Workforce:** A transformation in community football by inspiring, supporting and retaining volunteers in the game.
- ◀ **Digital Products and Services:** An efficient grassroots digital ecosystem to serve the administrative and development needs of players, parents, and the workforce.
- ◀ **Positive Environment:** A game that's representative of our diverse footballing communities, played in a safe and inclusive environment.

This strategy was launched as grassroots football was able to safely return after lockdown from Monday 29 March 2021, it also identifies the immediate challenge, in light of COVID-19, to get grassroots football back on its feet.

The new strategy sets out a number of goals to revive the game by addressing the areas that require particular attention. This includes increasing opportunities to ensure girls have

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

the same access as boys to football in schools and clubs, and improving quality of pitches, with the aim of seeing 5000 good quality pitches added to the current number by 2024.

The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ◀ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free of discrimination

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

The Rugby Football Union Strategy (2021-onwards)

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

Game Objectives:

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

Driving Objectives:

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ◀ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

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

The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

EH knows that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, it will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from its success and its occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH knows the importance of its volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen, and it is passionate about its role within the sport. It will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards its vision.

As a governing body, EH wants to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through the club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in the game, so that players understand their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our participation
- ◀ Deliver international success
- ◀ Increase our visibility
- ◀ Enhance our infrastructure
- ◀ For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

Club participation

The club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to EH 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.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey.

Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, EH has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in primary schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

England Hockey Strategy

The vision of the Strategy is for “every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players”, whilst its mission is for “More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.”

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

◀ PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

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

◀ 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. EH works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facility & education providers around owning an asset.

◀ 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.

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

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

APPENDIX 2: SUMMER SPORT REVIEW

This report provides a position on the current landscape of winter sports played in Uttlesford. Work is ongoing to develop the summer sport segment of this report and KKP is currently at Stage B of the PPS for establishing this work.

The summer sports in the scope of work for Uttlesford are as follows:

- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Outdoor tennis courts
- ◀ Outdoor netball courts
- ◀ Outdoor bowling greens
- ◀ Athletics tracks

The information below outlines the known position for 2024 in comparison to the Uttlesford PPS developed in 2019. The information does not make an assessment on the supply and demand position of any sport but is a useful guide to determine if there are any notable changes to the outcomes identified in 2019 (based on information available to KKP as of July 2024).

Cricket

For the 2024 cricket season, there are 32 affiliated clubs in Uttlesford which collectively provide 133 teams. This equates to 66 senior men's, two senior women's and 65 junior teams (55 junior boys' and 10 junior girls' teams).

In comparison to 2019, this is an increase of one team. This equates to limited growth, but further investigation is needed (which will be established throughout Stage B of the PPOSS process) to determine how this translates to clubs on an individual level. Specific clubs in 2019 were overplayed and shortfalls were apparent in Safford Walden with the remaining areas of Uttlesford showing sufficient capacity for growth.

Bowls

As of 2024, there are 11 clubs using bowling greens in Uttlesford. Membership, where known for nine clubs, equates to 491 members, made up of 339 senior men, 145 senior women and seven juniors. The average club membership is 55.

Summary of club membership (2024)

Club name	Analysis area	Members			Total
		Men	Women	Juniors	
Bishop's Stortford BC	South Uttlesford	70	50	4	124
Clavering BC	Rural North & Thaxted	23	6	1	30
Dunmow BC	South Uttlesford	78	41	1	120
Elsenham BC	South Uttlesford	29	11	-	40
Great Chesterford BC	North Uttlesford	23	5	-	28
Quendon BC	Rural North & Thaxted	23	11	1	35
Radwinter BC	Rural North & Thaxted	36	7	-	43
Saffron Walden Town BC	North Uttlesford	27	4	-	31
Stansted BC	South Uttlesford	30	10	-	40
Thaxted BC	Rural North & Thaxted	-	-	-	-

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Club name	Analysis area	Members			Total
		Men	Women	Juniors	
Total	-	339	145	7	491

Membership for Stebbing and Thaxted bowling clubs are unknown (and as such excluded from the bowls membership table) with neither club having responded to consultation requests from KKP (yet).

In 2019, only four clubs responded to consultation attempts and as such the 2024 dataset can be considered more robust than that of 2019. In the main, demand for bowls seems to have remained relatively static. Previously, there was a two-member shortfall identified at Elsenham BC in 2019; however, this specific club has had a reduction in demand at its site, as seen in the corresponding table. Therefore, it is likely this will no longer be the case.

Tennis

Tennis demand

There are 10 tennis clubs in Uttlesford which is consistent with what was the case in 2019. A direct comparison to the previous study is difficult as KKP is still consulting with clubs and has yet to undertake an audit on facilities. From the clubs which responded to consultation, three have seen a small decrease in demand and two a small increase.

There were small shortfalls identified at club specific sites in 2019. A direct comparison will not be available until a full assessment has been made by KKP for 2024.

The LTA's current Strategy (Tennis Opened Up) is based around parks tennis and KKP cannot comment on the position of informal and recreational tennis provision until it has undertaken an audit of facilities.

Netball

Netball demand

There are three netball clubs based in Uttlesford. Across these, there are currently 531 playing members (where known). The table below provides a summary of this by club.

Summary of club membership (2024)

Clubs	Current membership	2019 PPS Study
Great Dunmow Infinity NC	131	-
Saffron Hawks NC	-	-
Swan NC	400	220
Uttlesford	531	220

Membership is currently unknown for Saffron Hawks NC and was also previously unknown for Saffron Hawks NC, as well as for Great Dunmow Infinity NC. Therefore, a comparison of demand is difficult to make. However, where demand is known in both studies, a large increase in membership at Swan NC has occurred (45% increase).

It should be noted that netball clubs typically play matches within indoor built facilities with outdoor courts used for more seasonal offerings. There was a sufficient supply of outdoor

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

courts identified in 2019. A fuller position on if this remains the case will not be known until KKP has completed a full audit.

Athletics

There are no formal athletics tracks in Uttlesford. Demand is centred around road running clubs, who typically use existing road and active design routes.

Uttlesford is however identified as a potential location for a compact athletic facility by England Athletics. This was the case in 2019 and remains the case now.

More information can be found here: <https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/facilities/newgen-tracks/>

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

APPENDIX 3: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football						
Please complete one form per pitch						
Site reference:	<input type="text"/>		Site Name:	<input type="text"/>		
6 figure grid reference	<input type="text"/>		Pitch ID(s):	<input type="text"/>		
Number of football pitches on site:	<input type="text"/>		Pitch size:	<input type="text"/>	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)	
Availability	<input type="text"/>		Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?	<input type="text"/>		
Weather at time of visit & date of visit			<input type="text"/>			
Pitch Issues:	<input type="text"/>					
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)						
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments	
Playing surface						
Grass Cover	Good >80%	Adequate 60-80%	Poor <60%	Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch		
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size	Within FA recommended guidelines	No	See size chart below for recommended dimensions		
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat	Moderate	Severe			
Length of grass	Good	Too long	Too short	Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less		
Evenness of pitch	Good	Adequate	Poor			
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None	Yes - some	Yes - lots			
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage	Some evidence of poor drainage	Yes, poor drainage			
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)						Section total
Grass cutting	Yes, as required	Yes, but not frequent enough	No			
Seeded	Yes, as required	Not known	No			
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times	Once/twice	No			
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months	Within the last 2 years	No			
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months	Within the last 2 years	No			
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months	Within the last 2 years	No			
						Section total
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.						
PITCH SCORE			0.0%	RATING	Poor	

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Rugby pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference				Site Name					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s)					
Date of assessment				Pitch size	(Sensor, Mini/Mid)				
Number of pitches on site				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
Availability				<i>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/mid pitch is overmarked as a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues</i>					
<small>Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused</small>									
Weather at time of visit									
General comments/observations									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments		
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor	>90% = good. <80% = poor			
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)	Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.			
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short	Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm			
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots				
GOALPOSTS									
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No						
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No						
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No						
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No						
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No						
ANCILLARY									
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No						
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No						
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below									
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never		
Drainage									
	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0
Natural (adequate) = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season Natural (inadequate) = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.								Pitch Maintenance Score	

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID						
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)			Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)		
Availability			Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused						
Type of pitch	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)			Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)			Short Pile 3G (40mm)		
	Sand Dressed			Sand Filled			Water based		
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments	
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No						
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No						
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No						
Maximum score	93	Scoring:		Poor <=50	Total Score		0		
				Standard 51-79	Potential Rating		Poor		
				Good 80+					