



**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

1-2 Frecheville Court ◀ off Knowsley Street ◀ Bury BL9 0UF  
T 0161 764 7040 ◀ F 0161 764 7490 ◀ E mail@kcp.co.uk ◀ [www.kkp.co.uk](http://www.kkp.co.uk)





# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

## CONTENTS

<b>PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PART 2: FOOTBALL .....</b>	<b>22</b>
2.1: Introduction .....	22
2.2: Supply .....	24
2.3: Demand .....	29
2.4: Capacity analysis .....	32
2.5 Supply and demand analysis.....	40
<b>PART 3: CRICKET .....</b>	<b>47</b>
3.1: Introduction .....	47
3.2: Supply .....	47
3.3: Demand .....	52
3.4: Capacity analysis .....	55
3.5 Supply and demand analysis.....	58
<b>PART 4: RUGBY UNION .....</b>	<b>60</b>
4.1: Introduction .....	61
4.2: Supply .....	61
4.3: Demand .....	64
4.4: Capacity analysis .....	66
4.5 Supply and demand analysis.....	68
<b>PART 5: RUGBY LEAGUE .....</b>	<b>70</b>
5.1: Introduction .....	70
5.2: Current provision .....	70
5.3: Demand .....	71
5.4 Supply and demand analysis.....	71
<b>PART 6: HOCKEY .....</b>	<b>72</b>
6.1: Introduction .....	72
6.2: Supply .....	72
6.3: Demand .....	73
6.4: Quality.....	74
6.5: Supply and demand analysis.....	75
<b>PART 7: TENNIS.....</b>	<b>77</b>
7.1 Introduction .....	77
7.2 Current provision .....	77
7.3 Demand .....	82
7.4 Supply and demand analysis.....	84
<b>PART 8: BOWLS .....</b>	<b>85</b>
8.1: Introduction .....	85
8.2: Supply .....	85
8.3 Demand .....	88
8.4 Supply and demand analysis.....	89
<b>PART 9: NETBALL .....</b>	<b>90</b>
9.1: Introduction .....	90
9.2: Current provision .....	91
9.3: Demand .....	96

# **DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

---

<b>PART 10: ATHLETICS.....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>PART 11: GOLF.....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: CONSULTEE LIST.....</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT .....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: GLOSSARY OF TERMS.....</b>	<b>115</b>

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

### PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This is the Playing Pitch Assessment Report (incorporating all outdoor sports facilities) prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Dacorum Borough Council (DBC). It updates the previous 2006 Dacorum Sport and Recreation Study (Outdoor Facilities).

The study covers all of the outdoor pitch sports as well as non-pitch sports. The full list of sports facilities covered is set out below:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) including sand based/filled, water based and 3G
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Netball courts
- ◀ Athletics tracks
- ◀ Golf courses

In agreement with Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), the report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy'. The methodology has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and outdoor sports.

The methodology details a 13 step approach to developing a playing pitch strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Section A: Preparation
- ◀ Section B: Information gathering
- ◀ Section C: Assessment
- ◀ Section D: Key findings and issues
- ◀ Section E: Strategy development and implementation

Sections A to D are covered in this report.

The methodology that has been used for non-pitch sports broadly follows the same format as the 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy' guidance. However, there is currently no prescribed methodology for non-pitch sports. The report draws conclusions for non-pitch sports based on a supply and demand comparison. Where appropriate, e.g. bowling greens, a capacity analysis has also been carried out.

## **Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy Methodology:**

### **1.1: Section A: Preparation**

To ensure that the PPS will be robust and successful and make the best use of available resources, the following steps were followed:

#### ***Step 1: Why the PPS is being developed***

The backdrop to the development of this study is that for the next three years, the Council must manage on much less funding from Government than in the previous three years.

The PPS is recognised as a key evidence base for the review of spatial planning policy. There are already a number of significant developments proposed which impact upon playing pitch provision. The PPS will provide a framework to help inform decision making with regard to planning applications both now and in the future.

Sport England objected to the Dacorum Core Strategy Policy CS23 on the basis that the underlying evidence base at the time (Dacorum Sport and Recreation Study (Indoor and Outdoor Facilities) 2006) in relation to sports facilities was not sufficiently robust.

Sport England requested that the Council commits to undertaking a review of the 2006 Dacorum Sport and Recreation Study (Outdoor Facilities) which would assess needs for playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities that are not included in the scope of the Sports Facilities Audit 2011. The Core Strategy Inspector advised that whilst the existing evidence base was sufficient for the purposes of the Core Strategy, it would need to be updated to inform subsequent DPDs.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) encourages local planning authorities to have in place up-to-date information on the supply and demand for playing facilities (Paragraph 73):

‘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. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.’

In this respect, the Council has commissioned and carried out a variety of studies in order to inform the leisure side of the evidence base for the Local Planning Framework (LPF). These are technical studies which help inform the key documents and associated policies that make up the LPF. The Council recognises the importance of keeping the evidence base up to date in commissioning the quantitative side of this leisure study.

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

The NPPF is also keen to see existing provision protected (Paragraph 74):

‘Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

A detailed Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) methodology is provided by the Sport England’s Guidance “Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (Oct 2013)”. They regard Playing Pitch Strategies as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. Sport England also sees a wide number of applications for such strategies:

1. Sports Development Planning
2. Planning Policy
3. Planning Applications
4. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
5. Funding Bids
6. Facility and Asset Management
7. Public Health
8. Co-ordinating Resources and Investment
9. Capital Programmes
10. Monitoring delivery

Sport England highlights the importance of applying and delivering the strategy. As explained earlier, this study follows their advice in respect of preparing, gathering and assessing information on the supply of and demand for provision (i.e. Stages A – C in their methodology).

DBC has decided to undertake the preparation of the strategy and action plan elements of the PPS (i.e. Stages D and E of Sport England’s Guidance) separately from the quantitative assessment. This decision has been taken in light of the availability of resources and the need to have the information available early to support progressing related work on the Local Planning Framework.

Such an approach does not undermine the Council’s commitment to develop this study into a broader strategy document. It is seeking to develop a Strategy and Action Plan during 2014 in conjunction with the study steering group and other partners. The document will help identify specific facility strategy priorities and provide guidance on how the strategy and associated action plan will be applied and delivered.

DBC recognises the importance of having multi departmental buy-in and identification of departmental responsibility/ownership to coordinate the strategy’s delivery. Furthermore, in order for it to be used well it needs to be of benefit to a variety of people in a variety of circumstances. A succinct and usable strategy document which is owned by all relevant parties and that can be applied to a variety of areas and situations will help to ensure the delivery of the recommendations and actions in the strategy.

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

KKP and DBC acknowledges the cooperation, support and input from the members of the study steering group in ensuring robust study outcomes. The steering group have had an important role to play within this study, and will continue to in the future through the strategy work. While the use of the PPS should be led by the local authority, its application and delivery should be the responsibility of the steering group. On this point Sport England recommend that:

“ each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure that the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of works and influence. The role of the steering group should not end with the completion of the PPS document.”

### **Objectives**

In order to be clear about how the vision will be achieved, the following objectives are identified. They relate to the key steps for developing the PPS and will ensure that a representative cross section of user views and opinions are collected and taken into account. They are to:

- ◀ Assess the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Review the existing provision of outdoor leisure facilities within the Borough and identify any shortfalls in provision and where these occur.
- ◀ Consider whether any additional sites should be identified and where this provision should be made.
- ◀ Consult with key stakeholders to ensure that the information contained within the audit is as accurate as possible.
- ◀ Ensure the audit and recommendations are compliant with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- ◀ Inform the production of the Council's Site Allocations DPD.
- ◀ Secure external funding for the investment and improvement of outdoor sports facilities and to prioritise investment in Dacorum BC sites.
- ◀ To co-ordinate facility investment by clubs in partnership with NGBs.

### **Links to other strategies**

There are a number of related strategies developed by the Council which have been adopted or are in the process of being developed, which are used to inform this study.

Dacorum Council is preparing the 'Local Planning Framework' (LPF) to replace the Dacorum Borough Local Plan 1991-2011. This will comprise a series of separate Development Plan Documents (DPDs):

- ◀ The Council's Core Strategy 2013
- ◀ Site Allocations DPD
- ◀ Development Management Policies
- ◀ Proposals Map

Dacorum Borough Local Plan (1991- 2011) and saved planning policies.



# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Other relevant documents relating to the provision of leisure in the Borough are:

- ◀ Dacorum Sport and Recreation Study Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessment Report and Strategy & Action Plan (2006)
- ◀ Dacorum Sports and Recreation Study 2006 – Outdoor Facilities
- ◀ Dacorum Sports and Recreation Study 2006 – Indoor Facilities
- ◀ Dacorum Sports Policy Statement and Action Plan April 2012
- ◀ Dacorum Borough Council Town Stadium Study Phase 1
- ◀ Dacorum Borough Council Town Stadium Study Phase 2
- ◀ Retail Leisure Study January 2006
- ◀ Dacorum Borough Council Sports Facilities Audit 2011

## **Step 2: Management arrangements**

The project team (KKP) was responsible for the day to day development and ensuring tasks were completed in line with the project plan. In order to ensure effective and continued management, it has been supported by a Steering Group comprising representatives from the Council, NGBs and other local key stakeholders including Dacorum Sports Network.

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once this study is completed for several reasons, including:

- ◀ To implement the study's recommendations.
- ◀ To assist with development of the assessment into a strategy.
- ◀ To be a champion for outdoor sports provision in the area and promote its value and importance.
- ◀ To ensure that the data is kept up to date and refreshed.

Assessment data was identified and collated between May and August 2013. Although this was not considered ideal for all sports, particularly football (because part of the period was out of season), this is the earliest practical period following the commissioning of the project.

## **Study area**

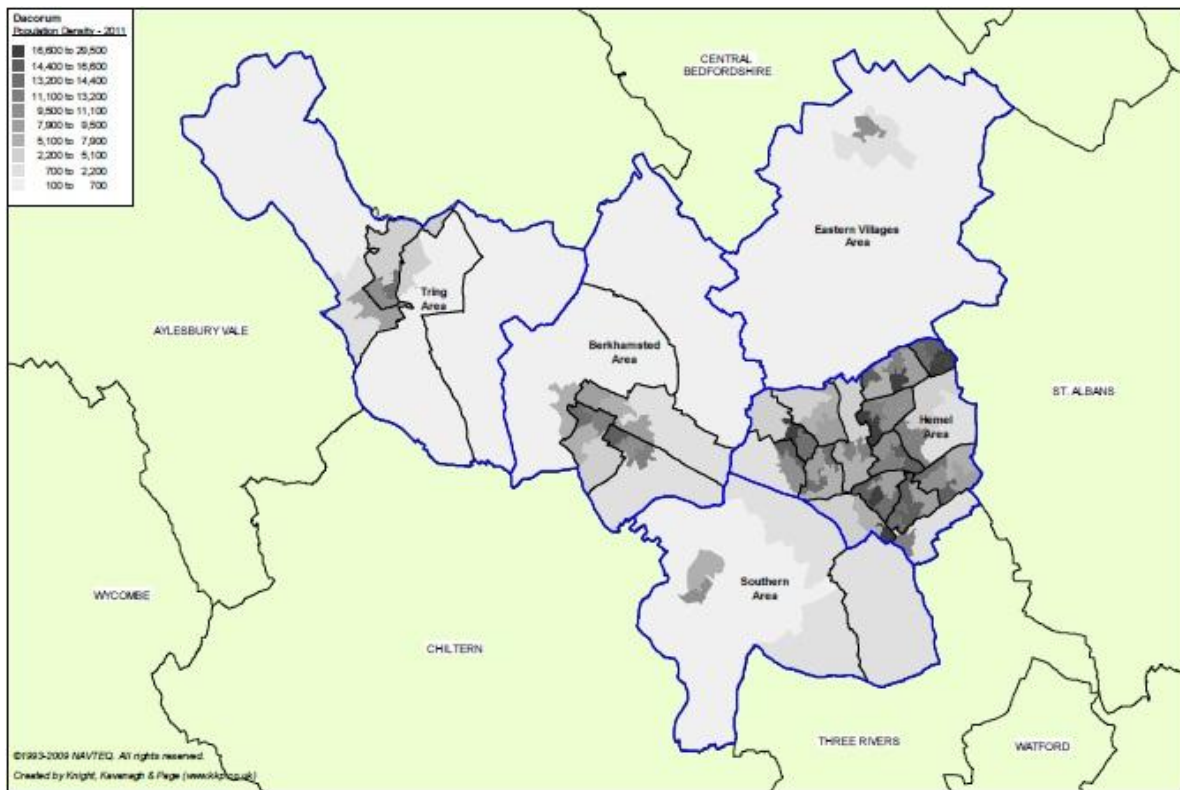
As agreed with the steering group, the study area is sub divided into five analysis areas:

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Population</b>
Berkhamsted Area	23,499
Eastern Villages Area	5,413
Hemel Area	85,786
Southern Area	14,213
Tring Area	15,936
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>144,847</b>

The analysis areas allow more localised assessment of provision and examination of facility surplus and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Figure 1.1 Map of agreed analysis areas



# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## Step 3: Tailoring the approach

In tailoring the approach to the study area, KKP has sought to consider how the characteristics of the area impacts upon playing pitch provision.

The table below shows Active People Survey (APS) 2, 3, 4 and 5 results for Dacorum in comparison to the national and Sport England regional figures. Data for the nearest neighbours are also presented.

Table 1.1 Active People Survey results for all adults – Dacorum and nearest Unitary Authority neighbours<sup>1</sup>

KPI(Key Performance Indicators)			National %	East of England %	Dacorum %	Nearest neighbours		
						North Hertfordshire %	Basingstoke & Deane %	Epping Forrest %
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour per week volunteering to support sport	2008/09	%	4.7	4.7	<b>5.7</b>	2.9	5.4	4.5
	2009/10		4.5	4.8	<b>5.5</b>	4.1	3.5	4.4
	2010/11		7.3	8.0	<b>10.2</b>	9.1	4.0	8.3
	2011/12		7.6	7.4	<b>7.2</b>	4.3	7.8	10.2
KPI 3 - Club membership in the last 4 weeks	2008/09	%	24.1	25.5	<b>26.4</b>	27.7	26.8	27.9
	2009/10		23.9	24.3	<b>24.8</b>	25.3	20.2	27.0
	2010/11		23.3	23.6	<b>28.3</b>	28.4	23.6	24.8
	2011/12		22.8	23.7	<b>35.8</b>	20.0	19.1	27.3
KPI 4 - Received tuition/coaching in last 12 months	2008/09	%	17.5	18.3	<b>25.1</b>	19.9	20.8	19.8
	2009/10		17.5	18.3	<b>24.7</b>	20.1	18.7	20.2
	2010/11		16.2	16.8	<b>22.0</b>	25.6	18.5	22.0
	2011/12		16.8	17.4	<b>20.6</b>	15.3	14.7	21.2
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months	2008/09	%	14.4	14.7	<b>14.8</b>	16.3	14.3	13.6
	2009/10		14.4	15.3	<b>17.2</b>	14.8	14.7	16.9
	2010/11		14.3	14.5	<b>20.4</b>	18.5	14.6	13.6
	2011/12		14.4	15.1	<b>18.0</b>	18.4	21.2	19.4
At least 3 x 30 minutes moderate participation per week	2008/09	%	16.6	16.2	<b>17.8</b>	16.1	18.1	18.1
	2009/10		16.5	16.4	<b>17.0</b>	14.3	15.1	17.4
	2010/11		16.3	16.3	<b>14.9</b>	20.7	16.4	16.6
	2011/12		*	*	*	*	*	*

Nearest neighbours are not geographic but those which are the closest to Dacorum in terms of socio-demographics. This type of comparison has been developed to aid local authorities to compare and benchmark. The models apply a range of socio-economic indicators upon which the specific family group (nearest neighbours) is calculated.

This shows that in 2011/12 Dacorum had a significantly higher rate of club membership (35.8%) compared to the national average (22.8%). There is also a higher rate of people receiving tuition or coaching (20.6% compared with 16.8% nationally).

<sup>1</sup> According to [www.cipfastats.net](http://www.cipfastats.net) Dacorum's top three nearest Unitary Authority neighbours are North Hertfordshire, Basingstoke & Deane and Epping Forest.

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

The table indicates that, in 2011, the percentage of adults participating in at least 3 x 30 minutes moderate exercise per week was lower in Dacorum (14.9%) than both the national average (16.3%) and the regional average (16.3%). In addition, this figure was also lower than the averages in all of Dacorum's nearest neighbours (North Hertfordshire 20.7%; Basingstoke & Deane 16.4% and Epping Forrest 16.6%). It is worth noting, however, that Dacorum did have higher averages than both the national and regional averages in 2009 and 2010.

With regard to Sport England's KPIs, excluding KPI 2 in 2011/2012, Dacorum has remained consistently higher than both the national and regional averages since 2009. Furthermore, in 2011/2012, not only did Dacorum have greater averages in KPI 3, KPI 4 and KPI 5 than both the national and regional averages, such figures were greater than all of Dacorum's nearest neighbours. Indeed, Dacorum has shown a notable increase in KPI 3 from 24.8% (2009/2010) to 35.8% (2011/2012). During the same period, however, both the national and regional averages have decreased (23.9% to 22.8% and 24.3% to 23.7% respectively), a trend that has also occurred in North Hertfordshire and Basingstoke & Dean.

### *Sport England's market segmentation*

To help better understand attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to participation Sport England has developed a segmentation model with 19 'sporting' segments. Each has a distinct sporting behaviour and attitude. An overview is provided below:

*Table 1.2 Sport England market segmentation summaries*

Name	Title	Description	Top three participating sports nationally
Ben	Competitive Male Urbanites	Male (aged 18-25), recent graduates, with a 'work-hard, play-hard' attitude. Most sporty of 19 segments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Football (33%)</li> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (24%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (18%)</li> </ul>
Jamie	Sports Team Drinkers	Young blokes (aged 18-25) enjoying football, pints and pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Football (28%)</li> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (22%)</li> <li>◀ Athletics (12%)</li> </ul>
Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	Young (aged 18-25) image-conscious females keeping fit and trim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (28%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (24%)</li> <li>◀ Athletics (14%)</li> </ul>
Leanne	Supportive Singles	Young (aged 18-25) busy mums and their supportive college mates. Least active segment of her age group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (23%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (18%)</li> <li>◀ Athletics (9%)</li> </ul>
Helena	Career Focused Females	Single professional women, enjoying life in the fast lane (aged 26-45).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (26%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (23%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (11%)</li> </ul>
Tim	Settling Down Males	Sporty male professionals (aged 26-45), buying a house and settling down with partner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Cycling (21%)</li> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (20%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (15%)</li> </ul>
Alison	Stay at Home Mums	Mums with a comfortable, but busy, lifestyle (aged 36-45).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (27%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (25%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (12%)</li> </ul>

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Name	Title	Description	Top three participating sports nationally
Jackie	Middle England Mums	Mums (aged 36-45) juggling work, family and finance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (27%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (20%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (9%)</li> </ul>
Kev	Pub League Team Mates	Blokes (aged 36-45) who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (14%)</li> <li>◀ Football (12%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (11%)</li> </ul>
Paula	Stretched Single Mums	Single mum (aged 26-45) with financial pressures, childcare issues and little time for pleasure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (18%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (17%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (5%)</li> </ul>
Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Mid-life professional (aged 46-55), sporty males with older children and more time for themselves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Cycling (16%)</li> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (15%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (12%)</li> </ul>
Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	Mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home (aged 46-55).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (21%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (18%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (7%)</li> </ul>
Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	Free-time couples nearing the end of their careers (aged 56-65).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (13%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (13%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (8%)</li> </ul>
Brenda	Older Working Women	Middle aged ladies (aged 46-65), working to make ends meet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (15%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (13%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (4%)</li> </ul>
Terry	Local 'Old Boys'	Generally inactive older men (aged 56-65), low income and little provision for retirement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (8%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (6%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (5%)</li> </ul>
Norma	Later Life Ladies	Older ladies (aged 56-65), recently retired, with a basic income to enjoy their lifestyles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (12%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (10%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (2%)</li> </ul>
Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	Retired couples (aged 66+), enjoying active and comfortable lifestyles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (10%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (9%)</li> <li>◀ Golf (7%)</li> </ul>
Frank	Twilight Year Gents	Retired men (aged 66+) with some pension provision and limited sporting opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Golf (7%)</li> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (6%)</li> <li>◀ Bowls (6%)</li> </ul>
Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	Retired singles or widowers (aged 66+), predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (10%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (7%)</li> <li>◀ Bowls (3%)</li> </ul>

Knowing which segment is most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming. For example, whilst the needs of smaller segments should not be ignored, it is useful for Dacorum Borough Council to understand which sports are enjoyed by the largest proportion(s) of the population. Segmentation also enables partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## Dominant market segmentation in Dacorum by population

Figure 1.3 illustrates that 'Tim - Settling Down Males' (as depicted by the yellow areas) is the market segment with the greatest coverage in Dacorum, accounting for 12.4% of the Dacorum population.

'Philip - Comfortable Mid-Life Males' is the second largest market segment in Dacorum with 10.0% of the population. Typically, 'Philip's' participate in sports such as cycling (16%), keep fit/gym (15%) and swimming (12%).

The third largest market segment in Dacorum is 'Elaine - Empty Nest Career Ladies' (7.3% of the population). Sports that 'Elaine's' are likely to participate in include keep fit/gym (21%), swimming (18%) and cycling (7%).

Figure 1.3 Map of dominant market segments by population in Dacorum

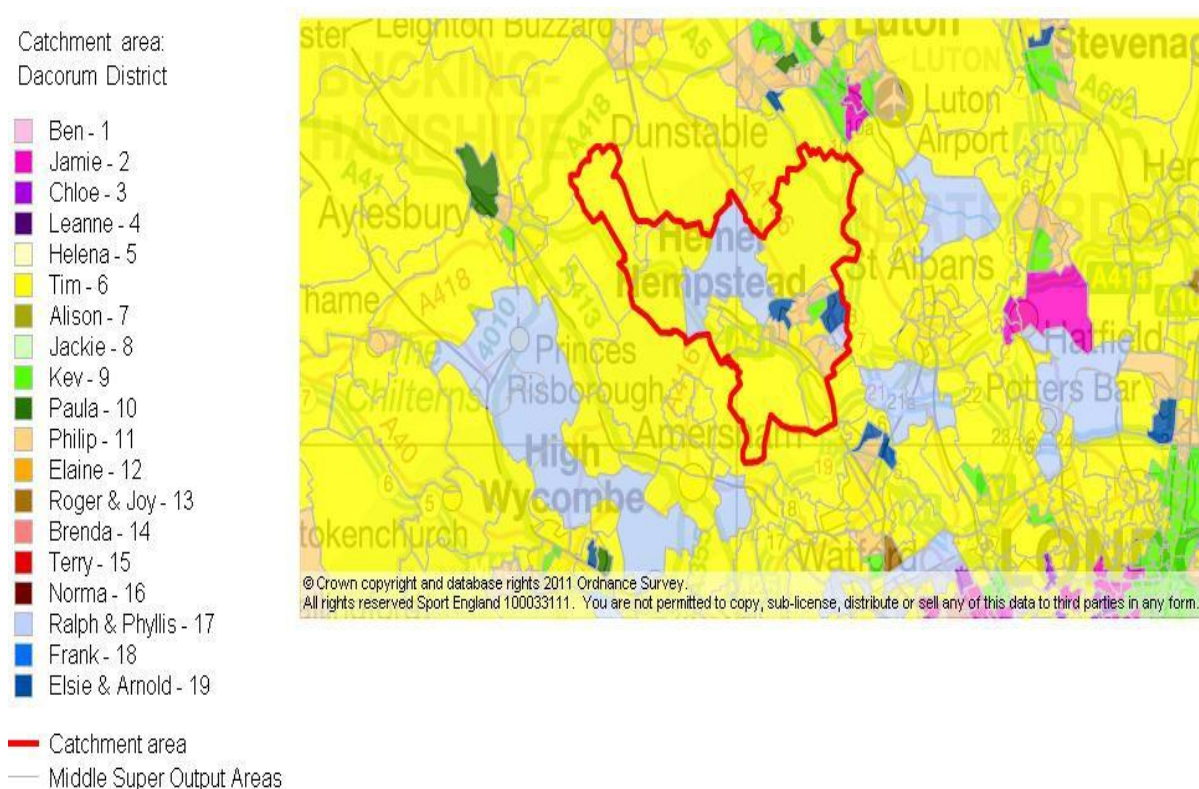


Table 1.3: Sport England market segments<sup>2</sup>

Code	Name	Description	Rate
B06	Tim	Settling Down Males	12.4%
C11	Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	10.0%
C12	Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	7.3%
A03	Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	6.6%
C13	Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	6.5%
D19	Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	6.4%

<sup>2</sup> Source: Sport England, 2012, Measure: Sport Market Segmentation

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Code	Name	Description	Rate
A01	Ben	Competitive Male Urbanites	6.3%
B07	Alison	Stay at Home Mums	6.2%
D17	Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	5.9%
B05	Helena	Career Focused Females	5.7%
B08	Jackie	Middle England Mums	4.9%
B09	Kev	Pub League Team Mates	3.6%
A02	Jamie	Sports Team Drinkers	3.2%
D18	Frank	Twilight Year Gents	3.1%
A04	Leanne	Supportive Singles	2.7%
B10	Paula	Stretched Single Mums	2.6%
C14	Brenda	Older Working Women	2.5%
C15	Terry	Local 'Old Boys'	2.5%
C16	Norma	Later Life Ladies	1.4%
<b>Total</b>			<b>99.8%</b>

*What does market segmentation mean for pitch sports?*

Of the three largest market segments, none identify football as an activity they particularly enjoy playing. Indeed, 21% of "Tims" and 16% of "Philips" identify cycling as their favourite activity with keep fit/gym and swimming also the most popular. Such activities are also popular with "Elaines", the third largest market segment within Dacorum. It is perhaps unsurprising, therefore, that football only accounts for 7% of sports participation within Dacorum, a figure that is marginally lower than both the national (7.4%) and regional (7.3%) figures.

*Which are the most popular sports played by adults in the area?*

Analysis identifies that of the top five sports within Dacorum, football (7%) is the only pitch sport. Indeed, swimming (12%) remains the most popular with gym (10.8%), cycling (8.8%) and athletics (8.6%) all making the top five.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

### 1.2 Section B: Information gathering

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

#### **Step 4: An audit of outdoor sports**

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2010 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.<sup>3</sup>

- ◀ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ◀ **Playing field** – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.
- ◀ **Hard court** - describes a form of surface or floor on which a sport is played. It may refer to outdoor materials such as asphalt, shale, tarmac or clay upon which, for example, tennis and netball may be played.

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

#### *Quantity*

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

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

#### *Accessibility*

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

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

---

<sup>3</sup> [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications



## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

- ◀ **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire. In most instances this applies to education sites, where although the school states its facilities are 'available' there are many reasons as to why they are unused, including for example, caretaker issues, unsuitable ancillary facilities and under sized pitches.
- ◀ **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or use by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team.

### *Quality*

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

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

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

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

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

Non pitch sports have also been assessed for quality and have been subject to a sport specific non technical site assessment. All outdoor sports are given a percentage score which translates into a good, standard or poor rating.

### ***Step 5: Developing a picture of demand***

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important in order to carry out the full supply and demand assessment. Demand in Dacorum tends to fall within the categories:

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

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

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

It is important to note that on education sites, school usage is not recorded. Therefore where sites have 'spare capacity' identified in the Report, further investigation is required on a site by site basis to determine the full extent of capacity for community use.

Alongside current demand it is important to assess whether the future demand can be met. Using population projections, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand in Dacorum.

The resident population in Dacorum is 144,847<sup>4</sup>. By 2021<sup>5</sup>, the Borough's population is projected to raise to 155,318 an increase of 10,471 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 7%).

This percentage increase figure is applied to team generation rates (a ratio based on how many people it currently takes to generate one team in Dacorum for a particular sport) in order to identify likely future growth.

Other information sources used to help identified future demand include:

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

Current and future demand is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. The table below provides a summary of the future development trends across football, rugby union, hockey and artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

A variety of consultation methods is used to collate demand information. Face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for collection of detailed demand information and exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

---

<sup>4</sup> Source: Office for National Statistics 2011 Census

<sup>5</sup> Source: Interim 2011-based Subnational Population Projections

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

*Consultation response rates:*

Type	Number in Dacorum	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Athletics clubs	1	100%	Face to face consultation
Bowls clubs	8	100%	Face to face and survey
Cricket clubs	16	88%	Face to face and survey
Football clubs <sup>[1]</sup>	84	54%	Survey, face to face and telephone
Football teams	371	73%	Survey, face to face and telephone
Hockey clubs	2	100%	Face to face consultation
Netball clubs	16	69%	Survey
Rugby league clubs	1	100%	Face to face
Rugby union clubs	3	66%	Face to face and telephone
Tennis clubs	8	100%	Face to face and survey
Lacrosse clubs	1	100%	Survey
Town & Parish councils	16	100%	Survey
Primary schools	61	85%	Survey
Secondary schools	9	89%	Face to face consultation
Independent schools	9	67%	Face to face and survey
Further Education	1	100%	Face to face consultation

Please see the appendices for a list of consultees.

Assessment data was identified and collated between May and August 2013. Although this was not considered ideal for all sports, particularly football (because part of the period was out of season), this is the earliest practical period following the commissioning of the project. This may account for the low response rate from football clubs. However, face to face consultation was undertaken with the biggest clubs in the area and the majority of none response clubs are one team clubs.

<sup>[1]</sup> KKP contacted outstanding clubs on a minimum of three occasions to attempt to improve the response rate. Key leagues servicing the area were consulted and supported the study by hosting (on their league website) and distributing an online survey.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

## 1.3 Section C: Assessment

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

### ***Step 6: Understand how a site is being used***

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

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

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

### ***Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision***

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

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

### ***Step 8: Scenario testing***

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have were these sites to be decommissioned in the future.

## 1.4 Section D: Key findings and issues

By completing Sections A, B and C it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Dacorum. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section E).

Section D is structured to provide a sport by sport analysis as follows:

- ◀ Part 2: Football
- ◀ Part 3: Cricket
- ◀ Part 4: Rugby union
- ◀ Part 5: Rugby league
- ◀ Part 6: Hockey
- ◀ Part 7: Tennis
- ◀ Part 8: Bowls
- ◀ Part 9: Netball
- ◀ Part 10: Athletics
- ◀ Part 11: Golf
- ◀ Part 12: Other sports

### PART 2: FOOTBALL

#### 2.1: Introduction

Hertfordshire FA is the primary organisation responsible for development (and some elements of administration) of football in Dacorum. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Although in the future it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of AGPs for competitive football fixtures to accommodate youth football, AGPs in Dacorum are currently used most for football training.

#### *FA Youth Development Review*

In 2011, The FA published its plans for the development of coaching and coach education – entitled ‘the Future Game’. This document describes how The FA intends to develop the game and promote better coaching standards and techniques to improve the technical ability of players at all levels. The FA also proposed how youth football should be reformed and delivered as part of the ‘youth development review’. This sets out some significant changes in the format and structure of youth football some of which will have a direct impact on football facilities.

The FA has produced recommended pitch sizes for mini soccer (5v5, 7v7), youth football (9v9, 11v11) and senior football (11v11). This provides children with a modified game that fits their age and stage of learning. This will see all age groups up to U12s playing a modified format. The entry point for U7s will be a 5v5 game, U9s and U10s will play 7v7, followed by a new 9v9 format for U11s and U12s.

All available research and observations show that children will have more fun and learn more playing a game with smaller teams and modified rules. Playing modified versions of the game has been proven to give children a more enjoyable experience enabling them to take a more active part in the game, develop their football skills and get better, be able to take part whatever their ability, provide a ‘real’ football experience, creates an environment that allows the development of ‘game understanding’. Modified goal sizes also provide goalkeepers a realistic chance of saving shots.

The introduction of 9v9 football, by the FA, is designed to help bridge the gap between mini soccer and eleven a side football and will introduce a new youth size pitch and goalpost suitable for 9v9 football.

The FA reports that, where there is limited space, it is acceptable to mark out in blue 9v9 pitches (box to box) on a full size pitch, where playing capacity allows. However, specific portable 9v9 goals (recommended size 7x16 ft.) would be required therefore security and storage would need to be considered. Funding for the purchase of new 9v9 goalposts is available through the County FA via the Football Foundation. There are a number of options including, use of a central venue that teams travel to play their games, use of a 3G football turf pitch or access to school pitches that are underused.

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

Provision of 9v9 pitches can be achieved by either re-marking senior pitches as 9v9 pitches or additional 9v9 line markings (therefore providing dual use senior and 9v9 pitches) to accommodate this new format of football. Any new pitch development should take into consideration the 9v9 pitch requirements. However, specific 9v9 goals (recommended size 7 x 16 ft.) are required. Funding for the purchase of new 9v9 goalposts is available through the Football Foundation (<http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk>).

### **Consultation**

As well as face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all football clubs playing in Dacorum, contact details were originally provided by Hertfordshire FA and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email to all adult and youth clubs (both boys and girls, men's and women's) as well as all youth and adult football leagues which was chased via telephone.

A combination of face to face and telephone interviews, plus an online survey was conducted, resulting in an overall response rate of 54% of football clubs and 73% of teams in Dacorum. Responses were obtained from a significant proportion of the larger football clubs encompassing: youth girls and boys, and adult men's and women's clubs, such as Berkhamsted Raiders FC, Tring Tornados FC and Hemel Hempstead Town Youth FC and as such the team response rate is much higher. Results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

Local leagues were also consulted and responses were received back from the following:

- ◀ Arlon Printers West Herts Saturday League
- ◀ Aylesbury and District League
- ◀ Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League
- ◀ Hertfordshire Senior County League
- ◀ Mid Herts Rural Minors league
- ◀ Spartans South Midlands Football League
- ◀ Watford Friendly League
- ◀ West Herts Saturday League

Hemel Hempstead Town FC, Tring Athletic, Berkhamsted FC and Kings Langley FC all play in Step 6 and above in the National League System. All four clubs responded to the consultation. Three of the clubs expressed need for additional pitches; however, there were no issues highlighted regarding meeting the league ground requirements. Just one team, Berkhamsted FC used their first team pitch for training.

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

### 2.2: Supply

The audit identifies 79 sites providing 170 grass football pitches. Of these, 65 sites, containing 155 pitches are currently available for community use in Dacorum.

*Table 2.1: Summary of pitches used for community use*

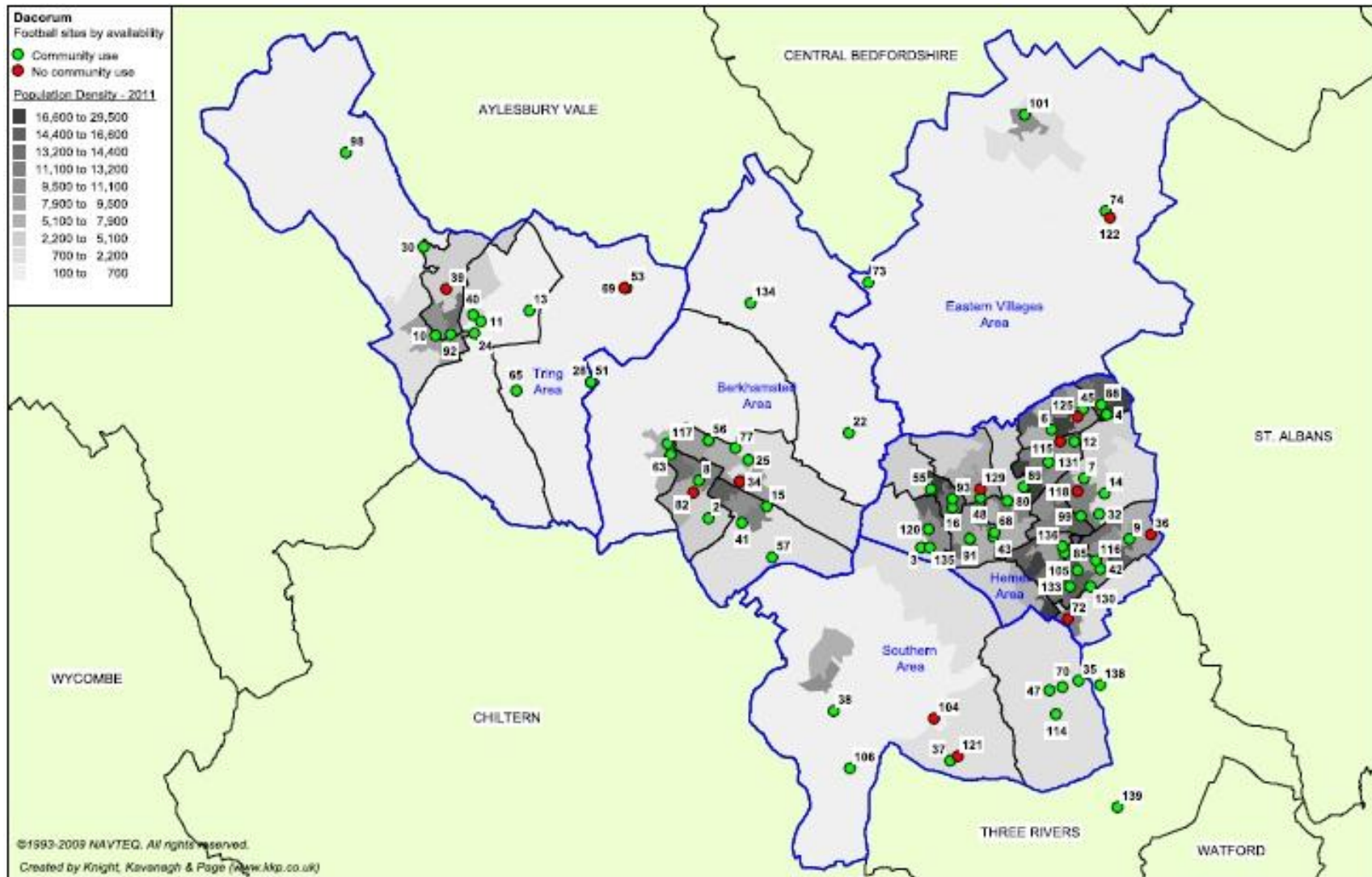
Analysis area	Number of pitches					
	Adult football	Youth football			Mini soccer	
	(11v11)	7v7	9v9	11v11	5v5	7v7
Berkhamsted Area	9	2	5	0	8	10
Eastern Villages Area	4	0	2	1	0	1
Hemel Area	43	2	10	6	4	12
Southern Area	8	0	2	0	2	1
Tring Area	18	0	2	1	0	2
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>26</b>

Please note that the audit only assesses dedicated, line marked pitches and it is likely that younger age groups will play across senior pitches or on informal pitches marked out with cones. Where youth/mini football is played across senior pitches, this has been accounted for as match equivalent sessions within the capacity analysis.



# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Dacorum mapped by availability for community use



Please refer to Table 2.9 for the key to the map.

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

A variety of providers in Dacorum manage sites containing football pitches. Although the Council own the majority of sites, other providers include independent education providers such as Berkhamsted School, parish councils such as Northchurch Parish Council and Flamstead Parish Council, private landowners such as The Boxmoor Trust and private sports clubs such as Pendley Manor (Pendley Sports Centre).

### ***Dacorum Borough Council Grounds Maintenance***

DBC Clean, Safe and Green Department are responsible for the grounds maintenance of the Council's parks, open spaces, amenity greens, highway verges, play areas, hedges and sports pitches.

It provides grounds maintenance of sports pitches at 18 sites across the Borough. In-season maintenance amounts to weekly grass cutting, checking of goal posts and line marking (unless due to weather this is not appropriate). Grass cutting may be carried out weekly but is as required dependent upon the weather. Pitches which are not in use are not line marked. Nets and flags are not provided for pitches and teams are responsible for putting up/taking these down.

Out of season, part of the general rota is carried out fortnightly across the Borough. In addition, goal posts are taken down and renovations are carried out on the worst quality pitches including verti draining as resources allow.

In addition to regular litter on pitches, other issues are frequently reported to the grounds maintenance team including golf divots, damage caused by horse riding across pitches and compaction and wear from unauthorised use.

Most pressure for pitch bookings is seen on Sunday mornings when the majority of fixtures take place.

The procedure for match cancellations is carried out as a staged approach which includes weather checks, officer knowledge of sites and referees decisions. Any cancellations by the Council are made by Friday lunchtimes.

Changing rooms are operated on a key holder basis with all teams being responsible for opening/closing up. Although this generally works well and reduces the need for Council resource, changing rooms have accidentally been left open in the past as it's often difficult to know who exactly is responsible for locking up if a number of teams are using the site at the same time.

## Pitch quality<sup>6</sup>

The quality of football pitches in Dacorum has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by The FA which take into account pitch and changing room quality) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Almost three quarters (74%) of grass football pitches in Dacorum, that are available for community use have an agreed quality rating of standard, 3% are rated poor. The remaining includes 23% rated as good quality. A significant number of good quality pitches are located on education or privately owned and/or managed sites, including Ashridge College, Pendley Sports Centre, Hemel Hempstead Town FC and Bovingdon FC.

In addition, almost three quarters of clubs responding to the survey tend to rate pitches as being of standard (25%) or good quality (49%). Issues most reported by clubs relate to uneven pitches, poor drainage, wear and overuse of pitches. The site most reported to be poor quality is High Street Green. Grovehill and Warners End are also frequently rated as poor quality. This view is supported by league consultation which also suggests the quality of pitches, particularly Council pitches such as Pound Meadow, have deteriorated over the previous three years due to a lack of specialist maintenance.

These pitches also suffer from unauthorised or casual use and therefore it is difficult for the quality to be maintained.

The Table below summarises the quality of pitches available for community use in Dacorum. These sites were assessed regardless of management or ownership.

Table 2.3: Summary of grass pitch quality of sites available for community use

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
24	54	4	5	28	0	3	34	3

Poor quality pitches (as identified through the non-technical site assessments) constitute 4% of the total number of pitches that are available for community use. The following sites contain poor quality pitches:

- ◀ Bridgewater Middle School
- ◀ Kings Langley Primary School
- ◀ Lagley Meadow
- ◀ Potten End Recreation Ground
- ◀ Wigginton Sports Field

These are spread across the four analysis areas, Berkhamsted, Hemel, Southern and Tring. There are no poor quality sites in the Eastern Villages Analysis Area.

<sup>6</sup> Site assessments were undertaken by KKP at the beginning of the 2013/14 season

### **Ancillary facilities**

Of the 43 Dacorum clubs which returned responded to consultation, almost three quarters (74%) indicated that they had changing accommodation at their home venue. Clubs reported most often (38%) that they were good, 31% poor and 21% standard quality. 10% did not respond to this question. The size and quality of the changing rooms are the most commonly reported issues. Changing provision at Council sites are most often reported by clubs to be poor quality. Grovehill in particular is stated to have poor facilities, although these have been closed for the majority of the last two seasons.

The following 16 clubs already run 112 teams between them and identify that they could produce more teams if they had access to better quality ancillary facilities.

*Table 2.4: Summary of ancillary facility issues*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
Bovingdon FC	Bovingdon FC	Clubhouse and showers are tired, need refurbishing and new roof. If the facilities were better it might attract more players.
Bovingdon Junior FC	Warners End Valley	Changing facilities and refreshments.
Chipperfield Corinthians YFC	Flaunden Playing Fields	More pitches and potential for a training pitch and clubhouse.
Comets Sports Club	Longdean School/ Gadebridge Lane	Changing rooms, club house. The club would love to take a long lease at Bunkers Park and develop the land for football and other sporting and recreational activities.
Gadebridge FC	Pennine Way	More toilets and changing rooms.
Greenacres 2 FC	Grovehill	Changing facilities with hot water showers.
Hemel Athletic FC	Cupid Green	Cafe, changing and club house.
Hemel Hempstead Rovers FC	Reith Fields	Better changing rooms
Kings Langley FC	Gaywood Park	More pitches and better changing
Leather Bottle FC	Grovehill	Improved changing
Little Gaddesden Junior Football Club	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Better changing facilities and coffee facilities for parents
Long Marston Football Club	Long Marston Recreation Ground	Changing facilities
Markyate FC	Cavendish Road	More changing rooms can only facilitate two teams/one match
Sporting Blackbirds FC	Warners End Valley	Better changing facilities
Tring Corinthians AFC	Icknield Stadium	Larger changing facilities - good (eight years old) but small and need better officials' facilities.

In addition, car parking is highlighted at many sites as an issue. In particular, Warners End and Galley Hill both have an issue with car parking, which is resulting in cars being parked on the grass verges, churning the grass and cluttering the roads around the pitches.

### 2.3: Demand

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

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

The Hertfordshire FA Participation Report (2012/13) states that there are 329 football teams playing on grass/artificial pitches in Dacorum. However, consultation with clubs and leagues identifies 371 teams playing in 2013/14 season.

*Table 2.5: Summary of competitive teams playing in Dacorum*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Adult men</b>	<b>Adult women</b>	<b>Youth</b>	<b>Mini</b>
Berkhamsted Area	16	2	27	34
Eastern Villages Area	4	0	5	1
Hemel Area	76	3	57	37
Southern Area	11	0	26	15
Tring Area	21	1	22	13
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100</b>

Hemel Analysis Area accommodates the largest number of teams (173 in total) which is also reflective of where most pitches are located.

Temporal demand identifies times of peak demand and use of pitches throughout the week. The peak time usage of all football pitches in Dacorum is Sunday, when 74% of teams play their fixtures. Of these, 35% play their matches on a Sunday AM.

#### ***Women's and girls' football***

There are six women's and nine youth girls' football teams playing the sport in Dacorum. The Dacorum Football Participation Report (Season 12/13) identifies that conversion rates for Dacorum (0.5%) are higher than regional (East of England 0.3%) and national (England 0.3%) averages.

Of the clubs responding to the survey, no clubs cite plans to increase the number of women's or girls youth teams.

#### ***Informal demand***

DBC reports that there is not a significant amount of informal usage of its football pitches. This is generally because pitches which are not in use are not line marked and nets/flags are not provided and teams are responsible for putting up/taking these down. Therefore no match equivalent sessions have been added within the capacity analysis.

## **Latent demand**

Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if there was access to a sufficient number of pitches. Consultation identifies that several clubs currently express such demand, which they cannot meet due to lack of access to grass pitches. The overleaf below summarises the unmet demand in Dacorum, identified during consultation.

*Table 2.7: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Level of unmet demand expressed</b>	<b>Pitch requirement</b>
Berkhamsted Football Club	Berkhamsted	3 new teams: adult veterans, under 21 or ladies teams	1 adult pitch
Gadebridge FC	Hemel	1 adult team	0.5 adult pitch
Potten End FC	Berkhamsted	1 more team	0.5 adult pitch
Kings Langley FC	Southern	4 youth teams	2 youth pitches
Little Gaddesden Junior Football Club	Berkhamsted	We would continue with our expansion	1 youth pitch
Hemel Athletic FC	Hemel	U7, U8, U9, U10, U14, U17, U18	1 youth pitch 1 adult pitch
Hemel Hempstead Rovers	Hemel	1 adult team	0.5 adult pitch
Long Marston Football Club	Tring	1 youth team	0.5 youth pitch
Chipperfield Corinthians YFC	Southern	Mini teams	1 mini pitch
Chipperfield Corinthians FC	Southern	1 adult team	0.5 adult pitch
Palace FC	Hemel	1 adult team	0.5 adult pitch
<b>Total</b>			<b>4.5 adult pitches</b> <b>4.5 youth pitches</b> <b>1 mini pitches</b>

In addition to latent demand identified by clubs, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in football but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,467 people in Dacorum. 27.8% of the population that would like to participate in football is the segment 'Ben - competitive male urbanites'. Of the 1,467 people, 113 (7.7%) are females; the largest segment of which is 'Chloe - young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim'.

## **Displaced demand**

Displaced demand refers to the Dacorum registered teams that currently use pitches outside of the Area for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually either down to supply of pitches or quality issues. The Club that this affects the most is Bovingdon Juniors FC, which have 16 youth and mini teams that access pitches at Chesham Grammar School outside of Dacorum. In addition, nine other teams also play outside of the local area.

There was no evidence during the study that teams originating from outside of Dacorum were playing within Dacorum.

*Table 2.8: Summary of displaced demand*

<b>Clubs accessing pitches outside Dacorum for fixtures (1 team unless stated)</b>	<b>Pitch requirement</b>
Bovingdon Juniors FC (16 teams)	8 pitches
Potten End Sunday FC	0.5 pitch
Bovingdon AFC	0.5 pitch
Comet Sports Club	0.5 pitch
Hemel Army FC	0.5 pitch
Kings Langley FC	0.5 pitch
Palace FC	0.5 pitch
Redwood Rangers FC	0.5 pitch
Tring Tornadoes U18	0.5 pitch
Herts Fire and Rescue	0.5 pitch
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.5 pitches</b>

The following clubs access facilities outside Dacorum for training:

- ◀ Flamstead Youth FC
- ◀ Hemel Athletic FC
- ◀ Kings Langley FC
- ◀ Leather Bottle FC
- ◀ Sporting Blackbirds
- ◀ Tring Athletic FC

There are also logistical challenges and inherent problems of management, health and safety faced by Tring Tornadoes Juniors FC in particular. The shortage of pitches local to the Club, and especially the diffuse nature of pitch locations (there being no major playing field with multiple pitches available), has meant them having to use pitches at a multitude of different and very widespread sites, including some outside the Borough.

## 2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

Senior 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

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

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

### ***Education sites capacity***

The capacity for school pitches to accommodate community use has been moderated to reflect educational use. Based on consultation with schools in Dacorum, on average, one match equivalent session per week has been added to the usage to account for curricular/extracurricular activity.

Secured community use on school sites has been defined as either a formal community use agreement or written confirmation from the school to the user.



**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

Table 2.9: Football quality and capacity

PPS Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch quality rating	No. pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Pavilion quality	Pavilion comments	Pitch comments				
2	Butts Meadow	Council	Yes	Berkhamsted	Adult	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	Standard	Contains changing rooms and showers	Minimal use of the site.				
15	Velvet Lawn	Council	Yes	Berkhamsted	Adult	Poor	2	4	4		Standard	Changing rooms and showers	Users report poor pitch quality as a result of poor maintenance. Litter/dog foul on the pitches is also frequently reported.				
22	Potten End Recreation Ground	Potten End Cricket Club	Yes - secured	Berkhamsted	Adult	Poor	1	2	1	1	Good	Clubhouse	Rented by Potten End FC. Club reports lack of floodlights and poor drainage and uneven pitch which results in several cancelled matches.				
34	Berkhamsted FC	Club	No	Berkhamsted	Adult	Good	1	3	3		Good	Clubhouse	Semi-pro football ground				
63	Northchurch Recreation Ground	Northchurch Parish Council	Yes	Berkhamsted	Adult	Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5	Poor	Small porta cabin with no running water, toilets or showers. However, users also use changing on adjacent site, The Meadow but can be problematic.	By the side of the adult pitch are a set of fixed mini goals but no pitch markings.				
77	Little Gaddesden PF	Little Gaddesden Parish Council	Yes	Berkhamsted	Adult	Standard	1	1	1		Poor	The Clubhouse at Bingham's Farm was vandalised and is no longer usable	Solely used by Little Gaddesden Rangers FC. Club reports that surface water drains away slowly and has resulted in cancellations even though it has stopped raining.				
					Mini (5v5)	Standard	2	3	8	-5							
					Mini (7v7)	Standard	4	4	16	-12							
					Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	1	2	-1							
8	Lagley Meadow	Council	Yes	Berkhamsted	Adult	Poor	1	0.5	1	-0.5	Poor	Storage facilities only. Pavilion boarded up.	Berkhamsted Town Council reports the pitch is underused due to uneven surface. Area used mostly by dog walkers.				
101	Cavendish Road Rec	Leased by Markyate Parish Council from DBC and sublet to Markyate Football & Cricket Club	Yes - secured	Eastern Villages	Adult	Good	2	2.5	6	-3.5	Standard	Two changing rooms in the pavilion and a third in a porta cabin.	Adult pitch contains perimeter rail and dugouts. Club reports regular dog foul on all pitches.				
					Adult	Good											
					Youth (9v9)	Good								1	1	4	-3
74	Friendless Lane Rec	Flamstead Parish Council	Yes	Eastern Villages	Adult	Good	2	0.5	6	-5.5	Poor	Includes showers, toilet and changing area. Changing for boys only.	Football pitches are undersized. Used solely by Flamstead Youth FC				
					Mini (7v7)	Good								1	0.5	6	-5.5
					Youth (9v9)	Good								1	0.5	4	-3.5
73	Cross Road, Great Gaddesden	Great Gaddesden Parish Council	Yes-unused	Eastern Villages	Youth (11v11)	Standard	1	0	2	-1	Unknown						
136	Jarmans Park	Council	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	1	1	2	-1	Good	Stadium with seating, car parking and ancillary facilities.	Pitch located in the middle of athletics track.				

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

PPS Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch quality rating	No. pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Pavilion quality	Pavilion comments	Pitch comments
105	Coronation Fields	Council	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	2	4	4		Good	Renewed in last 10 yrs in brick so is well secured but is underused.	Also known as Belswains Playing Fields.
12	Pennine Way	Leased from the Council to Hemel Stages RLFC	Yes - secured	Hemel	Adult	Standard	4	6.5	8	-1.5	Good	Changing rooms and showers provided by Hemel Stags RLFC	Clubs report regular evidence of litter and dog fouling on the pitches. Clubs also report that better drainage is required. Access to the site/pitches could be improved as there are no designated access points.
14	Reith Fields	Council	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	1	1	2	-1	Good	Changing rooms and showers leased and managed by the Club	Used solely by Hemel Hempstead Rovers FC who also manage the pitch.
16	Warners End Valley	Council	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	8	5	16	-11	Poor	Changing rooms and showers. Heavily used and prone to vandalism. Clubs rate the pavilion as poor quality.	Some of the adult pitches are sloped which may be affecting usage.  Currently no fixtures on Saturdays
					Mini (7v7)	Standard	2	5	8	-3			
					Youth (11v11)	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5			
32	Hemel Hempstead Town FC	Club	Yes - secured	Hemel	Adult	Good	1	2.5	3	-0.5	Good	Clubhouse	Step 7 Club Used exclusively by the Club
36	Pancake Lane	Leased to Leverstock Green FC from Home & Communities Agency on 25yr lease	No	Hemel	Adult	Good	1	3	3		Good	Clubhouse	Pitch with floodlighting, perimeter fencing and dugouts. Club plays and trains on the pitch.
4	Cupid Green	Council	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	2	2.5	4	-1.5	Poor	Newly built pavilion following a fire, now condemned and unused due to a severe leak damage.	Clubs report vandalism to goal posts.
					Mini (7v7)	Standard	2	1	8	-7			
					Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5			
6	Grovehill	Council	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	6	14	12	2	Poor	Changing rooms and showers	Clubs report regular pitch damage by motorcycles and quad bikes. Litter and dog fouling is also a reported issue.
					Mini (7v7)	Standard	2	1	8	7			
7	High Street Green	Council	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	3	6	9	-3	Poor	Changing rooms and showers in a poor state of repair. Clubs report very poor and usually no showers.	Grass cover in goalmouths is poor but the rest of pitches are good quality.
80	Gadebridge Lane	Council	Yes	Hemel	Mini (7v7)	Standard	3	1.5	12	-10.5	N/A	No changing rooms	Used by various clubs. Clubs generally suggest that pitch quality at the site is adequate.
					Youth (11v11)	Standard	2	4	4				
					Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	2	2				

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

PPS Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch quality rating	No. pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Pavilion quality	Pavilion comments	Pitch comments
9	Leverstock Green	Council	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Good	1	2	3	-1	Standard	Changing rooms and showers. Adequate standard but small.	No spare capacity at peak time.
3	Chaulden Playing Fields	Council	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	1	1	2	-1	Standard	Changing rooms and showers	No spare capacity at peak time.
38	Bovingdon FC	Leased from the Council on 99yr lease	Yes - secured	Southern	Adult	Good	2	9.5	6	3.5	Poor	Clubhouse	Also used by Hemel Comets and Bovingdon Juniors. One pitch with perimeter fencing and dugouts. The club use an area between the two pitches for training. There is a need for better training lights. Club reports that it is actively looking at options to improve the changing facilities.
106	Flaunden Playing Fields	Leased by Flaunden Parish Council from the Council	Yes	Southern	Adult	Standard	1	2	2		N/A	No changing rooms, toilets available	Site solely used by Chipperfield Corinthians Youth FC
					Mini (5v5)	Standard	1	1.5	4	-2.5			
35	Gaywood Park	Club	Yes - secured	Southern	Adult	Standard	1	4.5	2	2.5	Standard	Clubhouse	Homeground to Kings Langley FC. Significant number of match sessions being accommodated which is affecting quality.
					Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	4.5	2	2.5			
					Mini (5v5)	Standard	1	1	4	3			
104	Rear of The Boot, Tower Hill	Council	No	Southern	Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	1	2	-1	N/A	No changing rooms	No peak time capacity.
37	Chipperfield Corinthians FC	Club	Yes - secured	Southern	Adult	Good	1	2	3	-1	Standard		Homeground to Chipperfield Corinthians FC.
13	Pound Meadow	Council	Yes	Tring	Adult	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	Standard	Changing rooms and showers. Regular incidents of vandalism.	Pitch slightly overplayed due to being standard quality.
24	Tring Park Cricket Club	Club	Yes - unsecured	Tring	Adult	Good	2	3	6		Standard		The football pitches are marked over the cricket outfield, the football teams using the pitches lose access towards the end of the season so the cricket club can ensure the field is ready for the cricket season. So the capacity rating has been adjusted to reflect this.
					Mini	Good	1	3	6				
28	Cow Roast/Lockhart Field	Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club	Yes – secured	Tring	Adult	Good	4	8	10	-2	Good	Clubhouse	Used by various clubs. Clubs generally report good quality pitches but water sometimes lies in goalmouths and centre circle after heavy rain.
					Adult	Standard							
					Youth (9v9)	Standard	2	2	4	-2			

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

PPS Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch quality rating	No. pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Pavilion quality	Pavilion comments	Pitch comments
30	Pendley Sports Centre	Pendley Manor	Yes - secured	Tring	Adult	Good	3	5	9	-4	Standard	Clubhouse. The Club reports that the changing facilities are poor.	'The Grass Roots Stadium' is homeground to Tring Tornados FC. One adult pitch has floodlights, perimeter fencing and dugouts.
					Youth	Standard	1	1	2	-1			
39	Icknield Stadium	Club	No	Tring	Adult	Good	1	1.5	3	-1.5	Good	Clubhouse	Homeground to Tring Corinthians FC
53	Stocks Road Recreation Ground	Aldbury Parish Council	Yes	Tring	Adult	Standard	1	1	2	-1	N/A	No changing rooms. Toilets only	No spare peak time capacity.
10	Miswell Lane	Council	Yes	Tring	Adult	Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5	Standard	Changing rooms and showers. Regular incidents of vandalism.	No spare peak time capacity. Clubs report that the pitch maintenance is poor and that pitches are rarely rolled and are therefore uneven from use in wet conditions.
98	Long Marston Recreation Ground	Tring Rural Parish Council leased to Long Marston Football Club until 2019	Yes - secured	Tring	Adult	Good	1	3	3		Good	One changing room in the facility.	Club plays and trains on the pitch. Club reports that the pitch is generally good quality but regularly contains dog foul.
11	Mortimer Hill	Council	Yes	Tring	Adult	Good	1	1	3	-2	Standard	Changing rooms and showers provided but generally is unused.	This pitch is undersized and not suitable for adult use and as a result has spare capacity.
65	Wigginton Sports Field	Wigginton Parish Council	Yes	Tring	Adult	Poor	1	0.5	1	-0.5	N/A	No changing facilities	The Parish Council report poor facilities in the Area generally.

Table 2.10: Education sites capacity

PPS Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch quality rating	No. pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity for community use	Capacity comments
117	St Marys C of E School	Yes-secured	Berkhamsted	Mini (7v7)	Standard	1	2	4	-2	School reports use by Berkhamsted Raiders FC for training and matches. Used by 2 teams from West Herts Youth League Sunday AM. Pitch undersized but adequate. No other demand reported. No specific changing and accommodation for outdoor pitches
				Mini (5 v 5)	Standard	1	2	4	-2	
56	Bridgewater Middle School	Yes-secured	Berkhamsted	Mini (5v5)	Poor	1	2	2		School reports use by Berkhamsted Raiders FC for training and matches all weekend. School does receive other enquiries for weekends use. Specific changing accommodation provided for outdoor pitch but not available for community users
				Mini (7v7)	Poor	1	2	2		
				Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	2	2		
57	Thomas Coram Middle School	Yes- secured	Berkhamsted	Mini (7v7)	Standard	1	2	4	-2	School reports use by Berkhamsted Raiders FC for training and matches. Provided changing accommodation for community users, car parking is not available. Does not receive additional enquiries for use
				Youth (9 v 9)	Standard	1	2	2		
				Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	2	2		
117	St Marys C of E School	Yes	Berkhamsted	Mini (7v7)	Standard	1	2	4	-2	Used by 2 teams from West Herts Youth League Sunday am

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

PPS Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch quality rating	No. pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity for community use	Capacity comments
134	Ashridge College	Yes	Berkhamsted	Adult	Good	1	2.5	3	-0.5	Used by 3 teams from West Herts Youth League Sunday am.
82	St Thomas More RC School	No	Berkhamsted	Mini (7v7)	Standard	1	1	4	-3	Has capacity to accommodate community use if it were available. No parking or changing
41	Ashlyns School	Yes	Berkhamsted	Adult	Standard	2	2.5	4	-1.5	In addition to school usage pitches are well used by Berkhamsted Raiders CFC Watford FC also use pitches to train.
				Mini (7v7)	Standard	1	2	4	-2	
				Youth (11v11)	Standard	1	3	2	1	
				Youth (9v9)	Standard	2	2	2		
86	Greenway School	Yes - unused	Berkhamsted	Mini (7v7)	Good	2	2	8	-6	Raiders football club use the pitches for training and matches some weekends Parent hire of pitch for childrens parties. No changing available.
25	Kitcheners Field	Yes	Berkhamsted	Mini (5v5)	Standard	3	1.5	12	-10.5	Site owned by Berkhamsted School but only used by Berkhamsted Raiders CFC.
				Mini (7v7)	Standard	2	1.5	8	-6.5	
				Youth (7v7)	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	
				Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	
122	Flamstead Village School	No	Eastern Villages	Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	1	2	-1	School reports the pitch is not available for hire as there is no local demand.
115	Hammond Academy	No	Hemel	Mini (7v7)	Standard	1	1	4	-3	Has space to mark a senior pitch. Has not been offered to outside agencies so is not currently available for community use.
116	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School	Yes	Hemel	Mini (7v7)	Standard	2	4	8	-4	Pitches used for training by local football team but no regular competitive community use.
118	Hobletts Manor Junior School	No	Hemel	Mini (7v7)	Standard	1	1	4	-3	Has capacity to accommodate community use if it were available.
120	Chaulden Junior School	No	Hemel	Adult	Good	1	3	3		Church and Community Centre attached to the school use the field. Church uses Friday evening, Football School uses the pitches on Saturday mornings but no local club use as no spare capacity. Three mini 5 v 5 pitches over marked on to senior pitch for summer tournament.
125	Maple Grove Primary	No	Hemel	Youth (9 v 9)	Standard	1	1	2	-1	Parking and access issues reported by the School. Site not opened at weekends due to lack of demand in the Area.
129	St. Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Junior School	No	Hemel	Youth (9v9)	Poor	1	1	1		School reports access issues inhibit availability of community use.
48	The Cavendish School	Yes-unused	Hemel	Adult	Good	1	1	3	-2	Has capacity to accommodate community use if it were available. Currently not in demand as there is a public park adjacent.
				Youth (9v9)	Good	1	1	4	-3	
55	John F Kennedy School	No	Hemel	Adult	Standard	1	1	2	-1	Not available for community use as damages state of the pitches so are not usable for school. Hemel Aces FC previously used venue
				Mini (5v5)	Standard	2	2	8	-6	
68	South Hill Primary School	Yes	Hemel	Youth ((7v7) 9up to 11yrs)	Good	1	1	4	-3	Hemel Youth FC uses the football pitch at weekends only no training. School has additional enquiries for pitches but not available in the week.
72	Nash Mills C of E Primary School	No	Hemel	Mini (7v7)	Standard	1	1	4	-3	Has capacity to accommodate community use if it were available.

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

PPS Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch quality rating	No. pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity for community use	Capacity comments
93	Micklem School	Yes-unused	Hemel	Youth (7v7)	Standard	1	1	2	-1	Generic grass field, no pitch marked out. Has some capacity to accommodate community use at weekends.
130	Chambersbury Primary School	Yes	Hemel	Youth (11v11)	Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5	In addition to school use is used on Sunday by Hemel Spartans FC.
131	Yewtree Primary School	Yes	Hemel	Mini (5v5)	Standard	1	2	4	-2	In addition to school use is used on Sunday by Hemel Stag Aces Football Club.
133	Belswains Primary School	Yes	Hemel	Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5	In addition to school use is used on Sunday by Hemel Stag Aces Football Club.
135	Pixies Hill School , Pixies Hill, Hemel Hempstead	Yes	Hemel	Mini (5v5)	Standard	1	2	4	-2	School has a restricted community use policy which only allows use by friends association. Currently used by Hemel Stag Aces Football Club.
42	Longdean School	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	3	1.5	6	-4.5	Football pitch usage is limited to Comets Sports Club FC Youth.
				Youth (11v11)	Standard	1	2	2		
				Youth (9v9)	Standard	2	4	4		
43	Hemel Hempstead School	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	2	2.5	4	-1.5	In addition to school use is used by Hemel Stag Aces Football Club
45	Astley Cooper School	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	3	6	6		In addition to school use is extensively used by Hemel Hempstead Town Youth FC. Will lose two pitches due to land redevelopment for new primary school.
				Mini (7v7)	Standard	1	4	4		
				Youth (11v11)	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	
				Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	2	2		
85	Lime Walk Primary School	Yes - secured	Hemel	Adult	Standard	1	2	2		Hemel Hempstead Athletic Football Club - weekends and one evening for training
88	Holtsmere End Junior School	Yes	Hemel	Mini (7v7)	Good	1	3	3	-3	Hemel Athletic FC uses the football pitch, training on Saturdays and match on Sundays. Holiday clubs run by a private sports provider.
89	George Street Primary School	Yes	Hemel	Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	2	2		In addition to school use is used by Hemel Warriors Football Club
91	Boxmoor Primary School	Yes - secured	Hemel	Youth (9v9)	Standard	1	1	2	-1	Hemel Stag Aces Football Club use at weekends no training takes place.
99	Adeyfield School	Yes	Hemel	Adult	Standard	1	2	2		In addition to school use is used by 2 Sunday teams.
114	Rudolf Steiner School	Yes-unused	Southern	Youth (9v9)	Good	1	1	4	-3	The football pitch is used on an ad hoc basis by Kings Langley FC as an overspill for training. Changing facilities available
121	Chipperfield St Paul's VA C of E Primary School	No	Southern	Mini (5v5)	Standard	1	4	4		Watford FC does after school clubs for school and uses the field for Fun Weeks in the holidays. Attached Children's Centre also uses it. No local club use as no spare capacity and pitch is undersized.
70	Kings Langley Primary School	Yes-unused	Southern	Mini (7v7)	Poor	1	1	2	-1	Has capacity to accommodate community use.
47	Kings Langley School	Yes	Southern	Adult	Standard	3	4	6	-2	In addition to school use is used by 2 Sunday teams.

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

PPS Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch quality rating	No. pitches	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Recommended Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity for community use	Capacity comments
69	Aldbury Primary School	No	Tring	Youth (7v7)	Poor	1	1	1		School reports no demand for the pitches given the proximity of recreation ground in the village.
92	Bishop Wood CofE School	Yes-unused	Tring	Mini (7v7)	Standard	1	1	4	-3	Has capacity to accommodate community use.
40	Tring School	Yes	Tring	Adult	Standard	3	3	8	-5	These pitches are both undersized and not suitable for adult use.
				Adult	Good					
				Adult	Good					
				Youth (11v11)	Standard	2	2	4	-2	In addition to school use is well used by Tring Tornadoes FC.
				Youth (7v7)	Standard	1	5	2	3	
Youth (9v9)	Standard	3	3.5	6	-2.5					

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## 2.5 Supply and demand analysis

### *Spare capacity*

After identifying pitches with spare capacity, the next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified capacity can be deemed 'actual spare capacity' i.e. is it available within the peak period.

*Table 2.11: Actual spare capacity summary (excluding education sites)*

Analysis area	Pitches available in the peak period		
	Adult	Youth	Mini
Berkhamsted Area	5	4	8.5
Eastern Villages Area	3.5	2.5	1
Hemel Area	18	4	7
Southern Area	2	1	1
Tring Area	15.5	2	0
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>17.5</b>

There is a significant amount of actual spare capacity identified on adult pitches in Dacorum with the majority of this being available in Tring and Hemel areas. Warners End Valley expresses most spare capacity at peak time (Saturday) (seven pitches). It is thought that the quality of the pitches may be affecting usage.

Although actual spare capacity is often as a result of a lack of demand for grass pitches, there are some sites that are likely to retain spare capacity as a matter of practise to allow pitches to rest and rotate.

The following table provides a summary of actual spare capacity (i.e. at peak time) on those schools which are available for community use (either used or unused). Please note that there are no school playing fields available for community use in Eastern Villages Area.

There is space for a pitch at Mortimer Hill, however, at the time of the report there was no pitch marked or goals visible at the site. There is also no recorded activity here.

*Table 2.12: Actual spare education capacity summary*

Analysis area	Pitches available in the peak period		
	Adult	Youth	Mini
Berkhamsted Area	1.5	4	4.5
Eastern Villages Area	-	-	-
Hemel Area	11.5	9.5	5.5
Southern Area	2.5	1	1
Tring Area	1.5	0	1
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>12</b>



## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

Generally there are a good number of education sites which are available for community use in Dacorum. Of those that are not available for community use, lack of local demand is often reported by the School. However, availability of the pitches is often driven by school policy. Access arrangements in relation to opening up facilities are also a key inhibitor to community use.

The following schools have indicated that they have a generic grass playing field which could accommodate pitches:

- ◀ Grove Road Primary, Tring contains a playing field which could fit a junior pitch if required. The field is currently used by Tring Tornados for training midweek.
- ◀ St. Albert the Great Catholic Primary School, Hemel currently has a generic playing field with no pitches marked out but Hemel Town Football Youth team will be using the field from January 2014.
- ◀ Dundale Primary, Tring currently has a generic grass playing field which could accommodate pitches and is currently used weekends and holidays by a private sports provider.

In addition there are planning conditions associated with recent planning permissions requiring Tudor Primary School and Hammond Academy (both in Hemel) to prepare community use agreements for their playing fields so these should be available for future use.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Poor quality*

The majority of football pitches in Dacorum are assessed as standard quality. Potten End Recreation Ground and Lagley Meadow are both assessed as poor quality. If pitches which are assessed as poor quality were unable to be used all the teams currently playing on these pitches could be accommodated (although not necessarily ideal for clubs) on the remaining stock. However, if pitches assessed as standard quality were to become disused there would not be enough actual spare capacity to accommodate this amount of play.

#### *Latent and displaced demand*

The levels of latent and displaced demand are high in Dacorum, however, there appears to a significant amount of spare capacity at peak times, particularly on local authority owned pitches to meet the demand expressed. However, the quality of these pitches and associated ancillary facilities may be affecting clubs willingness to use them.

Clubs such as Berkhamsted FC report that it rations the number of teams using the facility to prevent the pitch deteriorating and would run more teams more pitches and facilities were available.

#### *Overplay*

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated than the site is able to sustain (which is often dependent upon pitch quality). In summary, eight sites contain pitches which are overplayed by a total of 26.5 matches per week. In most instances (except Bovingdon FC) the quality of the pitches could be improved to cater for overplay i.e. Grovehill, Pound Meadow and Tring School.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Table 2.13: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (16-45)	28,372	128	213	30,358	142.3	9.3
Senior Women (16-45)	28,533	6	4076	30,531	7.5	0.5
Junior Boys (10-15)	5,370	132	41	5,745	141.2	9.2
Junior Girls (10-15)	5,216	5	652	5,581	8.6	0.6
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-9)	6,730	100	62	7,201	115.6	7.6

The additional future teams would equate to the need for five senior, five youth and four mini pitches.

In addition, a number of clubs (12) report plans to increase the number of teams they provide. A significant proportion of these clubs are unsure where these teams will be accommodated. Some clubs are unable to fully quantify the number of teams, however, where it is quantified, clubs in total plan to provide an additional six adult teams, nine women's teams, 18 youth teams, and 15 mini teams.

If overplay, latent and displaced demand is to be met through existing stock, future demand would need to be met through the provision of new pitches.

### Football summary

- ◀ The audit identifies 65 sites providing grass football pitches currently available for community use in Dacorum, providing a total of 155 pitches.
- ◀ 7 sites are highlighted as available for community use, but currently have no registered regular competitive play. Three quarters of these sites are education owned.
- ◀ It is felt by the local sports community that it is not realistic to rely on more access to school facilities due to a range of issues such as care takers, pitch quality, availability of ancillary facilities and health and safety concerns
- ◀ Almost three quarters (72%) of grass football pitches in Dacorum, that are available for community use are rating as standard quality, with only 4% rated as poor. Users generally agree that pitch quality is either standard or good.
- ◀ 16 clubs playing in Dacorum identify that they could produce more teams if they had access to better quality ancillary facilities. Changing provision at Council sites are most often reported by clubs to be poor quality with Grovehill commonly referred to.
- ◀ There are 371 football teams playing in Dacorum in the 2013/14 season with most playing in Hemel Analysis Area.
- ◀ Eleven clubs playing in Dacorum express latent demand for a total of ten pitches. A further ten clubs play fixtures outside of Dacorum with Bovingdon Juniors FC being most affected.
- ◀ 95 pitches are available for use within the peak period. Most of these pitches are senior sized (51). Warners End Valley expresses most spare capacity at peak time (seven pitches).
- ◀ Existing demand i.e. overplay, latent and displaced demand can be met through existing stock (dependent upon the ability to improve the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities). However, future demand would then need to be met through the provision of new pitches.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## 2.6 Artificial grass pitches (AGPs) for football

### Introduction

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

Competitive football can take place on all 3G surfaces. Only competition up to (but not including) regional standard can take place on a 40mm pile. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

Table 2.14: AGP type and sport suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with IRB type 22 Football surface
Rubber crumb	Medium pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface
Rubber crumb	Short pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football
Sand	Sand filled	Competitive hockey and football training
Sand	Sand dressed	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training
Water	Water based	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated.

### Current provision

The table below provides a list of AGPs which are used for football in Dacorum, either to accommodate training or competitive play.

Table 2.15: Rubber crumb AGPs used for football in Dacorum

Site	Analysis area	Type	Size (metres)	Year built	Floodlit
Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	100 x 60	2010	Y
The Cavendish School	Hemel	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	100 x 60	1995 Refurb 2006	Y
Sportspace Hemel Hempstead	Hemel	Sand	45 x 32	1996 Refurb 2006	N
Sportspace Tring	Tring	Sand filled	100 x 60	1995	Y
Beechwood Park School	Eastern Villages	Sand Filled	75 x 50	2006	N
Berkhamsted Collegiate School (Castle Campus)	Berkhamsted	Sand Dressed	37 x 27	?	N
Bridgewater Middle School	Berkhamsted	Sand Filled	30 x 16	2004	N

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Site	Analysis area	Type	Size (metres)	Year built	Floodlit
Hemel Hempstead Town FC	Hemel	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	36 x 20	2010	Y
Hemel Hempstead Stags RLFC	Hemel	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	45 x 27	2011	Y
Sportspace Berkhamsted	Berkhamsted	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	38 x 34	2008	N
Sportspace Longdean	Hemel	Sand Filled	36 x 30	1998	N

There are three full size AGPs in Dacorum that are available for community use. Two of which are 3G and one is sand filled. These are at the following sites:

- ✦ Ashlyns School (3G)
- ✦ The Cavendish School (3G)
- ✦ Tring School/ Sportspace (sand filled)

### **Usage**

AGPs are in high demand for football training. Peak hours are 6pm – 9pm on week nights and some clubs report that provision is not accessible at this time. In addition to this, however, many clubs report that price is a restricting factor.

### **Supply and demand analysis**

#### *The FA model*

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

The FA's long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research 'AGPs State of the Nation March 2012' assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch type per hour from 5pm-10pm Monday-Friday and 9am-5pm Saturday and Sundays. It is estimated that one full size AGP can service 60 teams.

On the basis that there are 405 teams playing competitive football in Dacorum, there is a recommended need for seven full size 3G pitches. There are currently three within the Borough.

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

### *Local demand*

63% of the clubs report demand for access to additional training facilities. The majority of these clubs report demand for access to floodlit 3G pitches. Clubs report that affordability of the facilities is also a key concern inhibiting access for many clubs.

Nationally, it is becoming more common for youth leagues to be played at central venues on 3G AGP provision. However, due mostly to cost clubs are still opting to compete on grass pitches, there is therefore less demand for competitive fixtures to be accommodated on 3G provision in Dacorum.

### ***Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)***

The Sport England FPM shows that the supply of artificial turf pitches measures 0.27 pitches per 10,000 population. This is well below the regional average of 0.34 pitches per 10,000 population and the national average of 0.35 pitches per 10,000 population.

It is also worth noting that 15.6% of the population in Dacorum do not have access to a car. This is lower than the national average of 24.9% which will affect how mobile the population is and means that a significant proportion will be able to travel to access an AGP.

### ***FPM Supply and demand balance***

When looking at a very simplistic picture of the overall supply and demand across Dacorum, the resident population is estimated to generate a demand for a minimum of just under seven third generation pitches (all surfaces). This compares to a current available supply of just three pitches, giving a supply/demand balance of -1.4 pitches.

The global supply and demand balance for football and hockey is similar with a deficit of around 0.7 pitches for both.

About 81% of demand for all AGP provision in Dacorum is thought to be met by the supply network included in the modelling. This is just below the regional average of 83% and the same as the national average of 81%. The satisfied demand level for football is about 82%.

The model estimates that 59% of the resident demand is retained within Dacorum with 41% of all visits being 'exported' to other local authority areas. However, for football the retained level of demand within Dacorum is higher at 71%.

There is no single location that could meet a significant proportion of the unmet demand and there are no particular concentrations within the Borough.

In terms of aggregated unmet demand, the south and east of Hemel Hempstead around the M1 and M25 motorway junctions and the A41 junctions, additional AGPs could meet high levels of unmet demand for all types of AGP but this is mainly due to accessibility of these locations as any AGP in these areas would be expected to meet demand from beyond Dacorum. Away from these areas, areas to the east of Hemel Hempstead have potential to meet higher levels of unmet demand.

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

The modelling points to there being insufficient pitch space in Dacorum meet demand from football. While in proportional items the potential deficiencies are more significant for hockey, in terms of numbers of users and pitches, the potential deficiencies are greater for football.

### **Football – AGP summary**

- ◀ The FA model suggests a need for four more full size floodlit 3G pitch to service current football training demand in Dacorum. This is further reiterated through local demand, although pricing is also a key factor for clubs.
- ◀ Sport England's FPM suggests that there is need for at least one more AGP to service football.
- ◀ Currently there is not a high demand for competitive fixtures to be played on 3G pitches in Dacorum. However, if the quality of grass pitches deteriorates there may be a future increase in demand to play matches on 3G pitches.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

### PART 3: CRICKET

#### 3.1: Introduction

The Hertfordshire Cricket Board (HCB) is the governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including Dacorum. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnership with the professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

Contact details for the cricket clubs were provided by HCB and Dacorum Sports Network. Consultation was carried out through face to face meetings, phone consultation and online surveys. A total response rate of 76% was achieved. Results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

#### 3.2: Supply

The audit identifies 32 sites providing a total of 40 cricket pitches in Dacorum that are available for community use. Of these, 15 are currently recorded as being available but unused. Seven of these are owned by Berkhamsted School, four cricket pitches at Chesham Fields, two at Kitcheners Fields and one at Haslam Playing Fields.

*Table 3.1: Summary of pitches available for community use*

Analysis area	No. of pitches
Berkhamsted Area	16
Eastern Villages Area	3
Hemel Area	11
Southern Area	5
Tring Area	5
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>40</b>

All education and local authority sites have one cricket pitch at each site. There are three clubs which have two pitches at their home ground; Berkhamsted, Tring Park and Hemel Hempstead Town cricket clubs. Hemel Hempstead Town CC has recently developed its second pitch which has not yet been used. The Club aims for the pitch to be ready to use from next season (2014).

In addition Berkhamsted School has two cricket pitches at Kitcheners Field, one pitch at Haslam Fields and four grass squares at Chesham Fields, although two of the outfielders overlap so cannot be used simultaneously. These are not available in term time as they do not drain well, however on occasion Berkhamsted Cricket Club has access in return for access to the club's practice nets. Halsam Fields is occasionally used by Bucks County Girls Squad but this is not regular.

Currently the following cricket pitches are available for community use but do not have any recorded activity:

- ◀ Ashlyns School
- ◀ Astley Cooper School
- ◀ Bridgewater Middle School
- ◀ Cavendish Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Haslam Playing Fields

## **DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

---

Haslam Fields, Kitcheners Field, Chesham Fields are all owned by Berkhamsted School and have no regular community activity recorded. However the school states that some community activity does take place during school holidays.

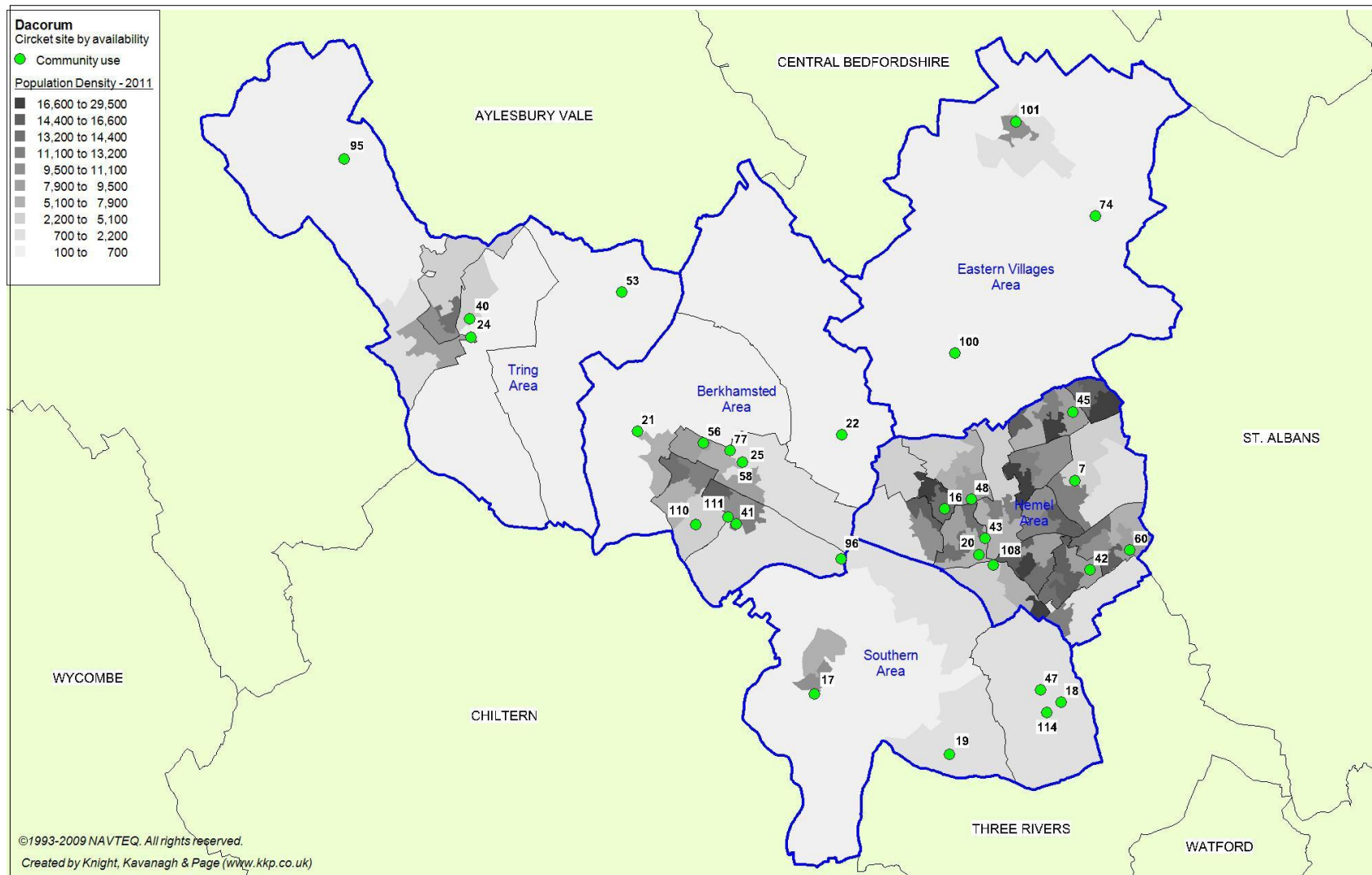
The school has also recently acquired a site at Haresfoot, which houses the prep school. This site does have a small cricket area but this is not appropriate to include in this report as it is undersized.

The majority of these pitches are at school sites so clubs may not be aware of availability. In addition, the school sites provide non turf wickets which may not be suitable for club competition.



# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Figure 3.1: Location of cricket pitches in Dacorum



Please refer to Table 3.7 for the key to the map.

### ***Security of tenure***

Pitch ownership and management across Dacorum is largely dominated by members clubs and 42.5% of pitches are leased or owned by clubs.

13 sites (41%) comprising of 17 pitches (42.5%) are owned by schools, this includes three sites (7 pitches) owned by Berkhamsted School- Kitcheners Field, Halsam Playing Fields and Chesham Fields. Of the sites provided by the education sector regular competitive community use takes place at Hemel Hempstead School by Boxmoor Cricket Club third team, Rudolf Steiner School used by Kings Langley Cricket Club third and fourth team, and Kings Langley School used by Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club fifth team. However, there are no formal community use agreements in place for this usage.

Boxmoor Cricket Club has expressed concern at the future affordability of hiring Hemel Hempstead School. It has been advised by the new business manager at the School that hire fees may increase over next two years from £70 to £260 per match.

Leverstock Green Cricket Club has recently expressed interest in taking on a lease at Bunkers Field but this has been rejected.

In general cricket clubs have a good level of security at their home grounds. Bourne End Cricket Club, playing at Upper Bourne End Lane, Bourne End, is the only exception and has recently reached the end of its lease and is currently in negotiations with the Grand Union Investments to renew it.

### ***Pitch quality***

The quality of cricket pitches in Dacorum has been assessed by undertaking site visits (using non technical assessments as determined by ECB, which take into account playing surface and maintenance):

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The quality of cricket pitches in Dacorum is a huge issue with 46% rated as poor quality and 49% rated as standard quality. Seven of the eleven unused pitches (64% are unused for competitive cricket primarily due to poor quality.

Most clubs are responsible for maintaining their own facilities and have designated grounds men to carry out cutting and maintenance. Clubs surveyed rated their pitch as either standard (46%) or good (54%).

Table 3.3: Summary of pitch quality

Analysis area	Number & quality of pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Berkhamsted Area	4	7	5
Eastern Villages Area	0	2	1
Hemel Area	0	4	7
Southern Area	1	3	1
Tring Area	2	1	2
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>

The local authority has two sites (Warners End Valley and High Street Green) that are used by two teams, booking eight matches per team on Sundays in the season. There is also a large amount of informal and unofficial use which affects the quality of the pitches.

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it affects the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a performance quality standard assessment (PQSA). The PQSA solely looks at the square of cricket pitches to ascertain whether it meets the performance quality standard (PQS) benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. The report sets out any surface issues in order to provide options for remediation together with likely costs to complete ground improvements.

### **Ancillary facilities**

All clubs that were involved in consultation have access to changing facilities, including clubs that did not access ancillary facilities as part of their lease agreement.

There is generally a good standard of changing accommodation available at cricket clubs across Dacorum. Most clubs have access to a cricket pavilion which provides access to hot water and facilities such as a kitchen, showers and toilets. There is a new pavilion at Haslam Playing Fields.

Site assessments suggest that the two Council sites, Warners End and High Street Green, are identified as having poor quality changing accommodation.

Tring Park Cricket Club reports a need to invest in its car parking area. However, has been unable to find suitable funding opportunities. The Council site, Pound Meadow, is situated next door to the Club and does not have a car park which results in users parking on the cricket club, causing considerable wear and tear.

### **Facility development**

A number of clubs cite facility development plans/aspirations to enhance cricket pitches and/or associated clubhouse facilities. The Table below presents a site by site summary of facility developments identified during consultation.

*Table 3.4: Facility development plans*

<b>Site</b>	<b>Development</b>
Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club	Currently converting rooms in pavilion to two additional changing rooms to service the new second ground.
Berkhamsted Cricket Club	Plans to build a second pavilion to be used as storage and a score box.
Leverstock Green Cricket Club	Extension of clubhouse, including the development of two changing rooms, umpires room and making the building DDA compliant. Currently waiting on a Sport England Inspired Facilities bid.
Flamstead Cricket Club (playing at Friendless Lane)	Reports that the current changing rooms are in a state of disrepair and the Club has in place plans with the Parish Council and Flamstead Youth FC to develop the ancillary facilities at the site.

### **Training facilities**

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs use indoor facilities during the winter and during the season and 77% train at their home ground, using practice nets, artificial wickets or other areas at their ground.

Only one club (Bourne End Cricket Club) that responded to consultation does not have practice nets at their ground. In addition, Leverstock Green Cricket Club has artificial nets but due to installation issues are not currently in use. The Club does have the use of mobile nets. Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club has practice nets of a poor standard which need replacing.

Tring Park and Kings Langley cricket clubs both express a need for access to indoor nets. The remaining 85% of responding clubs did not express a need for additional training facilities. However, clubs report that issues relating to hire cost and securing regular peak time access suppresses demand. Clubs that rely on hiring indoor facilities from a third party report cost being prohibitive to access suitable facilities, such as the Knox-Johnston Sports Centre. In addition, clubs need repeated slots at the same time each week to be effective as winter training facilities and often the public sports facilities cannot provide this over a typical ten week period.

### **3.3: Demand**

Demand for cricket pitches in Dacorum tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training (during the summer months).

### **Competitive play**

A total of 208 teams play cricket in Dacorum. Clubs range from smaller clubs offering just the one senior team to those with full senior sections of up to six senior teams and juniors at all groups (i.e. U7 to U17) as is the case at Tring Park Cricket, Hemel Hempstead Town and Berkhamsted cricket clubs.

Table 3.5: Summary of competitive teams playing in Dacorum

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Berkhamsted Area	15	1	44
Eastern Villages Area	5	0	8
Hemel Area	20	1	49
Southern Area	13	0	14
Tring Area	10	0	27
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>142</b>

A number of clubs field both senior and junior cricket teams. However, a small number run only senior teams. Those clubs that do field only senior teams play in a mixture of different leagues.

It is important to note, that as well as usage by teams at the clubs, club pitches are also used by some schools for school fixtures.

The majority of clubs in Dacorum (69%) report that senior membership levels have remained static over the previous three years. Only Great Gaddesden and Tring Park report to have lost a senior team in the previous three years due to less people interested in playing Sunday cricket. Berkhamsted Cricket Club has reported an increase in one women's team and Boxmoor Cricket Club has developed a men's fourth team.

Reported barriers to grow further from clubs include shortage of coaches, players and limited facilities available.

Of responding clubs, 38% report an increase in junior cricket in Dacorum. Berkhamsted Cricket Club has developed from having no junior section in 2007 to having 16 junior teams currently. It has no plans to increase further. Bovingdon Cricket Club has recently established a junior section with an U7 and U8 team. The Club plans to introduce a new U7 team each year as the older teams move up. Long Marston Cricket Club ceased to deliver junior cricket entirely this season but plan to restart the junior section with three teams next season.

Peak time demand for cricket pitches in Dacorum is split evenly between Sunday morning and midweek. This is mainly due to the Hertfordshire Junior League which runs both midweek and Sunday mornings, plus junior training that occurs at clubs when there are no fixtures taking place.

### ***Women's and girls' cricket***

There are two women's teams playing in Dacorum, one at Berkhamsted Cricket Club, which currently plays friendly fixtures; and one at Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club which compete in the North London Women's Cricket League. There are three clubs that offer girl's cricket at U11 and U13 level, Berkhamsted Cricket Club, Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club and Tring Park Cricket Club.

### **Informal demand**

The Council provides two cricket pitches at two sites (Warners End Valley and High Street Green). Both were used by a single club last season, both are used for casual and unofficial use.

Some cricket pitches in Dacorum are located on common land:

- ◀ Bovingdon Green - Bovingdon Cricket Club
- ◀ The Common Vicarage Lane - Kings Langley Cricket Club
- ◀ Chipperfield Common - Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club

As such clubs report that these pitches are also used for unofficial use and sometimes football training during winter. Therefore 10 match equivalent sessions per season have been added to the capacity analysis account for this.

### **Displaced demand**

Displaced teams can be described as Dacorum registered teams that use pitches outside of the Area for their home fixtures, either by choice or no other option. The following table summarises the displaced demand identified through consultation.

*Table 3.6: Summary of displaced demand expressed by clubs*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Displaced demand</b>
Leverstock Green Cricket Club	3rd Team	Parmiters School, Watford
Leverstock Green Cricket Club	4th Team	Parmiters School, Watford
Long Marston Cricket Club	3rd team	Mentmore Cricket Club, Leighton Buzzard
Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club	Saturday 3rd team	Met Police Sports Ground, Bushey
Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club	Saturday 4th team	Old Owens Sports Ground, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire

Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club has developed a second pitch at its home ground which will be ready to use next season (2014). Its Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> team intends to be based here.

Leverstock Green and Hemel Hempstead Town cricket clubs both state the reasons that their teams play out of the Area is due to the quality and accessibility of pitches in Dacorum.

Long Marston Cricket Club access a second pitch in Buckinghamshire as it is situated on the border of the two counties and this is most accessible to the Club.

### **Latent demand**

Unmet demand defined as the number of teams that could be fielded were sufficient pitches available. Consultation suggests that there are currently no clubs that have unmet demand in Dacorum. However, Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club did suggest that it may lose at least one senior team due to lack of local quality pitches available. Leverstock Green and Boxmoor cricket clubs both state that they are limited to grow due to lack of facilities.

In addition to latent demand identified by clubs, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in cricket but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 573 people in Dacorum.

Almost 30% of the population that would like to participate in cricket is the segment 'Tim - settling down males'. Of the 573 people, 24 (4.2%) are females; the largest segment of which is 'Paula - single mums with financial pressures, childcare issues and little time for pleasure'.

### 3.4: Capacity analysis

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

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a season rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability i.e. only one match is generally played per pitch per day at the weekend or evening during the week. Wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a pitch to accommodate match sessions is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current pitch stock available for cricket in Dacorum. It illustrates,

- ◀ The number of grass and artificial cricket wickets per pitch
- ◀ The number of competitive matches per season per pitch

As a guide, the ECB suggests that a good quality wicket should be able to take:

- ◀ 5 matches per season per grass wicket
- ◀ 60 matches per season per synthetic wicket

This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

Table 3.7: Cricket pitch capacity

PPS Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Community use	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Total number of wickets		Play (matches/season)	Capacity (matches/season)	Capacity rating	Pavilion quality	Comments
							Grass	Artificial *					
21	The Meadow - Northchurch Cricket Club	Northchurch Parish Council	Yes-secured	Berkhamsted	1	Standard	16	0	93	80	13	Standard	Managed by Northchurch Sports Association. Clubhouse/ pavilion also services adjacent site.
22	Potten End Recreation Ground - Potten End Cricket Club	Club	Yes-secured	Berkhamsted	1	Good	8	0	63	40	23	Standard	Good quality pitch which is heavily overused.
25	Kitcheners Field, Berkhamsted School	School	Limited	Berkhamsted	2	Good	13	0	0	65	-130	Good	Used by Berkhamsted CC occasionally. However, not formally available for community use.
						Standard	13	0	0	65			
41	Ashlyns School	School	Yes-unused	Berkhamsted	1	Poor	0	1	0	60	-60	Not available	Unused due to its poor quality. Ashlyns School plays its matches at Berkhamsted Cricket Club.
56	Bridgewater Middle School	School	Yes-unused	Berkhamsted	1	Poor	0	1	0	60	-60	Not available	Unused due to its poor quality and lack of access to changing rooms.
58	Berkhamsted Cricket Club	Club	Yes-secured	Berkhamsted	2	Good	13	0	207	110	97	Good	
						Good	9	0					
77	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Little Gaddesden Parish Council	Yes	Berkhamsted	1	Poor	12	0	12	60	-48	Adequate	Used by Little Gaddesden Cricket Club which has one adult team. If pitch quality were improved there would be spare capacity to accommodate more usage.
96	Bourne End Cricket Club	Grand Union Investments Ltd	Yes-unsecured	Berkhamsted	1	Poor	8	0	12	40	-28	Good	If pitch quality were improved there would be spare capacity to accommodate more usage.
110	Haslam Playing Fields	School	Yes- unused	Berkhamsted	1	Standard	2	0	3	10			
111	Chesham Fields	School	Yes- unused	Berkhamsted	4	Standard	4	1	0	70 <sup>7</sup>			
108	Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club	Leased to the Club from Boxmoor Trust	Yes-secured	Hemel	2	Standard	14	0	159	70	44	Good	Poor pitch quality on one pitch is further affecting capacity.
						Poor	9	0					
16	Warners End Valley	Council	Yes	Hemel	1	Poor	9	0	10	45	-35	Poor	Unused due to poor quality. 10 match equivalent sessions per season have been added to account for casual/unofficial use.
20	Boxmoor Oval - Boxmoor Cricket Club	Leased to the Club from the Boxmoor Trust	Yes-secured	Hemel	1	Standard	12	0	120	60	60	Standard	Club owns the pavilion and reports that size of changing rooms may be an issue in future and would need umpires room if promoted. Pitch is significantly overused and quality is affected.
42	Longdean School	School	Yes-unused	Hemel	1	Poor	0	1	0	60	-60	Standard	Unused due to its poor quality.
43	Hemel Hempstead School	School	Yes-not secured	Hemel	1	Poor	0	1	24	60	-36	Not available	Used by Boxmoor Cricket Club 3 <sup>rd</sup> team.
45	Astley Cooper School	School	Yes-unused	Hemel	1	Standard	0	1	0	60	-60	Standard	Unused due to quality and lack of access to changing rooms.
48	The Cavendish School	School	Yes-unused	Hemel	1	Poor	0	1	0	60	-60	Poor	Unused due to poor quality.
60	Leverstock Green Cricket Club	Leased to the Club	Yes-secured	Hemel	1	Standard	11	0	99	55	44	Good	Pitch is heavily overused which is affecting pitch quality. This limits capacity at the Club. Club must use alternative venues outside area for fixtures

<sup>7</sup> Capacity is limited to two grass pitches as outfield of two pitches overlap



**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

PPS Site ID	Site name	Ownership	Community use	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Total number of wickets		Play (matches/season)	Capacity (matches/season)	Capacity rating	Pavilion quality	Comments
							Grass	Artificial *					
7	High Street Green	Council	Yes	Hemel	1	Poor	10	0	10	50	-40	Poor	Unused due to poor quality. 10 match equivalent sessions per season have been added to account for casual/unofficial use.
114	Rudolf Steiner School	School	Yes-secured	Southern	1	Good	5	0	25	25		Good	Used by Kings Langley Cricket Club to accommodate 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> team. Changing facilities available for community use.
17	Bovingdon Green - Bovingdon Cricket Club	Leased to the Club from DBC – Common Land	Yes-secured	Southern	1	Standard	10	0	38	50	-22	Good	Queen Elizabeth II Field since 2011. 10 match equivalent sessions per season have been added to account for casual/unofficial use. Although ten wickets exist, only six The strips at the end of the square are of poorer quality so used less, thus reducing the pitch capacity
18	The Common, Vicarage Lane - Kings Langley Cricket Club	Leased to the Club from DBC – Common Land	Yes-secured	Southern	1	Good	12	0	82	60	22	Good	10 match equivalent sessions per season have been added to account for casual/unofficial use. Pitch is already overplayed due to the number of fixtures being played.
19	Chipperfield Common - Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	Leased to the Club from DBC – Common Land	Yes-secured	Southern	1	Standard	13	1	97	65	32	Good	Although the pitch is overplayed juniors may be using the artificial wicket. 10 match equivalent sessions per season have been added to account for casual/unofficial use.
47	Kings Langley School	School	Yes-unsecured	Southern	1	Poor	10	0	12	50	-38	Not available	Used by Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club 5 <sup>th</sup> team
100	Great Gaddesden Cricket Club	Leased to the Club from Halsey Estate	Yes-secured	Eastern Villages	1	Standard	11	0	24	55	-31	Good	Club reports that quality of the grass could be better and requires more work to be done during the season on repair and feeding.
101	Cavendish Road Recreation Ground	Leased from DBC and sublet to Markyate Football & Cricket Club	Yes-unused	Eastern Villages	1	Poor	8	0	0	40	-40	Good	Unused due to poor quality. Pitch is overmarked with two football pitches.
74	Friendless Lane Recreation Ground	Flamstead Parish Council	Yes-unsecured	Eastern Villages	1	Standard	11	1	66	55	11	Poor	Used by Flamstead Cricket Club which indicates it has no current lease on the facility. Although the pitch is overplayed juniors may be using the artificial wicket.
24	Tring Park Cricket Club	Club	Yes-secured	Tring	2	Good	14	0	198	70	48	Good	Used extensively by the Club, plus outfield used at football pitches for Tring Tornados out of season
40	Tring School	School	Yes-unused	Tring	1	Poor	0	1	0	60	-60	Poor	Unused due to its poor quality.
53	Stocks Road Recreation Ground	Aldbury Parish Council	Yes-unused	Tring	1	Poor	8	0	0	40	-40	Poor – toilets only	Unused due to its poor quality and lack of changing rooms.
95	Long Marston Cricket Club	Club	Yes	Tring	1	Good	15	1	36	75	-39	Good	Ground is available on request to the local school (Cheddington). Uses a second pitch two miles away in Bucks.

\*Please note that the use of artificial wickets is not sanctioned by the leagues and therefore it is assumed that where a square contains grass and artificial wickets that all adult play takes place on the grass wickets.

### 3.5 Supply and demand analysis

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

After identifying pitches with spare capacity, the next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified capacity can be deemed 'actual spare capacity' i.e. is it available within the peak period (which in this case is midweek when 53% of matches are played).

There are seven artificial wickets/pitches which are currently unused located on education sites:

- ◀ Ashlyns School
- ◀ Bridgewater Middle School
- ◀ Chesham Fields (Berkhamsted School)
- ◀ Longdean School
- ◀ Astley Cooper School
- ◀ The Cavendish School
- ◀ Tring School

The artificial wicket at the Astley Cooper School may soon be lost to develop an additional football pitch on the site.

All are these pitches are unused due to quality issues and spare capacity across these sites equates to 360 match sessions per season. Although it should be noted that artificial wickets limit usability for adult cricket. As such these sites have not been included within the spare capacity figures. Five other sites (grass wickets) are currently unused for regular competitive cricket:

- ◀ Stocks Road Recreation Ground (Aldbury Parish Council)
- ◀ Cavendish Road Recreation Ground (Markyate Football & Cricket Club)
- ◀ Haslam Playing Fields
- ◀ Chesham Fields
- ◀ Kitcheners Field

Chesham Road is a site owned by Berkhamsted School with four cricket pitches that are available for community use, but not during term time due to poor drainage on the pitch.

As of this season one new Saturday cricket booking has been secured at Warners End.

Bovingdon Cricket Club displays some spare capacity at its site currently; however, it is intending to introduce a new team each year and will use this site to accommodate the new activity. Therefore its spare capacity has not been included within the figures.

Long Marston Cricket Club stopped providing junior cricket for the 2013 season, which would explain the spare capacity at its site. However, the club intends to restart the junior section in 2014, with four junior teams. Therefore its spare capacity has not been included within the figures.

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

The following table summarises the amount of actual spare capacity on cricket pitches in Dacorum.

*Table 2.11: Actual spare capacity summary*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Pitches available in the peak period</b>
Berkhamsted Area	2
Eastern Villages Area	2
Hemel Area	2
Southern Area	0
Tring Area	1
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>7</b>

### **Scenarios**

#### *Poor quality*

The quality of cricket pitches in Dacorum is a huge issue with 14 rated as poor quality and 10 rated as standard quality. Although there is not a significant amount of usage on these sites as most are already disused (approx. 60 match sessions per season), there is not enough spare capacity on good quality pitches to accommodate this level of use.

#### *Displaced demand*

Displaced demand in Dacorum equates to the need for 2.5 cricket pitches to be provided. Although actual spare capacity could accommodate this without the need for new pitches, the quality of these pitches and associated ancillary facilities may be affecting clubs willingness to use them.

#### *Overplay*

Nine sites containing cricket pitches are overplayed in Dacorum by a total of 907 matches per season (regardless of quality). On the basis of an average of an average of 12 matches per season per wicket on a 10 wicket pitch, this creates demand for 7.5 cricket pitches to be provided all being played at peak time.

Boxmoor Cricket Club has had a recent surge in junior cricket over the last six years from 0-8 junior teams. The Club is keen to develop one more senior team but is unsure where it will play.

Berkhamsted Cricket Club pitches are being overplayed. Since the Club has no plans to expand, this is currently manageable. It has occasional access to Kitcheners Field (owned by Berkhamsted School) which is not reflected in the above table, so the club are at capacity.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Table 3.8: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (18-55)	37,128	63	599	39,727	66.3	4.3
Senior Womens (18-55)	37,383	2	18691	40,000	2.1	0.1
Junior Boys (7-17)	9,745	130	76	10,427	138.0	9.0
Junior Girls (7-17)	9,441	12	787	10,102	12.8	0.8

The additional future teams would equate to the need for access to two pitches (to accommodate almost 14 teams).

### Cricket summary

- ◀ There are 40 cricket pitches available for community use in Dacorum, accommodating 208 teams (including senior men, women and juniors).
- ◀ Non-technical site assessments generally score the quality of available cricket pitches as poor (46%) or standard (49%) quality.
- ◀ The majority of clubs have security of tenure on the site they are based. Bourne End CC is currently renegotiating the lease on its ground. Flamstead Cricket Club indicate no lease on the facility, however, this will be crucial to attract funding for the planned developments.
- ◀ Education sites offer a significant supply of cricket pitches within Dacorum, most of which are available for community use. However, most are artificial wickets of poor quality and in addition, artificial pitches limits usability for adult cricket.
- ◀ In order to accommodate displaced and future demand, improving pitch quality at school and local authority sites might help meet the expressed demand but this may be unlikely to happen.
- ◀ Furthermore, education sites are not always accessible in practice to clubs, due to school policy, lack of ancillary facilities or logistical arrangements, so are not a realistic solution to the lack of provision
- ◀ Nine sites are being overplayed to accommodate the amount of teams and matches. The capacity at Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club is due to increase next season when the new pitch becomes available. The quality of these overplayed pitches is likely to being affected.
- ◀ After taking into account actual spare capacity (albeit quality issues need to be addressed), there is still a need to provide 7.5 cricket pitches in Dacorum to meet overplay and displaced demand.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## PART 4: RUGBY UNION

### 4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body responsible for grassroots and elite rugby in England. Hertfordshire Rugby administers the sport across the sub-region. The rugby union playing season operates from September to April.

#### **Consultation**

There are now three rugby union clubs playing in Dacorum; Hemel (Camelot), Tring and also Berkhamsted which is a new club playing as of September 2013. Hemel and Tring were both met face to face. Results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

### 4.2: Supply

In total, there are 37 grass rugby union pitches in Dacorum located across 13 sites. These are all available for community use and 20 are used. The remaining 17 pitches are all located on education sites and are available but unused for community use according to the providers.

*Table 4.1: Summary of pitches available for community use*

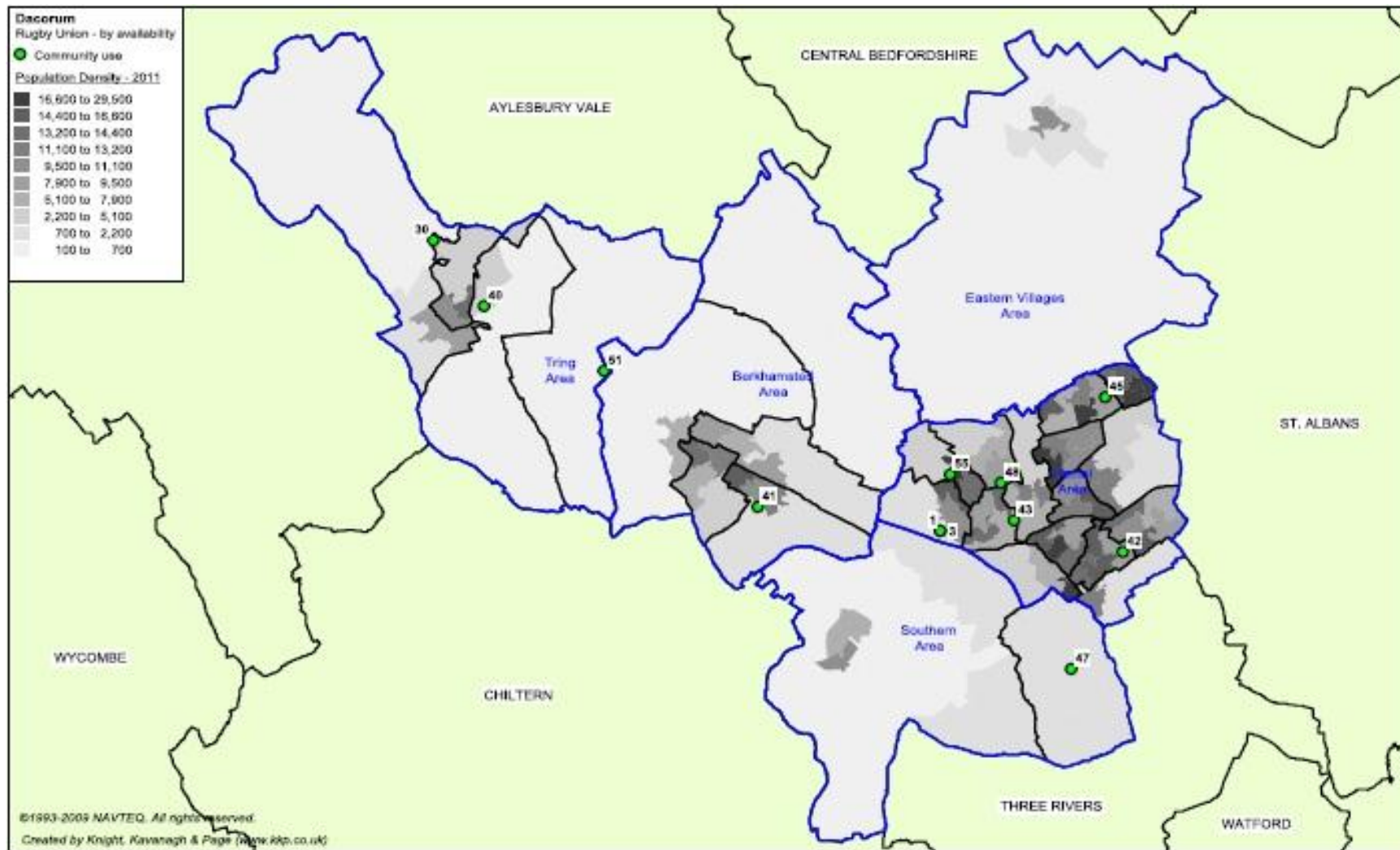
Analysis area	No. of available pitches	
	Senior	Mini/midi
Berkhamsted Area	2	6
Eastern Villages Area	0	0
Hemel Area	8	7
Southern Area	2	0
Tring Area	6	6
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>

Please note that the audit only assesses dedicated, line marked pitches and it is likely that younger age groups will play across senior pitches or on informal pitches marked out with cones. Where mini/midi rugby is played across senior pitches, this has been accounted for as match equivalent sessions.

For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to RFU 'Grass Pitches for Rugby' at: [http://www.rfu.com/managingrugby/clubdevelopment/facilitiesandequipment/~/\\_media/files/2009/facilitiesandequipment/facilities%20guidance%20note%202.ashx](http://www.rfu.com/managingrugby/clubdevelopment/facilitiesandequipment/~/_media/files/2009/facilitiesandequipment/facilities%20guidance%20note%202.ashx)

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Figure 4.1: Location of rugby pitches in Dacorum



# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Please refer to Table 4.6 for the key to the map.

## **Ownership/management**

Hemel RFC plays across two sites on Chaulden Lane. The main site is leased to the Club (containing three senior and six mini/midi pitches) from the Boxmoor Trust. The adjacent site known as Chaulden Playing Fields is owned by the Council and is also used by the Club. It contains one senior and one mini/midi pitch. The Club is currently in the process of exploring opportunities for a land swap with Boxmoor Trust which owns adjoining land. This would allow for consolidation of pitches and bring them all closer together.

As a new club, Berkhamsted RFC currently rents a pitch at Lockhart Field (owned by Berkhamsted & Hemel Hockey Club) on a season by season basis.

Tring RFC playing at Pendley Sports Club has a long term lease (125 years) on its pitches (three senior and four mini/midi pitches). Three age group training/playing sessions on Sundays occur at Pendley Activity Meadow as space at the Club ground is restricted. This land is adjacent to the Club and donated by Pendley Manor Hotel. The slope between pitches one and two is also used out of necessity but is not suitable.

In addition, it is now a 44% shareholder in Pendley Sports Club (parent company) which is made up of five different sports clubs. The Club is looking to develop the clubhouse, expand and also has aspirations to purchase the field adjacent to Pendley Sports Club but there are leasing complications.

## **Pitch quality**

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and level of drainage. Each is scored and classified in one of three categories. These represent actions required to improve site quality. A breakdown for each of the two scoring elements and three respective categories is provided below.

*Table 4.3: Definition of maintenance categories*

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

*Table 4.4: Definition of drainage categories*

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

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

These categories have been translated into the following overall pitch quality ratings:

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

It should be noted that site visits are 'non technical' but take account of drainage and maintenance as provided by site owners/managers.

Site assessments suggest that the quality of pitches across Dacorum is generally good with club pitches being classified as M2/D1 category (i.e. silt drainage is required). However, natural drainage of pitches in Dacorum is particularly good, so the need for silt/pipe drainage should be determined on a site by site basis in conjunction with clubs and the RFU.

The senior pitch located at Lockhart Field (used by Berkhamsted RFC) is currently recorded as being of standard quality (M1/D1) with some minor improvements to maintenance programme being required. It is also overmarked with a lacrosse pitch and therefore, the future capacity of the pitch may be affected if the Club grows and produces more teams.

Pitches located at education sites are generally recorded as being of poor quality (M0/D0) and may be an indication of why they remain available but unused. Tring RFC occasionally uses Tring School (which is a strong rugby union school) as an overspill site as and when required.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

All the clubs playing in Dacorum have access to changing facilities. Tring RFC reports that its changing rooms are of adequate quality and could be improved. Hemel RFC reports that poor wheelchair access and none DDA compliant toilets inhibits work with children with disabilities.

In addition, Hemel RFC is currently in the process of taking over management of the small changing facility on Chaulden Lane from the Council.

### **4.3: Demand**

Demand for rugby pitches in Dacorum falls within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

### ***Competitive play***

The three clubs playing in Dacorum provide a total of 42 teams. In addition to this, Hemel RFC also has a women's team. However, they do not play on a regular basis and only play friendly fixtures. Furthermore, two of the junior teams playing in Hemel are junior girls' teams.



## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Tring RFC did run a women's team, however this had to end due to inadequate changing facilities, which is also why the Club do not have provision for junior girls. Any girls wishing to continue to play after 13 generally go to Chesham RFC.

*Table 4.5: Summary of competitive teams playing in Dacorum*

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
	Senior	Juniors	Mini
Berkhamsted Area	-	-	-
Eastern Villages Area	-	-	-
Hemel Area	6	7	19
Southern Area	-	-	-
Tring Area	7	8	33
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>52</b>

Peak time demand for senior rugby pitches is Saturday, with most senior matches taking place in the afternoon. However, there are almost as many junior matches taking place on senior sized pitches on Sunday mornings.

### ***Training***

Rugby training is commonly accommodated on existing competitive grass pitches. Although Hemel RFC does have a dedicated training area it still has to use its match pitches for some training. For this reason it is highlighted in the Hertfordshire RFU Facility Plan as a priority site for floodlighting and has recently secured part funding from RFU for this and is now seeking options for the match funding.

Tring RFC also trains on its match pitches and is able to accommodate its training needs on DIY training areas with temporary lighting. The RFU suggests that the Club has a longer term requirement for permanent floodlighting.

Due to demand, Tring RFC also uses Pendley Activity Meadow and a sloped area between pitch one and two to accommodate all training.

### ***Latent and unmet demand***

Tring RFC is short of pitches to accommodate both current and future demand and has actively been pursuing land options to be able to create more pitches, including converting nearby agricultural land into pitches.

In addition to latent demand identified by clubs, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in rugby union in Dacorum but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 420 people. 33.6% of the population that would like to participate in rugby union is the segment 'Ben - competitive male urbanites'. Of the 420 people, 25 (4.6%) are females; the largest segment of which is 'Chloe - young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim'.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## 4.4: 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. At minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (with the exception of where mini pitches are provided).
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 a-side rugby and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U7-12) play across half one adult team i.e. two teams per senior pitch.
- ◀ For senior and junior teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played 'away').
- ◀ For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half one adult team.
- ◀ All male adult club rugby takes place on a Saturday afternoon.
- ◀ All U7-18 rugby takes place on a Sunday..
- ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by addition of team equivalents.
- ◀ Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

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

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	1	2	3
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	2	3	4
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D2)	2.5	3.5	5

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

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

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

Table 4.6: Rugby union quality and capacity summary for sites used for community use

PPS Site ID	Site name	Community use	Ownership	Analysis area	Pitch type	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play *	Site capacity *	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-) *	Pavilion rating	Comments
1	Hemel (Camelot) RFC	Yes	Boxmoor Trust lease to Club	Hemel	Senior	Good M2 / D1	3	14.5	12	2.5	Adequate	Taking into account training on the match pitches, this pitch is played to capacity.
111	Chesham Fields	Yes-unused	Berkhamsted School	Berkhamsted	Mini	M1 / D0	6	0	12	-12	Standard	Part of school development plans are to install proper drainage so that winter usage is not restricted. 6 pitches are undersized.
					Senior	M1 / D0	1	0	2	-2		
3	Chaulden Playing Fields	Yes	Council	Hemel	Senior	Standard M0 / D1	1	2	2		None	Over marked with mini pitches and therefore used to capacity.
					Mini	Standard M0 / D1	6	9.5	12	-2.5		Although it appears that there is spare capacity, these pitches are over marked onto other football/rugby pitches.
30	Pendley Sports Centre	Yes	Club	Tring	Mini	Standard M0 / D1	6	33	22	11	Standard	Used by Tring RFC. No spare capacity at peak time.
					Senior	Good M2 / D1	3	15	12	3		Used by Tring RFC. No spare capacity at peak time.
40	Tring School	Yes-unused	School	Tring	Senior	M0 / D0	2	0	2	-2	None	No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs
41	Ashlyns School	Yes-unused	School	Berkhamsted	Senior	M0 / D0	1	0	1	-1	None	No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs
42	Longdean School	Yes-unused	School	Hemel	Senior	M0 / D0	1	0	1	-1	None	No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs
43	Hemel Hempstead School	Yes-unused	School	Hemel	Senior	M0 / D0	1	0	1	-1	None	No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs
45	Astley Cooper School	Yes-unused	School	Hemel	Senior	M0 / D2	1	0	2.5	-2.5	None	No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs
47	Kings Langley School	Yes-unused	School	Southern	Senior	M0 / D0	2	0	2	-2	None	No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs
48	The Cavendish School	Yes-unused	School	Hemel	Senior	M0 / D1	1	0	2	-2	None	No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs
51	Lockhart Field	Yes	Berkhamsted and HH Hockey Club	Tring	Senior	Standard M0 / D1	1	1	2	-1	Standard	Used by new team Berkhamsted RFC. No spare capacity at peak time.
55	John F Kennedy School	Yes-unused		Hemel	Mini	M0 / D0	1	0	1	-1	None	No ancillary facilities available so no use to clubs

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## 4.5 Supply and demand analysis

### *Spare capacity*

Although some pitches are identified as having spare capacity, there is no actual spare capacity for these pitches to be used within the peak period. Improving pitch quality may go some way towards increasing capacity. However, in the longer term new pitches will be required to meet demand expressed.

Given that Tring RFU reports that it is short of pitches to accommodate both current and future demand options should be explored for greater usage of Tring School if pitch quality improvements can be made in partnership with the Club.

Increasing access to other, currently unused school sites is currently unrealistic as these facilities are generally unused as they do not have accessible changing room or toilets and are sub-standard for club usage.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Overplay*

Although no pitches are overplayed in Dacorum, pitches are either played to capacity or not available within the peak period to meet unmet and future demand expressed by clubs.

#### **Future demand**

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

*Table 4.7: Team generation rates*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	25,697	12	1:2141	27,496	12.8	0.8
Senior Women (19-45)	25,878	1	1:25878	27,690	1.1	0.1
Junior Boys (13-18)	5,358	13	1:412	5,733	13.9	0.9
Junior Girls (13-18)	5,272	2	1:2636	5,641	2.1	0.1
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	10,333	11	1:939	11,056	11.8	0.8

The additional future teams would equate to the need for access to one senior pitch (to accommodate almost three teams). Teams could be accommodated at currently unused school sites if quality was improved to a standard high enough to play competitively on.

As a new club Berkhamsted RFC is also likely to grow to produce more teams in the future, particularly juniors.

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

### Rugby union summary

- ◀ There are 37 grass rugby union pitches in Dacorum located across 13 sites in Dacorum. These are all available for community use and 20 are used. The remaining 17 pitches are all located on education sites and are available but unused for community use according to the providers
- ◀ The three clubs playing in Dacorum provide a total of 80 teams. In addition to this, Hemel RFC also has a women's team. However, they do not play on a regular basis and only play friendly fixtures.
- ◀ Although some improvements may be required to drainage systems, the quality of club pitches across Dacorum is generally good. The poor quality of school sites relates to a lack of usage by rugby clubs. Tring School is only occasionally used by Tring RFC for this reason.
- ◀ Tring RFC is short of pitches to accommodate both current and future demand and has actively been pursuing land options to be able to create more pitches, including converting nearby agricultural land into pitches.
- ◀ There is no spare capacity within the existing used stock of rugby union pitches to accommodate further usage. However, given the number of rugby pitches at education sites which are unused, this level of future demand could be accommodated on existing provision, albeit improvements to pitch quality may also be required.
- ◀ According to clubs education sites are also unused because they do not have changing rooms or toilets open at the weekend and are substandard for club usage
- ◀ It should be recognised for rugby, as a sport that is almost entirely based around club sites that use off-site school rugby pitches to meet needs is not usually a desirable long term option due to the potential club fragmentation issues that this creates.
- ◀ Provision of an IRB 3G pitch could be the solution to providing training facilities for the rugby clubs in Dacorum.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

### **PART 5: RUGBY LEAGUE**

#### **5.1: Introduction**

The governing body for rugby league is the Rugby Football League (RFL) and Dacorum sits regionally within London.

In Dacorum rugby league competitions and junior/school activity is organised by the only club, Hemel Stags RFLC.

The season runs from February to September. Although nationally some rugby league teams play throughout the winter months, the teams in Dacorum play in the summer season.

#### ***Consultation***

In addition to consultation with RFL, Hemel Stags RLFC was consulted face to face. Results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

#### **5.2: Current provision**

There are three rugby league pitches in Dacorum, all used by the Hemel Hempstead Stags RLFC located on Pennine Way in Hemel. The Club leases one pitch from the Council, which is floodlit rugby league and used for first team fixtures. Two additional pitches sit alongside this pitch and are hired to the Club from the Council. All three pitches are senior sized, however. Pitch 3 is suitable only for U12 and below due to the size of the posts.

#### ***Pitch quality***

The first team pitch is rated as good quality and has recently invested in covered seating to meet league requirements following promotion to Championship One. The second and third pitches are, however, rated as poor quality.

#### ***Training facilities***

Rugby league training all takes place on the two pitches hired by the club. The Club also has an artificial grass pitch, which was built for the teams to train on. However, this is not full size and the clubs requirements have outgrown the facility which is now hired out primarily for five a side football.

#### ***Ancillary facilities***

The Club has changing and shower facilities which are rated as standard quality. Football teams also use these facilities as neighbouring Pennine Way does not have these facilities. It is unknown how long this arrangement can continue. It does have facility plans to develop a new changing room block but does not currently have the secured funds.

Car parking is also an issue for the Club as it relies on the local authority car park, which is shared by users of Pennine Way. It is too small to support the requirements of both facilities and is a rubble surface.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## 5.3: Demand

The Club provides three senior men's, three junior boys and five mixed primary rugby league teams and has waiting list.

Table 5.1: Summary of demand by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of competitive rugby league teams		
	Senior	Juniors	Primary
Hemel	3	3	5
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

Peak time for senior rugby league is Sundays, with the majority of teams (82%) accessing pitches at this time.

The Club currently has a senior men's team playing in the Kingstone Press Championship One League and the reserve team play in the London Premier League. It has no plans to actively increase the number of teams it provides.

## 5.4 Supply and demand analysis

Due to the amount of training taking place on the second and third pitches both are slightly overplayed. If the quality of these pitches were improved this would help to reduce the amount of overplay.

The Club does not have any demand for more pitches in Dacorum and has no current plans to increase numbers and current pitches meet the requirements of club activity.

### Rugby league summary

- ◆ There is one rugby league team in Dacorum, providing rugby league activity for the whole area. The ground has a first team pitch which has floodlights and seating to meet league requirements.
- ◆ The second and third pitches are essential for all other club and school based rugby league.
- ◆ The club provides ancillary facilities for teams playing at Pennine Way which has an impact on the club. It is not a sustainable situation.
- ◆ There is no planned expansion and the Club currently has facilities to meet the requirements of the sport in Dacorum.
- ◆ There is no demand for additional pitches.
- ◆ It will be important to keep the pitches to a useable standard to ensure the sport continues in Dacorum.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

### PART 6: HOCKEY

#### 6.1: Introduction

Governance of the sport is devolved by England Hockey (EH) at a regional and local level to regional and county associations. The game is played predominantly on sand based/filled AGPs. Competitive play cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G) although 40mm pitches may be suitable, in some instances, for beginner training and are preferred to poor grass or tarmac surfaces.

#### **Consultation**

Both clubs based in Dacorum; Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club and Tring Hockey Club were consulted with face to face. Results were used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

#### 6.2: Supply

There is only one full sized AGP suitable for hockey in Dacorum which is the sand based pitch located at Tring School (managed by Dacorum Sports Trust, Tring Sportspace). There are also two small sided pitches at Hemel Hempstead School and at Berkhamsted School. These pitches are suitable for training but cannot accommodate competitive fixtures. There has been a reduction in recent years of sand based AGPs suitable for competitive hockey with the resurfacing of Cavendish School and Berkhamsted Sportspace from sand based to 3G surfaces.

*Table 6.1: Current provision*

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch size	No. of AGPs	Floodlighting
40	Tring School	Tring	Full size	1	Yes
43	The Hemel Hempstead School	Hemel	Half size	1	No
112	Castle Campus (Berkhamsted School)	Berkhamsted	Half size (L-Shaped)	1	No

#### **Ownership/management**

All sand based AGPs in Dacorum are located on education sites. Hockey clubs in Dacorum are therefore purely reliant on education provision to participate in hockey.

#### **Potential AGPs**

Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club has aspirations to build an AGP at its clubhouse site (Lockhart Field) which previously had grass pitches and now offers changing and social/catering facilities. The Club would, however, need planning permission as well as some external funding.

A recent bid from Berkhamsted School to provide an AGP in the centre of Berkhamsted was supported by Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club but was rejected at a planning appeal.



# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## 6.3: Demand

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

### *Competitive play*

In total, two clubs play competitive fixtures in Dacorum, fielding a total of 24 teams. All senior play takes place on Saturdays and the majority of junior play takes place on Sundays.

*Table 6.2: Competitive hockey teams playing in Dacorum*

Name of club	No. of competitive teams playing on AGPs in Dacorum				Membership trends over previous three years
	Senior men	Senior women	Vets	Juniors	
Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club	5	3	-	4	After a re-launch of the Club five years ago (2008) there has been a steady increase in the number of adult members and a large increase in the number of junior members.
Tring Hockey Club	3	3	2	4	
<b>Total number of teams</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	

### *Unmet demand*

Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club reports unmet demand for one men's and one ladies team. The newest ladies team has only recently being developed yet the Club reports unmet demand for another team. The home pitch at Tring School (shared with Tring Hockey Club) is not sufficient to accommodate all teams. Some teams therefore play at sites outside of Dacorum. Tring Hockey Club also reports unmet demand for an U14 girls' team and has teams playing outside of Dacorum.

### *Latent demand*

In addition to unmet demand identified by clubs, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in hockey but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 233 people in Dacorum. 15.9% of the population that would like to participate in hockey is the segment 'Chloe - young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim'. Of the 233 people, 137 (58.8%) are females. When using team generation rates this latent demand would not be enough to create any new teams.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

### ***Displaced demand***

Due to having only one full sized sand based AGP in Dacorum many of the teams must travel outside of the area to access facilities for both training and matches. On average, each week four teams from Tring Hockey Club and two teams from Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club must play at venues outside of Dacorum because the pitch at Tring School is unable to accommodate all matches. Furthermore, the senior leagues stipulate that all fixtures must be played on Saturdays. Venues used outside of Dacorum include RAF Halton, Meadowcroft, Garston and Chorley Wood.

Training is also an issue for Dacorum clubs due to the large number of teams that need to be accommodated. Both clubs access facilities outside of the Borough at RAF Halton, in addition to using Tring School, in order to fulfil all training requirements.

The fact that both clubs require players, parents and officials to travel significant distances to play home matches is restricting the potential from both clubs. It makes the proposition of playing or supporting wither clubs far less attractive than if home matches were more local.

### **6.4: Quality**

The pitch at Tring School has been resurfaced in the previous 12 months and is of good quality. The two small sized pitches are rated as standard quality.

*Table 6.3: Summary of quality of AGPs*

<b>KKP Ref</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Surface and pitch type</b>	<b>Non-technical quality rating</b>
40	Tring School	Full Size Sand Filled	Good
43	The Hemel Hempstead School	Half Size Sand Filled	Standard
112	Castle Campus (Berkhamsted School)	Half Size (L-Shape) Sand Filled	Standard

### ***Ancillary facilities***

Both clubs use Tring School for competitive matches. There are changing rooms available to the teams but both must travel off-site to access teas and bar facilities. Tring Hockey Club uses facilities at Tring Park Cricket Club and Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club has its own site (with grass pitches) at Lockhart Field.

### ***Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)***

The Sport England FPM shows that the supply of hockey pitches (0.07) per 1,000 population is much lower than the national average of 0.24 pitches. It is also worth noting that 15.6% of the population in Dacorum do not have access to a car. This is lower than the national average of 24.9% which will affect how mobile the population is and means that a significant proportion will be able to travel to access an AGP.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

### ***FPM Supply and demand balance***

When looking at a very simplistic picture of the overall supply and demand across Dacorum, the resident population is estimated to generate a demand for a minimum of over four pitches (all surfaces). This compares to a current available supply of just three pitches, giving a supply/demand balance of -1.4 pitches.

The global supply and demand balance for football and hockey is similar with a deficit of around 0.7 pitches for both football and hockey.

About 81% of demand for all AGP provision in Dacorum is thought to be met by the supply network included in the modelling. This is just below the regional average of 83% and the same as the national average of 81%. The satisfied demand level for hockey is 77%.

The model estimates that 59% of the resident demand is retained within Dacorum with 41% of all visits being 'exported' to other local authority areas. Retained demand for hockey is only 14% which results in the model estimating that 86% of hockey demand is met outside of Dacorum.

Overall, the model estimates that 23.3% of demand for hockey is unmet in Dacorum. Given the apparent poor supply of AGP space for hockey the majority of hockey demand that is unmet can be attributed to the lack of capacity at existing pitches.

There is no single location that could meet a significant proportion of the unmet demand and there are no particular concentrations within the Borough.

The south and east of Hemel Hempstead around the M1 and M25 motorway junctions and the A41 junctions, additional AGPs could meet high levels of unmet demand for all types of AGP but this is mainly due to accessibility of these locations as any AGP in these areas would be expected to meet demand from beyond Dacorum. Away from these areas, areas to the east of Hemel Hempstead have potential to meet higher levels of unmet demand.

The modelling points to there being insufficient pitch space in Dacorum to meet demand from hockey.

### **6.5: Supply and demand analysis**

There is a lack of capacity on current provision in Dacorum to accommodate existing demand (both unmet and displaced) expressed by both Tring Hockey Club and Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club. The Clubs express enough unmet and displaced demand (for both fixtures and training) to justify the creation of an additional full size sand AGP. The FPM highlights that only 14% of hockey demand is being met in Dacorum. However, the FPM also highlights that only 15.9% of the population do not have access to a car, compared to the national average of 24.9%, which means that people are more likely to travel to access provision.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

### **Future demand**

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. Only one junior team is likely to be created due to a reduction in the population of adult men and women, however this additional demand cannot be accommodated on the current supply of pitches.

*Table 6.4: Team generation rates*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (16-45)	28,372	10	2837	27,835	10	0
Senior Womens (16-45)	28,533	6	4756	27,767	6	0
Juniors (11-15)	8824	8	1103	9724	9	1

### **Hockey summary**

- ◀ There is one full size sand based AGP at Tring School which is suitable to accommodate competitive hockey. The pitch is assessed as good quality. There are also two small sized AGPs suitable for hockey training (at Berkhamsted School and the Hemel Hempstead School).
- ◀ The Berkhamsted School is available for community use in the evenings but cannot be used due to a lack of floodlighting.
- ◀ In total, two clubs play competitive fixtures in Dacorum, fielding a total of 24 teams.
- ◀ Both clubs access facilities outside of Dacorum for training and competitive fixtures because there is no spare capacity on the AGP in Dacorum.
- ◀ Travelling to access provision for both training and competitive opportunities is limiting the potential of both clubs.
- ◀ Unmet and displaced would need to be met through provision of an additional full size AGP.
- ◀ Although Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club has aspirations to build an AGP on its club site the identification of the most appropriate location for any new development is critical in securing potential growth. A partnership approach with the local authority, schools sector partners and clubs is required within the decision making process.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

### PART 7: TENNIS

#### 7.1 Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis. The Hertfordshire LTA administers the sport locally in Dacorum. The Lawn Tennis Association's has in place a new participation strategy which aims to increase weekly adult tennis participation (14+) over the next few years. As part of this strategy partnerships will be set up with Local Authorities, Clubs and Educational sites who offer the best opportunity to grow the sport. Currently St. Albans has been identified as one of the first four areas within the region to receive additional support to increase community tennis participation. The LTA's Improving Facilities strategy also outlines how investments will be made to help grow participation within the sport by improving the quality of facilities available.

#### **Consultation**

Tennis clubs were contacted via face to face meetings and an online survey. 100% (eight) clubs that were contacted responded and were consulted. The Hertfordshire LTA was also consulted. Results were used to inform key issues throughout this section of the report.

#### 7.2 Current provision

There are 104 tennis courts across 29 sites in Dacorum. Of these, 94 courts across 24 sites are available for community use.

*Table 7.1: Summary of the number of courts available for community use by analysis area*

Analysis area	No. of park tennis courts	No. of membership clubs tennis courts	No. of school tennis courts	Tennis courts Total
Berkhamsted Area	-	15	16	31
Eastern Villages Area	-	-	-	-
Hemel Area	8	15	16	39
Southern Area	-	7	4	11
Tring Area	3	8	2	13
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>94</b>

The five sites which are unavailable for community use are all located at school sites. There may also be additional courts located at schools which did not respond to the survey.

#### **Management/ownership**

Schools own 42% of sites providing 40% (38) of courts that are available for community use. 12% (11 courts) are located at local authority/parish council sites. The remaining nine (37%) sites are all club owned or managed, providing 45 courts (48%) for club activity and some pay and play.

Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club currently lease its facility from the Council for a peppercorn annual rent. The Club has recently been made aware that this likely to increase in the future.

## **DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

---

Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis Club has two indoor and two outdoor courts on land owned by the Berkhamsted Sports Ground Association. The rest of the facility is owned by the Club.

Langley Tennis Club, which leases its site from Abbot's Hill School, has sustained a rapidly growing membership for its two indoor hard courts and three outdoor clay courts. The Club's development plans propose refurbishment of the indoor facilities and a seasonal dome and floodlights for the outdoor courts, so that the courts are available throughout the winter and later into the evening. Abbot's Hill School is currently considering a new long-term lease for the site that would enable the Club to seek capital improvement funds to implement the plans.

The Council undertake routine safety and quality inspections, as well as carrying out maintenance, at a number of tennis courts within Dacorum.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Figure 7.1: Location of tennis courts in Dacorum

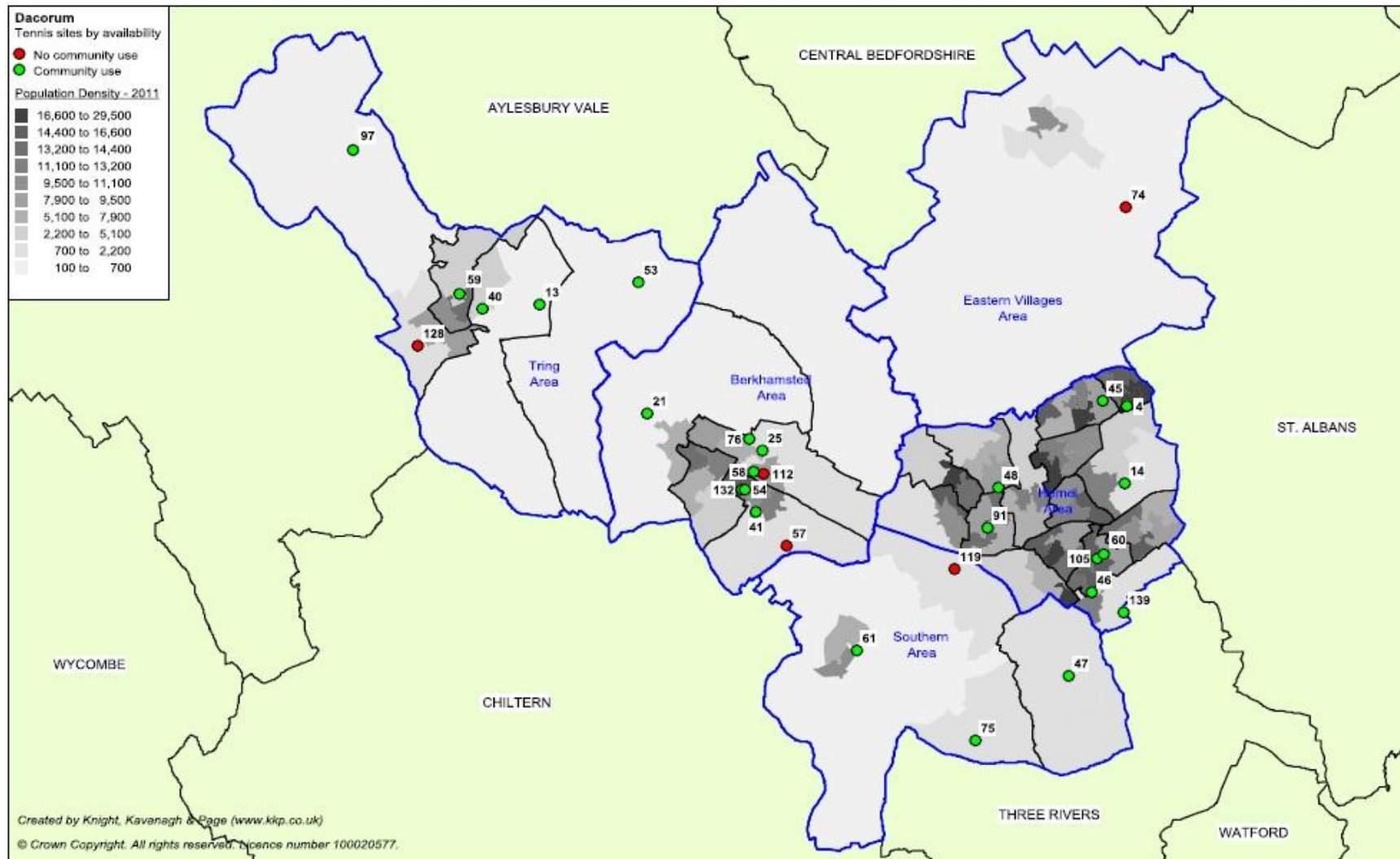


Table 7.2: Key to map

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	No. of courts
41	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted	Yes	6
112	Berkhamsted School - Castle Campus	Berkhamsted	No	4
132	Berkhamsted School - Prep School	Berkhamsted	Yes	1
58	Berkhamsted Racquets Club	Berkhamsted	Yes	11
54	Berkhamsted School	Berkhamsted	Yes	6
25	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamsted	Yes	3
76	Little Gaddesden Tennis Club	Berkhamsted	Yes	3
21	Northchurch Cricket & Tennis Club	Berkhamsted	Yes	1
57	Thomas Coram Middle School	Berkhamsted	No	2
74	Flamstead Sports Association	Eastern Villages	No	1
46	Abbot's Hill School	Hemel	Yes	4
45	Astley Cooper School	Hemel	Yes	5
91	Boxmoor Primary School	Hemel	Yes	1
105	Coronation Fields	Hemel	Yes	2
4	Cupid Green	Hemel	Yes	4
139	Langley Tennis Club	Hemel	Yes	3
60	Leverstock Green Tennis Club	Hemel	Yes	12
14	Reith Fields	Hemel	Yes	2
48	The Cavendish School	Hemel	Yes	6
61	Bovingdon & Flaunden Tennis Club	Southern	Yes	5
75	Chipperfield Tennis Club	Southern	Yes	2
47	Kings Langley School	Southern	Yes	4
119	Roman Fields Provision	Southern	No	1
128	Francis House Preparatory School (Independent)	Tring	No	2
97	Long Marston Tennis Club	Tring	Yes	2
13	Pound Meadow	Tring	Yes	2
53	Stocks Road	Tring	Yes	1
40	Tring School	Tring	Yes	2
59	Tring Tennis Club	Tring	Yes	6

### Quality

Only 18% of tennis courts in Dacorum are assessed as average quality or below. Half are rated as excellent quality and the remaining 32% good. All membership club courts are assessed as good or excellent quality, which accounts for almost half (48%) of all courts available for community use.

The majority of low quality courts are based at schools (three) and two local authority sites, Coronation Fields and Cupid Green.



Table 7.3: Summary of quality arising from club consultation

Club	Court quality information
Langley Tennis Club	Excellent standard maintained with regular refurbishment, most recently last year. The Club is also investigating planning permission for floodlights in order to increase capacity.
Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club	Courts are of much better quality since last season since a full resurfacing plan is in progress.
Tring Tennis Club	The Club resurface courts as required although currently has no immediate plans to. There is no difference in quality this season.
Chipperfield Tennis Club	One court has been resurfaced and referenced in 2013, so now of much better condition. Intention for second court to be resurfaced in 2015.
Leverstock Green Tennis Club	The number of courts is not limiting membership, the Club has a growing membership. However, the quality of our courts and lack of floodlights are the limiting factors.

### **Facility development plans**

Leverstock Green Tennis Club is investigating the relocation of its site, due to the deterioration of court quality and lack of opportunity to expand in the current location. The current location of the Club is inhibiting growth and the longevity of the Club could be in doubt as the current site does not have the space to expand further. Discussions were had regarding a move to Bunkers Lane; however, this was halted due to planning permission issues.

Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club has recently been granted planning permission and an LTA loan to install floodlights on three of its courts.

### **Ancillary facilities**

Clubs all have a clubhouse/pavilion which they are responsible for running and maintaining, apart from Chipperfield Tennis Club which does not and are reliant on the goodwill of Blackwells Café and Bar adjacent.

Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club has issues with car parking, as the site is adjacent to a football club which produces a lot of parking requirements at training and on match days. Parking is also becoming an issue for Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Squash Racquets Club.

## 7.3 Demand

### *Competitive demand*

Over half of clubs (60%) report facilities as being a major limiting factor to increasing membership. The following is a summary of the capacity issues and increasing membership plans identified.

*Table 7.4: Capacity and membership issues*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Court quality information</b>
Langley Tennis Club	Membership has grown from about 100 in 2008, when current director of tennis engaged, to 300 at end of 2013 (31 August 2013). Langley TC sees this trend continuing as long as court availability can sustain this growth, which is currently limited to particular sections of membership viz. some space for more adult players, less for young Performance players. With a new lease and development funding, the club estimates that membership could increase by between 30% to 50%, from around 300 to 450 members, and that membership could rise even more if the club moves its Performance Squads to facilities outside of the area.
Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis Club	The Club aspires to build further facilities but requires more land to do so. Has ambition to develop gym/fitness/rehabilitation centre but finance is an issue. Demand at certain times exceeds capacity so overspill and use courts at Kitcheners Field but no current demand to extend number of courts.
Chipperfield Tennis Club	Lack of a third court prevents Chipperfield TC from competing in LTA leagues and competitions. Plan to increase membership but no specifics.
Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club	It was stated during consultation that the Club is one court short currently, which is limiting the number of teams it is able to run. There is demand with waiting lists in place. It has plans and planning permission to install floodlights on three courts which will increase capacity for more matches in the winter, not necessarily create new teams.
Leverstock Green TC	The quality of the courts and lack of floodlights are currently limiting membership potential for the Club. The club has applied for Inspired Facilities funding and is currently awaiting a decision.
Northchurch Tennis Club	The Club reports restrictions in growth due to only having one tennis court. If it could realise its ambition for a second court it is confident it could run one additional senior and one additional junior teams. It intends to apply for SE Inspired Facilities Fund.
Tring Tennis Club and Little Gaddesden Tennis Club	Neither club has any plans to actively increase membership.

Northchurch Tennis Club reports being at capacity and unable to accept more members due to lack of courts. Currently, Langley Tennis Club has no plans to increase its site's footprint with more courts; however, its plans for floodlights and a dome over the outdoor courts would more than double the availability of court space to meet rising demand.

Only three clubs report specific plans to increase membership with Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis Club aiming to increase membership by 24 seniors and 16 juniors, Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club aim to attract another 25-50 more members, and Langley Tennis Club able to accept another 50 members, mainly in its adult section. Tring Tennis Club would like to increase membership numbers by 30%, but has no active plans to achieve this.

All Clubmark accredited clubs not already at capacity will be encouraged to grow membership as part of their long-term business strategy, which includes Tring Tennis Club and Chipperfield Tennis Club. In addition, all LTA registered clubs are set targets with regard to growing their Regular Competing Junior's and British Tennis Members. It would appear there is a greater demand for clubs providing all year round play (floodlights, indoor provision).

Chipperfield, Little Gaddesden and Northchurch Tennis Clubs do not enter teams into leagues and operate as social/recreation tennis only.

### ***Latent demand***

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 2,847 people for tennis in Dacorum. 15.2% of the population that would like to participate in tennis is the segment 'Tim - settling down males'. Of the 2,847 people, 1,440 (50.6%) are females; the largest segment of which is 'Chloe - young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim'.

A strategic approach to serving latent demand will include: providing floodlights, suitable ancillary provision, improving the programming offer to meet market segmentation, ensuring the right people are engaged in delivery, together with better promotion, sign posting and monitoring and evaluation.

Langley Tennis Club, which operates pro-active events within the local community, reports that it is well aware of the huge latent and growing demand in the area. If negotiations over a new long-lease with Abbot's Hill School stall, the club would like to move to another site, possibly a green field site and preferably within the area, to establish a bigger facility for social, club and performance players, children and adults. With this in mind, the club is monitoring and investigating development initiative schemes, such as the LTA's facility strategy, which is imminent, and the LTA's strategy partnerships, which has so far identified St Albans as one of the first 4 areas within the region to receive additional support to increase community tennis participation.

### ***Informal usage***

All council owned courts do not operate a booking system but are open continually to allow access. Nets are left up during the season and this does result in some regular vandalism to the posts. Lines are painted annually and courts blown regularly to remove stones. It is intended to use permanent paint in the near future.

The following clubs provide pay and play provision at various times:

- ◀ Langley Tennis Club
- ◀ Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Squash Racquets Club
- ◀ Chipperfield Tennis Club
- ◀ Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club

#### ◀ Leverstock Green Tennis Club

Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club report very low demand for this type of usage. Northchurch Tennis Club, Tring Tennis Club and Little Gaddesden Tennis Club do not offer pay and play.

Following events such as Wimbledon demand has increased for pay and play. The LTA reports that it is difficult to measure casual use as some courts are available for free but highlights that courts are generally busy throughout the summer months. However, comprehensive research in the eight LTA pilot areas nationally has shown that 53% of people playing tennis once per week does so at public court facilities (pay and play). As shown in the Active People Survey, participation in tennis has a seasonal peak in the summer, which is particularly pronounced amongst non-club and occasional players. Again this would indicate that increased provision of floodlit and indoor facilities at park/recreation sites would better sustain all year round participation.

Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly council courts, and its belief is that better promotion would increase demand.

### **7.4 Supply and demand analysis**

The current supply of tennis courts appears to adequately cater for current demand to participate in Dacorum, both in terms of competitive and pay and play opportunity. Analysis of club membership, however, suggests that future growth is likely to result in the need for more tennis courts.

#### **Tennis summary**

- ◀ There are 94 courts across 24 sites in Dacorum that are available for community use.
- ◀ The quality at private tennis clubs tends to be better than local authority provision.
- ◀ Membership in clubs has generally increased this season, which could be due to the Wimbledon effect.
- ◀ Clubs are generally operating at capacity and additional courts at facilities will be necessary to increase membership figures further.
- ◀ Increasing floodlighting and indoor provision would help to sustain participation.
- ◀ Leverstock Green Tennis Club currently has an adequate number of courts, with growing membership the Club is investigating how to further develop tennis for the community, which may include a move to a larger facility.
- ◀ Langley Tennis Club is not able to secure any funds for facility development unless the lease they are granted from Abbots Hill School is lengthened. Alternatively, the club will move to another site, preferably within the area
- ◀ Research also suggests that more people would participate in tennis (pay and play opportunities in particular) if there were better awareness and promotion of where and how to play.
- ◀ The Lawn Tennis Association's new participation strategy aims to increase weekly adult tennis participation (14+) over the next few years. Currently, St. Albans has been identified as one of the first 4 areas within the region to receive additional support to increase community tennis participation. However, future growth is likely to result in the need for more tennis courts at club sites with Langley, Leverstock Green and Northchurch tennis clubs being the priority sites for this.

## PART 8: BOWLS

### 8.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in Dacorum is played on flat greens. Bowls England is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of flat green bowls. Locally, it is administered by the Hertfordshire Bowls. The bowling season runs from May to September.

#### **Consultation**

Consultation was undertaken with all eight identified bowls clubs in Dacorum, half were met face to face and half completed an online survey, resulting in a 100% return rate. Results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

### 8.2: Supply

There are ten flat bowling greens in Dacorum located across eight sites. Three of these are owned by the clubs themselves (Tring, Little Gaddesden and Potten End).

*Table 8.1: Summary of bowling greens*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>No. of flat bowling greens</b>
Berkhamsted Area	4
Eastern Villages Area	-
Hemel Area	3
Southern Area	2
Tring Area	1
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>10</b>

Eight sites provides one bowling green each and the remaining site, Gadebridge Park, provides two greens with one leased to Hemel Hempstead Bowls Club, while the other is a public green.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Figure 8.1: Location of bowling greens in Dacorum

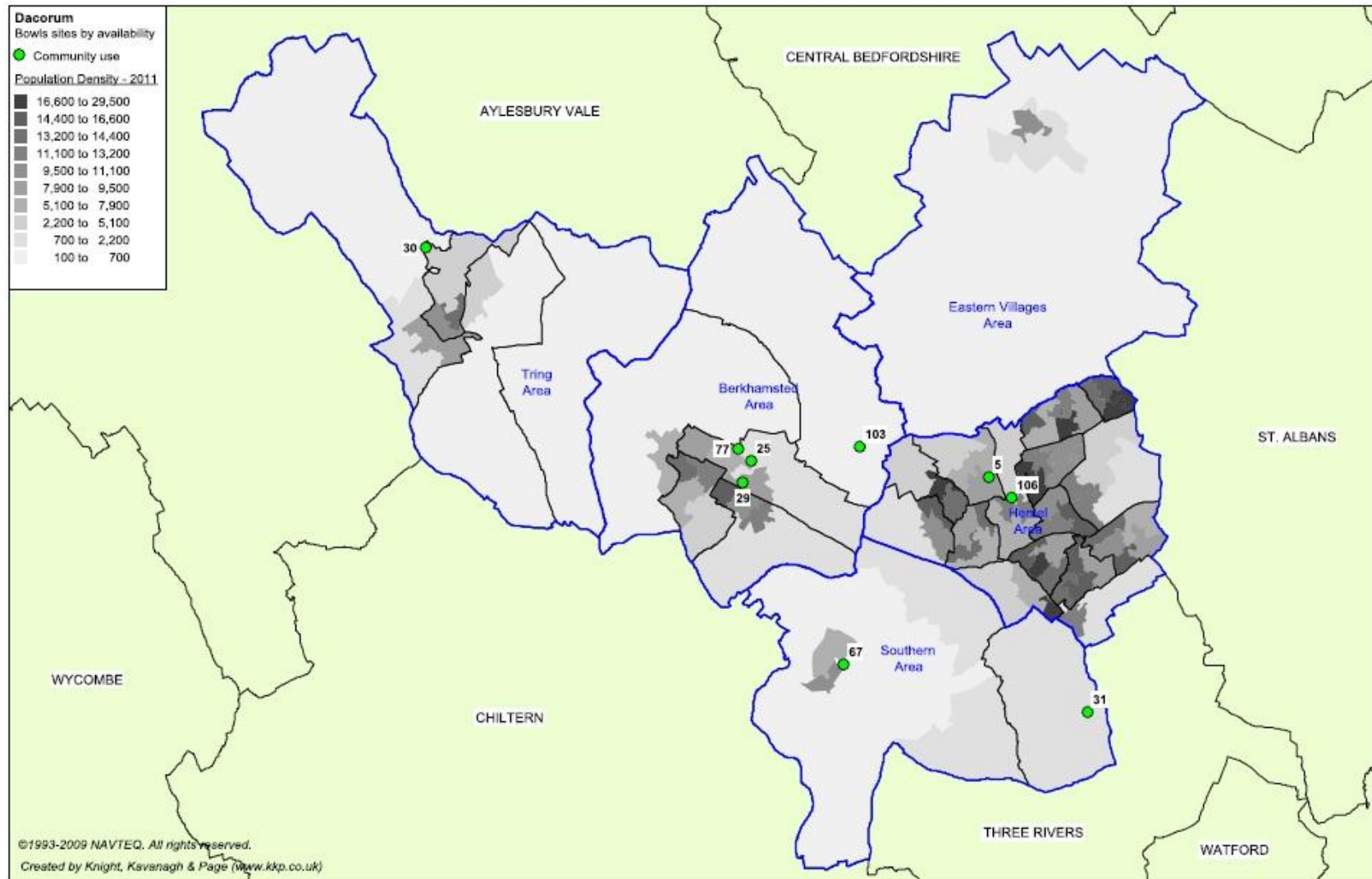


Table 8.2: Key to map of bowling greens

KKP reference	Site name	Analysis area	Number of greens
29	Berkhamsted Bowls Club, Canal Fields	Berkhamsted	1
25	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamsted	1
77	Little Gaddesden Bowling Club	Berkhamsted	1
103	Potten End Bowls Club	Berkhamsted	1
5	Gadebridge Park	Hemel	2
67	Bovingdon Bowls Club	Southern	1
31	The Saracens Head	Southern	1
30	Pendley Sports Centre	Tring	1

### **Accessibility**

Consultation identifies that the majority of members travel less than five miles to play. This suggests that the distribution of bowling greens across Dacorum is adequate.

Pay and play usage of bowling greens is important as it can help to raise the profile of the sport, increase membership levels and revenue of sites. The Council green at Gadebridge Park is the only public pay and play facility available. Tring Bowls Club and Bovingdon Bowls Club both offer pay and play but consultation suggests that this is on an ad hoc basis as demand is not constant. Other clubs do not offer pay and play due to a lack of member availability to open and supervise.

### **Ownership/management**

Three private clubs, Tring, Little Gaddesden and Potten End, own their own greens. The Council lease, and continue to maintain, the green to Hemel Hempstead Bowls Club. Bovingdon Bowls Club is leased from the Parish Council and Kitcheners Bowls Club leases its home green from Berkhamsted School. The length of leases varies between clubs from three years to 25 years.

### **Quality**

Maintenance of all greens (except Gadebridge Park) is the responsibility of the clubs themselves. As with many sports, high levels of maintenance significantly increase quality. All greens were assessed through non-technical site assessments as good quality. Clubs rated their greens as either good (50%) or excellent quality (50%).

Hemel Hempstead Bowls Club previously had concerns with green quality when Hertfordshire Bowls did not rate it as a good enough standard to play competitively on. Although investment was made to improve the green quality by both the Club and the Council, the green still needs to be re-laid. In addition, there is no longer a green keeper provided by the Council, and the Club is considering whether maintenance would be of a higher standard if they took this on themselves.

Potten End Bowls Club has a very high quality green that is hosts County Team and London and Southern Counties matches.

On the whole, vandalism of bowling greens is isolated. This is considered, in part, due to the fact that all greens in Dacorum are fenced to some extent. Gadebridge Park has previously been subject to minor vandalism, however, due to a clamp down on anti-social behaviour this has reduced significantly.

Kings Langley Bowls Club, Little Gaddesden Bowls and Croquet Club and Kitcheners Bowls Club all report their greens to be in slightly better condition compared to last season. Kitcheners attributes this to increased input from the Club to the green keeper. Three clubs report no change in green quality this season.

Hertfordshire Bowls runs green keepers/rangers meetings for anyone involved in green maintenance a few times a year to share experiences and information on green related matters, occasionally with guest speakers. However, there have been no recent meetings hosted in Dacorum.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

All clubs have access to ancillary facilities with kitchen area and toilets for members. Clubs generally rate their ancillary facilities as good quality.

Berkhamsted Bowls Club report an issue with toilets as they are located next to Canal Fields without any public toilets and has to refuse many requests as they can't accommodate and don't provide public facilities.

Potten End Bowls Club is the only club with a floodlit green. The Club report that the floodlights can only be angled to light two rinks due to complaints from local residents, so this cannot be utilised for matches.

Little Gaddesden Bowls & Croquet Club has plans to upgrade changing facilities and storage; however, it is unclear whether funds have been secured for this. Kitcheners Bowls Club also has aspirations to extend its clubhouse but has no firm plans in place.

Bovingdon Bowls Club has a very good clubhouse built new in 2009 with facilities to accommodate members with disabilities added in 2010.

Adequate parking is provided at most clubs, aside from Berkhamsted Bowls Club which rely on the public car park attached to the neighbouring park which has a limit of four hours parking and does not accommodate all day competitions. In addition, parking at peak times when the football pitches are in use also inhibits use of the green.

### **8.3 Demand**

Pay and play usage on local authority bowling greens is relatively low throughout the bowling season with a small number of season and casual tickets purchased over the previous three years.

Club consultation shows that participation in bowls in Dacorum has increased in half of clubs over the past three years. The two clubs that report a decline in membership are Kings Langley and Little Gaddesden Bowls and Croquet Club, both have plans in place to recruit new members over the next season. Clubs suggest that any growth through such recruitment of new members could be accommodated by existing provision.



## **Juniors**

Within the local bowls community, there is a struggle to both involve people with junior development, and to attract juniors into the clubs. There are many barriers for this, both actual and perceived. This is reflected in low junior participation figures. Although 62% of clubs (five) report having junior members, four have only one junior member. Berkhamsted Bowls Club report eight junior members due to some recent funding to run a junior specific programme.

Little Gaddesden Bowls & Croquet Club, the only club with a written development plan, currently does not have any members under 18. However, it is recruiting and training coaches and creating links to realise their aspirations to recruit junior members this season.

### **8.4 Supply and demand analysis**

The current supply of bowling greens appears to adequately cater for current demand to participate in Dacorum, both in terms of competitive and pay and play opportunity. Analysis of club membership also suggests that future growth is unlikely to result in the need for more bowling greens.

#### **Bowls summary**

- ◀ There are ten bowling greens in Dacorum, located across a range of sites including parks and private clubs.
- ◀ Site assessments and users rate all bowling greens in Dacorum as good quality.
- ◀ Clubs all agree that investment in maintenance would increase the quality of greens further.
- ◀ There has been an increase in the number of teams participating in the previous three years in half of the clubs.
- ◀ Only two clubs cite a decline in membership and both have plans to reverse this trend.
- ◀ It is not thought likely that current and future demand for bowls will result in the need for new provision.

## **PART 9: NETBALL**

### **9.1: Introduction**

England Netball (EN) is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport. League netball in the County is played using outdoor courts, with the exception of Herts League Division 1 and 2 which are played indoors.

Netball East Region is one of EN's nine regions. Its membership comprises the seven counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, East Essex, Essex Thurrock, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. As the Regional Association, it is responsible for the management and development of the sport in the Region. Its mission statement is:

"Netball East aims to promote equal opportunities for people to take part in Netball at a level appropriate to their needs and aspirations and to promote their Performance and Development."

Netball in Dacorum is administered by Hertfordshire Netball Association (HNA). Clubs are affiliated to HNA and all leagues are played at central venues. In addition, England Netball employs a county development officer which has responsibility for Hertfordshire. There are four key focus areas for netball development in Hertfordshire:

- ◀ Back to Netball (B2N) sessions, leading to B2N leagues and/or divisions in local leagues.
- ◀ Youth Netball U16, in particular the High Five version of the game for primary schools
- ◀ Development in the FE establishments and universities.
- ◀ Creation of satellite clubs supported by established Clubmark/CAPS club.

These initiatives are leading to an increase in demand for clubs and leagues across the County. Development of the talented performer has been enhanced with a pathway through the HNA Satellite and County Academies into the Herts University/Oaklands Netball Academy, with its links to the East Region Academy and Mavericks Super League Club.

The John F Kennedy School is used as Herts Netball umpire training venue, as it has both indoor and outdoor courts (all to EN Category 2 classification standard – detailed later in the Section), plus workshop style rooms.

In addition, the Dacorum Netball Forum was created in 2010, including membership from the four main clubs in the area, the Hemel Hempstead Netball League, Dacorum School Sports Network, Sports Space and the Herts Netball Association.

## 9.2: Current provision

In total 71 outdoor netball courts are identified across 37 sites in Dacorum. However, there are almost certainly additional courts located at schools which did not respond to the online survey.

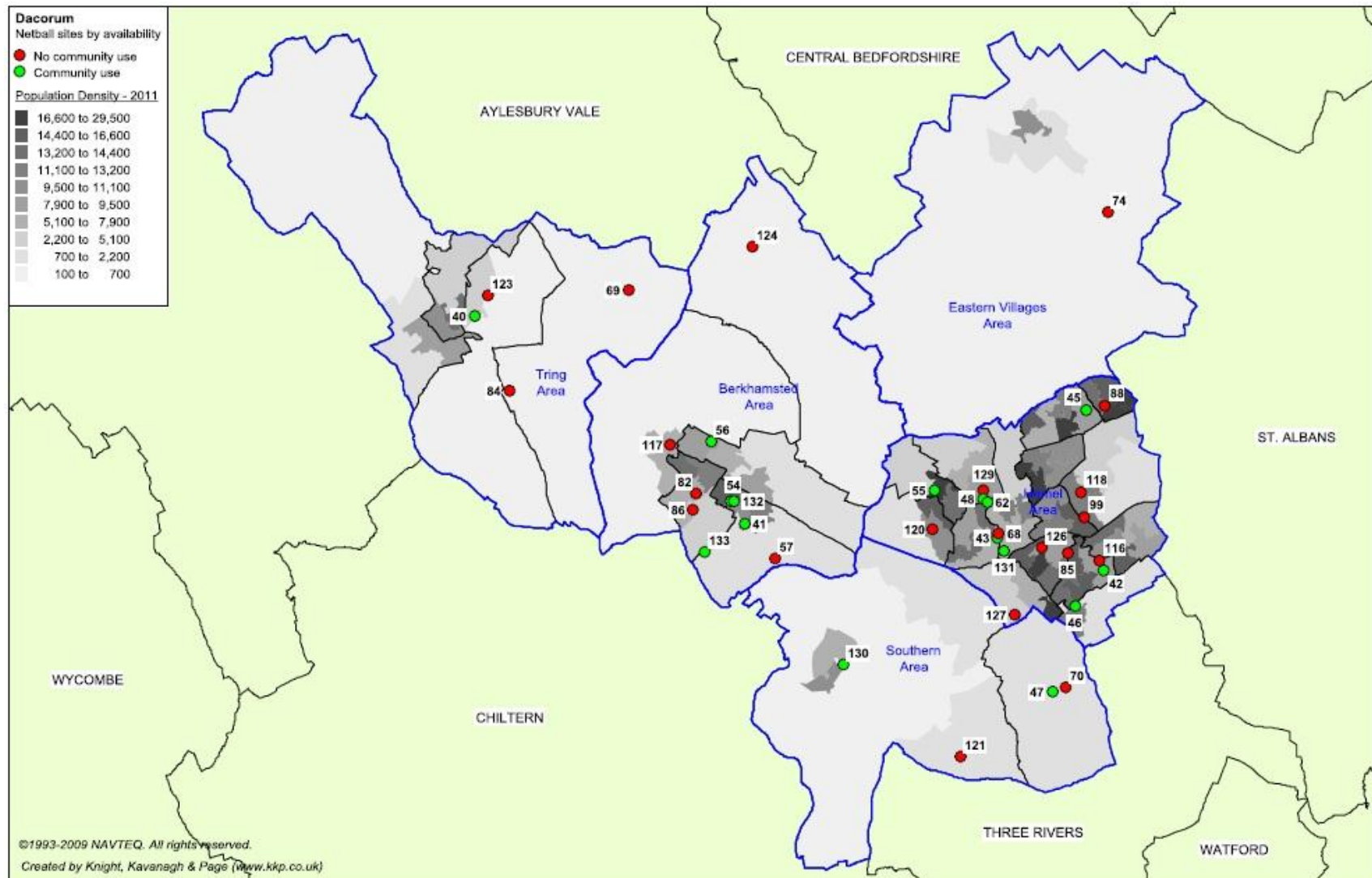
*Table 9.1: Summary of netball courts*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Total number of courts</b>	<b>No. of courts available for community use</b>
Berkhamsted Area	19	13
Eastern Villages Area	1	-
Hemel Area	39	24
Southern Area	6	4
Tring Area	6	2
<b>DACORUM</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>43</b>

Only 60% of the total number of netball courts in Dacorum is available for community use. In addition, only a handful of these sites are actually used by local clubs as most training is indoors and leagues are on central venues.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Figure 9.1: Map of provision



## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Table 9.2: Current provision of outdoor netball courts

KKP ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use	No. of courts
40	Tring School	Tring Area	Yes	2
41	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	4
42	Longdean School	Hemel Area	Yes	2
43	Hemel Hempstead School	Hemel Area	Yes	2
45	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	Yes	5
46	Abbot's Hill School	Hemel Area	Yes	5
47	Kings Langley School	Southern Area	Yes	3
48	The Cavendish School	Hemel Area	Yes	4
54	Berkhamsted School	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	3
55	John F Kennedy School	Hemel Area	Yes	4
56	Bridgewater Middle School	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	4
57	Thomas Coram Middle School	Berkhamsted Area	No	2
62	The Collett School	Hemel Area	Yes	1
68	South Hill Primary School	Hemel Area	No	1
69	Aldbury Primary School	Tring Area	No	1
70	Kings Langley Primary School	Southern Area	No	1
74	Flamstead Sports Association	Eastern Villages Area	No	1
82	St Thomas More RC School	Berkhamsted Area	No	1
84	St Bartholomew's C of E School	Tring Area	No	1
85	Lime Walk Primary School	Hemel Area	No	1
86	Greenway School	Berkhamsted Area	No	1
88	Holtsmere End Junior School	Hemel Area	No	1
99	Adeyfield School	Hemel Area	Yes	4
116	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School	Hemel Area	No	2
117	St Marys C of E School	Berkhamsted Area	No	1
118	Hobletts Manor Junior School	Hemel Area	No	1
120	Chaulden Junior School,	Hemel Area	No	1
121	Chipperfield St Paul's VA C of E Primary School	Southern Area	No	1
123	Grove Road Primary	Tring Area	No	2
124	Little Gaddesden CE VA Primary School	Berkhamsted Area	No	1
126	Tudor Primary School	Hemel Area	No	1
127	Two Waters Primary School	Hemel Area	No	1
129	St. Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Junior School	Hemel Area	No	2
130	Bovingdon Academy	Southern Area	Yes	1
131	Hemel Hempstead Sports Centre	Hemel Area	Yes	2
132	Berkhamsted School - Prep School	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	1
133	Berkhamsted School - Haresfoot	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	1

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## Quality

Site assessments rate the majority of netball courts as good or average quality. However, consultation with users suggests the majority are actually poor or average quality.

England Netball has established five categories of netball court that relate to the different levels of play and training that will take place on the courts:

- ◀ **Category 1** courts are outdoor courts intended for school, recreation and community use.
- ◀ **Category 2** courts are indoor or outdoor courts intended for local league, school, recreation and community use.
- ◀ **Category 3** courts are indoor or outdoor courts intended for county premier league and county first team use.
- ◀ **Category 4** courts are dedicated outdoor courts intended for higher levels of play such as national clubs league; inter county competitions and national squad training.

The local league/development requires courts to meet Category 2 of the classification in order to be suitable to play competitively on.

Cavendish and John F Kennedy schools are multi court venues that meet Category 2 classification standard. However, the courts are not currently used by the League as these venues are further out than teams are willing to travel.

The Dacorum Netball Forum highlighted that, although there is a significant number of courts in Dacorum, the majority fail to meet the EN Category 2 classification standard. In addition, although most are available for community use, single courts cannot be used as a central venue. These will only be used for training for individual teams, if at all.

There are a number of multi court venues in Dacorum (seven sites with four or more courts); however, many fail to meet the standard required for a central venue league. The Forum also has concerns about the standard of courts for school provision.

*Table 9.3: Summary of court quality*

KKP ID	Site	Court quality	EN Category
40	Tring School	Good	2
41	Ashlyns School	Good	1
42	Longdean School	Poor	1
43	Hemel Hempstead School	Poor	1
45	Astley Cooper School	Good	1
46	Abbot's Hill School	Good	2
47	Kings Langley School	Good	1
48	The Cavendish School	Good	1
54	Berkhamsted School	Good	2
55	John F Kennedy School	Good	2
56	Bridgewater Middle School	Standard	1
57	Thomas Coram Middle School	Standard	1

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

KKP ID	Site	Court quality	EN Category
62	The Collett School	Poor	1
68	South Hill Primary School	Poor	1
69	Aldbury Primary School	Standard	1
70	Kings Langley Primary School	Good	1
74	Flamstead Sports Association	Good	1
82	St Thomas More RC School	Standard	1
84	St Bartholomew's C of E School	Good	1
85	Lime Walk Primary School	Standard	1
86	Greenway School	Poor	1
88	Holtsmere End Junior School	Good	1
99	Adeyfield School	Standard	1
116	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School	Standard	1
117	St Marys C of E School	Standard	1
118	Hobletts Manor Junior School	Good	1
120	Chaulden Junior School,	Good	1
121	Chipperfield St Paul's VA C of E Primary School	Good	1
123	Grove Road Primary	Poor	1
124	Little Gaddesden CE VA Primary School	Good	1
126	Tudor Primary School	Standard	1
127	Two Waters Primary School	Standard	1
129	St. Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Junior School	Standard	1
130	Bovingdon Academy	Good	2
131	Hemel Hempstead Sports Centre	Standard	1
132	Berkhamsted School - Prep School	Good	1
133	Berkhamsted School - Haresfoot	Standard	1

All netball clubs hire facilities for training and competition. The majority of the clubs criticised the general condition and maintenance of the facilities used, stating short run off around courts and poor surface quality as main issues.

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

### 9.3: Demand

Across Hertfordshire there are 10 local open winter leagues, two local junior winter leagues, two indoor open winter leagues and one county winter league. In addition, there are two summer open leagues and two summer junior leagues. Some of the open leagues have youth divisions. Leagues relevant to Dacorum based clubs are outlined below:

*Table 9.4: Netball leagues servicing Dacorum clubs*

Netball league	Comments
Hemel Hempstead and District League	Based at Adeyfield School and runs during the winter months. Toilet facilities are available but are of very poor standard and only used if they have to be. The League has 28 teams in three divisions, including the youth leagues. The four courts have recently been resurfaced, but as a local league venue it fails to meet EN Category 2 classification, as the run offs and umpire space are inadequate.
Hemel Hempstead (Shelley) Summer Development League	Based at John F Kennedy School and run by Shelley Netball Club on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening for 24 teams.
Watford and South West Herts leagues	Queens School (not in Dacorum) is the central venue for the Watford League and the South West Herts League. Fourteen teams from Dacorum play in the Watford League.
Herts County League	The League is made up of winners of the local leagues and is also the feeder league for the East Region Netball League. It is based at Stanborough School in Welwyn Garden City. Dacorum clubs participate in the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> divisions with three teams.
Aylesbury and High Wycombe Leagues	With the absence of netball in the Tring Area, the leagues in Aylesbury and High Wycombe attract Dacorum players, particularly from the Tring and Berkhamsted areas.

Local league competition takes place on central venues, ideally four courts meeting EN Category 2 classification. Currently the winter league takes place at Adeyfield School and the summer development league takes place at John F Kennedy School.

Adeyfield School is floodlit, has good parking and have recently been resurfaced. However, they do not have enough run off to meet EN Category 2 classification. In addition, changing and toilet facilities are deemed as inadequate and the court surface is slippery when wet. There is enough space to remark the courts to provide additional 'run off' and improve the quality of these courts.

An alternative solution would be to move the league to venues with better quality courts at Cavendish or John F Kennedy. However, the teams are not keen on travelling the additional distance.

An alternative venue would be Abbot's Hill School which has five courts, four of which are good quality and the school is keen to explore further community use. This venue could have the same location issue as the two previously mentioned.

Tring School recently re-laid and remarked two courts which are of a high standard and should meet EN Category 2 classification standard.



# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

### ***Latent demand***

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 451 people. 28.6% of the population that would like to participate in netball is the segment 'Chloe - young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim'. Of the 451 people, 435 (96.5%) are females.

The netball development group has also identified the Alison and Leanne segment that are in the area and wish to play. 15.5% (70 people) of the population that wish to play netball in Dacorum are classed as 'Alison- Mums with a comfortable, but busy, lifestyle'. 13.3% (60 people) of the population that wish to play netball are 'Leanne- Young busy mums and their supportive college mates'. Of the 451 people 259 fit one of these three categories.

### ***Future demand***

There is currently no demand for a junior league in Dacorum. However, junior development work continues and this will develop demand in the future. Currently junior players aged 14 and over are able to play in the senior league, either within an adult team or as a group of 14+ players

The majority of clubs cited a lack of facilities as a barrier to their growth. However, only one club (Shelley Netball Club) surveyed has a written sports development plan and genuine ambition to grow.

Adult leagues are recruiting new teams and the participation figures have continued to increase, partly due to work carried out by the County Development Officer. However, the future of the post is unclear which could have an effect on development work and participation figures.

EN's 'Back 2 Netball' initiative provides an introduction for female players over the age of sixteen. It has contributed to the increase in senior participation levels in the County, which is being rolled out in local authority areas, including Dacorum. Demand is particularly high in Tring, with 50 players currently involved in B2N sessions, looking to form teams and a potential league in the next 12 months. Tring School would be a suitable venue for this league to begin.

Berkhamsted School also has two courts that meet Category 2 classification standard, which would be suitable for a new league in the future, should demand grow.

### ***Training***

Clubs generally report a lack of access to courts for training, particularly indoor facilities. Clubs suggested that they are restricted from growing and fielding additional teams because of the lack of quality courts available for training.

## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

### **Netball summary**

- ◀ In total 71 outdoor netball courts are identified across 37 sites in Dacorum.
- ◀ There are seven sites with four or more courts.
- ◀ Local leagues are central venue and use multi court venues with 4+ courts.
- ◀ There are enough netball courts in Dacorum to service current demand. However, there is a significant deficiency in the quality of the courts, with very few meeting EN Category 2 classification standard. In addition, a number of teams are accessing competition out of the Borough.
- ◀ Potential Dacorum venues for local leagues do not provide quality courts or adequate ancillary facilities such as changing, toilets and parking to an acceptable level.
- ◀ The development work taking place, especially in Tring, will increase the demand on courts in the future.
- ◀ There is demand in Dacorum for improved quality in the current provision of outdoor netball multi court venues, due to lack of access to indoor courts for training as winter training outdoors is not ideal.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

---

## PART 10: ATHLETICS

Dacorum has one athletics track at Jarmans Park located in Hemel Hempstead which opened in 1995. The track and its ancillary facilities are owned by the Council and managed by Dacorum Sports Trust, Sportspace.

The stadium has an eight lane fully floodlit 400m track that was resurfaced two years ago and has good underfoot grip. There is seating for up to 230 spectators and the venue has adequate toilets and changing facilities.

Jarmans Park is a good venue with sufficient parking. However, Sportspace has concerns over the long term viability of the stadium in its current location, operating as a standalone facility. In addition, school use of the site continues to decrease due to the associated costs of transport for example.

The track is home to Dacorum & Tring Athletic Club (D&TAC). The Club is Clubmark accredited and has a development plan. It considers that the stadium is well used, facilitating, through the Club, a wide range of events from county schools competitions through to national standard meetings. The Club hire Jarmans Park for training regularly on a Tuesday and Thursday evening and at the weekends. In addition, Gate Valley Harriers use the facility occasionally

Club membership at Dacorum and Tring AC is strong and has increased over the last few years to approximately 89 seniors and 196 juniors. This is partly due to moving the road running to Jarmans Park, which has attracted more people. The majority of the members come from within Dacorum or nearby St Albans. The Club has no plans to expand further currently due to a lack of coaches.

The Club has previously been able to store equipment at the site; however, this facility will be lost due to the conversion of changing rooms into a weights room. It plans to buy a container to store equipment in future. Further issues the Club reports include:

- ◀ The hammer cage and pole vault constantly require maintenance.
- ◀ Cutting the hedges and grass/weeding does not appear to be a priority.

England Athletics has a small facilities remit and is currently identifying priority sites. It is expected that regionally there are other priority venues above Jarmans Park, but recognise that it is important locally.

### **Athletics summary**

- ◀ Dacorum athletics track is located at Jarmans Park in Hemel and services the whole of the Borough and also into neighbouring St Albans.
- ◀ It contains an eight lane fully floodlit 400m track that was resurfaced two years ago and has seating for over 200 people.
- ◀ The stadium/track is well used and is home to Dacorum & Tring Athletic Club. However, it operates as a standalone facility and concerns have been raised over the long term sustainability of the facility.
- ◀ A long term viable option may be to consider the athletics track/stadium relocating to a school and/or leisure facility.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

## PART 11: GOLF

There are four golf courses in Dacorum ranging from 9 hole courses to some which provide both 9 and 18 hole courses. Of these, Little Hay Golf Complex is the only public golf course (managed by Dacorum Sports Trust, Sportspace) and the remaining are all privately owned/managed courses.

England Golf do not highlight priority areas across the country. As most clubs operate as businesses, the governing body do work with the clubs, but only those that are keen to engage. Currently the 'Get into Golf' programme provides low cost coaching and aims to increase participation nationally

The new strategy for England Golf is currently in draft stage. It recognises the need to be more flexible in the golf offer to current and potential golfers, England Golf reports that the last eight years has seen a decline in golf club membership nationally but an increase in "nomadic" golfers playing once a week without becoming members of a club. Mapping of the courses in Dacorum shows that generally the current level of supply is sufficient for residents and also meets demand in other neighbouring areas. There appear to be some minor gaps in Berkhamsted and Tring; however, this is not sufficient to generate demand for a new course.

Sport England recommends that in order to help assess demand for golf courses that a drive-time catchment of 20 minutes is applied to each course to assess catchment gaps.

Table 11.1: Current provision

KKP ref	Site	Analysis area
134	Ashridge Golf Course	Berkhamsted
135	Berkhamsted Golf Course	Berkhamsted
137	Little Hay Golf Course	Southern Area
138	Shendish Golf Course	Southern Area

Table 11.2: Summary of provision of golf facilities

Club	18 hole	9 hole	Driving range	Practice areas		
				Bunker	Putting	Net
Ashridge Golf Club	√			√	√	
Berkhamsted Golf Club	√			√	√	
Little Hay Golf Club	√		√	√	√	
Shendish Golf Club	√	√	√		√	

Boxmoor Golf Club is no longer in operation, having closed its doors in 2011. Conversely, in 2013 a new golf club, Centurion, opened in the West of St Alban's, which is conveniently located for Dacorum residents.

## **DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY**

---

### *Little Hay Golf Complex*

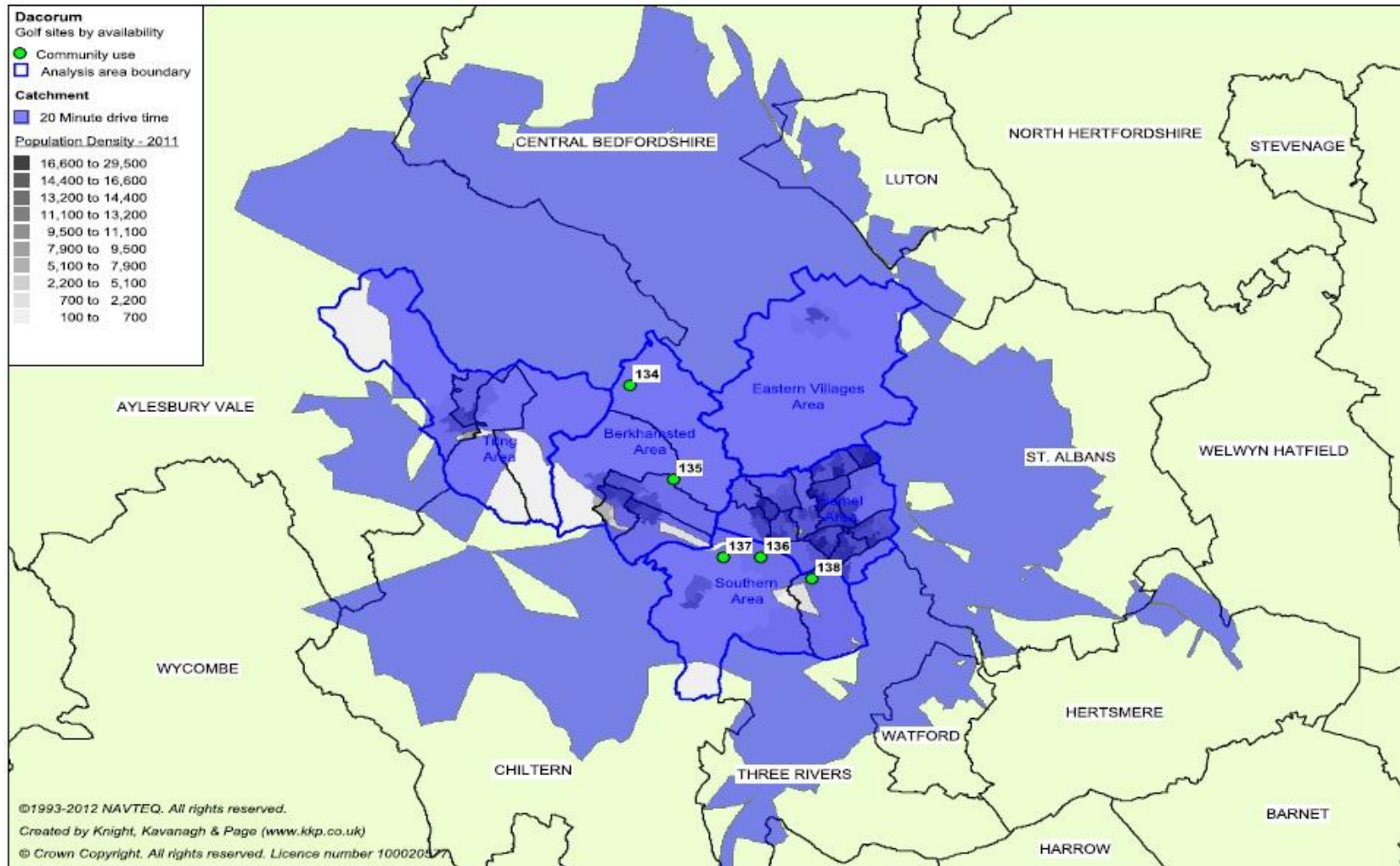
Little Hay Golf Club is a local authority owned municipal golf complex. The complex is located just outside the village of Bovingdon. The quality of the course is reported to have improved and there are extensive ancillary facilities at Little Hay with a driving range as well as clubhouse facilities including changing rooms, bar and a pro shop. Due to a fire at the clubhouse three years ago, it is being replaced and extended. There is a plan to extend the clubhouse early in 2014.

There are plans from Hertfordshire County Council to remodel holes at Little Hay, which is linked to landfill site development. These are currently in early discussions.

As is now generally the case at golf clubs, there is no waiting list to join and demand has remained static over the past three years and is not expected to significantly increase.

# DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES STUDY

Map 11.1: Golf facilities in Dacorum



**Golf summary**

- ◀ There are four golf courses in Dacorum, including four 18 hole and one 9 hole courses. Little Hay Golf Complex is the only public golf course.
- ◀ As is now generally the case at golf clubs, there is no waiting list to join and demand has remained static over the past three years and is not expected to significantly increase.
- ◀ Catchment based mapping also shows that there are no significant gaps in demand for golf provision.

## **PART 12: OTHER SPORTS**

### **Baseball**

#### *Herts Baseball Club*

Formed in 1996, Herts Baseball Club is the only provider of baseball in Dacorum. The Club is fully affiliated to the British Baseball Federation (BBF) and has grown to four senior and four youth teams, competing in various leagues. The first team, the Herts Falcons, compete in the National Baseball League (NBL). It also runs a large successful youth programme, offering baseball to children from 6-16 years old and is currently working towards Clubmark accreditation.

Herts Baseball Club plays at Council site Grovehill in Hemel and the season runs from March to October, training and friendly fixtures take place throughout the year. The Club has invested in the improvement of the facility, supported by external funding grants.

Dacorum Borough Council maintains the Baseball Diamond at Grovehill on a request basis. This includes marking out, weeding and grass cutting.

Baseball Softball UK also awarded Herts Baseball Club £10,000 last year to provide perimeter fencing around both diamonds. Over the last few seasons Grovehill Ballpark has been selected as the venue for the National Baseball Championships. The Club also plays host to Great Britain National Team, regional and national events.

### **Lacrosse**

#### *Hatch End Hawks Lacrosse*

Hatch End Hawks run two senior and three junior teams, competing in the South East League. The Hawks train at Westfield Community Sports Centre in Watford and play matches at Cow Roast, renting the pitch from Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club.

There are also four lacrosse pitches at Abbot's Hill School of standard and good quality. There is a school lacrosse club based at the site run by a member of the PE Department that is open to external members, however, currently only one member is not associated with the School. The School suggest that its pitches could be available for community use if demand exists.

Berkhamsted School also provide six lacrosse pitches at Chesham Fields, one is full size, and the others vary in size. This has previously been hired out to England Lacrosse teams. It is available to hire in school holiday, however, not during term time as this affects the quality of the surface for the school. The School also have a small practice pitch at Kings Campus, however, this is not hired out to the community.



## APPENDIX 1: CONSULTEE LIST

Organisation	Name	Designation
Abbot's Hill School	Peter Story	Bursar
Ashlyns School	John Preston	Head of PE
Astley Cooper School	Paul Biswell	Business Manager
Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club	David Gardener	Chairman
Berkhamsted Athletic FC.	Steven Hillier	Secretary
Berkhamsted Bowls Club	Leslie Brown	
Berkhamsted Cricket Club	Julian Dent	Chairman
Berkhamsted FC	Grant Hastie	Secretary
Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club	Susannah Crowther Steve Elms	Chair
Berkhamsted Raiders CFC	Keith Pollard	Chairperson
Berkhamsted School	Mr M Steed	
Berkhamsted Tornados FC	Phil Hobbs	Secretary
Bourne End CC	Mark Ashburner	
Bovingdon & Flaunden Tennis Club	Gordon Bettis	
Bovingdon Bowls Club	Mrs. A.B. Wilby	
Bovingdon CC	Mark Carine	
Bovingdon FC	Niel Bradley	Secretary
Bovingdon Junior FC	Phil Winder	Secretary
Boxmoor Cricket Club	Nick Harper Peter Lockley	Secretary
Chipperfield Corinthians FC	Stephen Hall	Secretary
Chipperfield Corinthians Youth FC	Di Hewetson	Secretary
Comets Sports Club (BKSL) FC	Dan Meaney	Secretary
Comets Sports Club FC Youth	Darren Smitten	Secretary
Connexions Netball Club	Rachel Smith	
Dacorum & Tring Athletic Club	Sylvia Fitzwilliam	
Dacorum Borough Council	Adriana Livingstone	Estates Team Leader
Dacorum Borough Council	Craig Thorpe	Group Manager (Environmental Services)
Dacorum Borough Council	Fiona Boogle	DM Team Leader
Dacorum Borough Council	Francis Whittaker	Policy Officer
Dacorum Borough Council	Natalie Webb	Corporate and Innovations Unit
Dacorum Borough Council	Paul Wiltshire	Policy, Partnerships and Innovations
Dacorum Borough Council	Richard Butler	Development Management
Dacorum Borough Council	Robert Cassidy	Parks Officer
Dacorum Netball Forum	Brian Worrell	
Dacorum Sports Network	Andy Criddle	
Dacorum Sports Trust - SportSpace	Dave Cove	Chief Executive
Echoes F.C.	Emma Pynaert-Collins	Secretary
England & Wales Cricket Board	Chris Whitaker	Regional Facilities Manger
England Hockey	Charlie Farrow	Regional Manager

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Falcons NC	Sarah McClement	
Flamstead CC	Mark Ridley Tracy Cripps	
Flamstead Youth FC	Christopher Rands	Secretary
Hertfordshire FA	Karl Lingham	
Football Association	Mark Liddiard	Regional Facilities Manager
Gadebridge F.C.	Donna Gimson	Secretary
Great Gaddesden Cricket Club	Stuart Oliver	
Greenacres II (BKSL) FC	Sean Kelly	Secretary
Haven NC	Anna Howe	
Hawks Lacrosse	Briony Sutcliffe	
Hemel Athletic Youth FC	Kevin Smith	Secretary
Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC	Gwyn Williams	Chair
Hemel Hempstead Rovers FC	Roger Ginger	Secretary
Hemel Hempstead School	Stephen Robinson	Business Manager
Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club	Paul Thompson	Secretary
Hemel Hempstead Town Youth FC	Michael Hobbs Paul Higgins	Secretary Outgoing Chairman
Hemel Spartans FC	Andrew Brunt	Secretary
Hemel Stag Aces Football Club	Bernard Brophy	Chairman
Hemel Stags Aces FC	Mark Birdseye	Secretary
Hemel Stags Rugby League Club	Bob Brown Ernie Howell	
Hemel United FC	Martin Walbanke	Secretary
Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue FC	Liam Wheeler	Secretary
John F Kennedy School	Hannah Watkins	Head of PE
Kings Langley Cricket Club	Tony Burnell Richard Joyce	Chair
Kings Langley FC	Andy Mackness	Secretary
Kings Langley School	Diane Bell	Business Manager
Kitcheners Bowls Club	Brian Rumph	
Langley Tennis Club	Tim Walter	Director of Tennis
Lawn Tennis Association	Leo Tutt	Tennis Development Officer
Leather Bottle FC	Raymond Holgate	Secretary
Leverstock Green CC	Tony Williams	Secretary
Leverstock Green FC	Brian Barter	Secretary
Leverstock Green Ladies FC	Emma Brown	Secretary
Leverstock Green Tennis Club	Graham Fish	Head Coach
Little Gaddesden Bowls & Croquet Club	Marika Graham- Woods	Chair
Little Gaddesden Cricket Club	Hayley Batchelor Scott Stevenson	
Little Gaddesden Rangers Junior FC	Mark Sellers	Chair
Longdean School	Steve Jay	Premises Manager
Long Marston CC	Simon Robinson	
Long Marston FC	Daphne Bateman	Secretary
Markyate (Sunday) FC	Mark Flitton	Secretary

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Northchurch (ADL) FC	Mark Hobley	Secretary
Northchurch CC	Alan Fantham	Secretary
Northchurch Tennis Club	Antony Barker	
Palace FC	Christopher Dell	Secretary
Park Rangers FC	Lee Franklin	Secretary
Pendley Lacrosse Club	Laura Parkinson	
Potten End Bowls Club	Gerry Jackson	
Potten End Bowls Club	Mrs B Driver	
Potten End CC	Jason Hawkrige	
Potten End FC	Gavin Beall	Secretary
Redwood Rangers FC	Richard Roberts	Secretary
Rose and Crown FC	Craig Norval	Secretary
Rugby Football League	Dan Steele	Regional Development Manager
Rugby Football Union	Jason Bowers	Regional Facilities Manager
Shelley Netball Club	Brian Worrell Kath Worrell	
Sport England	Roy Warren	Planning Manager
Sporting Blackbirds FC	Robert Sweetman	Secretary
The Cavendish School	Paul Dodge	Business Manager
The Midland FC	Lee Evans	Secretary
The Queens Head (BKSL) FC	Ben Beer	Secretary
The Three Blackbirds FC	Lee Plowright	Secretary
Tornado Junior Sports Club FC	Steve Morgan	Secretary
Tring Athletic Football Club	Mick Eldridge	
Tring Bowls Club	Brian Johnson Peter Routley	
Tring Corinthians AFC	Gary Mendham	Secretary
Tring Hockey Club	Patrick Barr	
Tring Lawn Tennis Club	Paul Hobday Clive Holder	
Tring Park Cricket Club	Ian Lewington	
Tring RUFC	Deric Newman Martin Walters	
Tring School	Ron Gibberd	Business Director
Tring Tornadoes FC	Martin Eccles	Secretary
Tring Tornadoes Junior FC	Andy Grout	Chairman
V.F.C First Team	Gary Murray	Secretary
Warners End (BKSL) FC	Galvin Bradley	Secretary
West Herts College FC	Scott Gray	Secretary
White Hart Rovers FC	Robbie Prestedge	Secretary
Wiggington Ladies NC	Ruth Rutt	
Herts Girls Football Partnership League	Kerry Reed	
Watford Friendly League	Tracy Hudson	
West Herts Youth League	Frank Andrews	
Berkhamsted Sunday Football League	Dave Gill	Secretary
Hertfordshire Senior County league	Scott White	

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
West Herts Saturday League	Tony Hobbs	

## APPENDIX 2: 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.

### ***Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)***

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transforming sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics. The strategy will:

- ◀ See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment
- ◀ Places, People, Play
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence
- ◀ Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- ◀ Market development

The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes:

- ◀ 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

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

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

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

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and 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 sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

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

## ***A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England***

It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England'. Protection of playing fields was enhanced in 1998 with Circular 9/98 (replaced in 2009 by Circular 02/09), which stipulates that where a local authority is minded to grant planning permission against Sport England's advice on land owned by a local authority or used for educational purposes, then the application should be referred to the relevant Government Office for possible 'call in'.

### ***The FA National Game Strategy (2011 – 2015)***

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

- ◀ Growth and retention (young and adult players)
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour
- ◀ Better players
- ◀ Running the game
- ◀ Workforce
- ◀ Facilities

'The National Game Strategy' reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites. Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years, resulting in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built five-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of five-a-side teams in recent years.

### ***The FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015)***

The recently launched National Facilities Strategy sets out the FA's long term vision for development of facilities to support the National Game. It aims to address and reflect the facility needs of football within the National Game. The National Game is defined as all non-professional football from Steps 1-7 of the National League System down to recreational football played on open public space. The role of facilities will be crucial in developing the game in England. One of the biggest issues raised from 'the Big Grassroots Football Survey' by that of 84% respondents, was 'poor facilities'.

The FA's vision for the future of facilities in England is to build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the nation's favourite game. It aims to do this by:

- ◀ Building - Provide new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation.
- ◀ Protecting - Ensure that playing pitches and facilities are protected for the benefit of current and future participants.
- ◀ Enhancing - Invest in existing facilities and pitches, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained as well as expanded.

The Strategy commits to delivering in excess of £150m (through Football Foundation) into facility improvements across the National Game in line with identified priorities:

- ◀ Natural grass pitches improved – target: 100
- ◀ A network of new AGPs built – target 100
- ◀ A network of refurbished AGPs – target 150

- ◀ On selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets
- ◀ Continue a small grants programme designed to address modest facility needs of clubs
- ◀ Ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts

It also commits to:

- ◀ Direct other sources of investment into FA facility priorities
- ◀ Communicate priorities for investment across the grassroots game on a regular basis
- ◀ Work closely with Sport England, the Premier League and other partners to ensure that investment is co-ordinated and targeted

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Champion Counties Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in May 2013 which seeks to deliver successful England teams at all levels, to produce a vibrant domestic game as well as increasing participation during the period 2014-17. It builds on the 2005 plan, Building Partnerships and the subsequent 2009 initiative, Grounds to Play.

The plan will take advantage of local partnerships developed in earlier plans and support local delivery of priorities through the County network. It targets operational excellence to make maximum use of scarce resources and facilities during a time of economic austerity.

Among the targets set under the four pillars of Effective Governance, Vibrant Domestic Game, Enthusiating Participation and Successful England teams, which are relevant to the playing pitch strategy, are:

- ◀ An increase in participation as measured by Sport England's Active People Survey from 183,400 to 197,500
- ◀ Expand the number of clubs participating in NatWest CricketForce from 2,000 to 2,200
- ◀ Increase the number of cricket's volunteers to 80,000 by 2017
- ◀ Expand the number of participants in women's and disabilities cricket by 10% by 2017
- ◀ To increase the number of TwelfthMan members from 220,000 to 250,000 by 2017
- ◀ Complete an approved Community Engagement programme with all 18 First Class Counties and MCC
- ◀ For each £1 provided in facility grants through the 'Sport England Whole Sport Plan Grant Programme' ensure a multiplier of three with other funding partners
- ◀ Provide a fund of £8.1m of capital investment to enhance floodlights, sightcreens, replay screens, power sub-stations and broadcasting facilities at First Class County venues
- ◀ Provide an interest-free loan fund to community clubs of £10 million
- ◀ Qualify and engage 50 Level 4 coaches to support the development of professional cricketers
- ◀ Expand the number of coaches who have received teacher level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications to 50,000
- ◀ Provide a fund of £2 million for community clubs to combat the impact of climate change
- ◀ Introduce a youth T20 competition engaging 500 teams by 2017



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

The recently launched RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

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

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

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

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

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

## England Hockey (EH)

*'The right pitches in the right places'<sup>8</sup>*

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGP's are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's.

Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGP's for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers who have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ **Single System** – clubs and providers who have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ **ClubsFirst** accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- ◀ **Sustainability** – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

England Hockey also has a range of hockey programmes to support recreational and club activity; summarised in the table below:

Programme name	Type
Quicksticks	Quicksticks is the introductory game designed specifically for Primary Schools and 7-11 year olds. It is a 4 a side introductory game of hockey, designed especially for 7-11 year olds to play. It can be played on any surface, and uses a larger, lighter and safer ball.
In2Hockey	In2Hockey follows on Quicksticks. It can be played as a 7-a-side game with goalkeepers, or introduced as a 6-a-side game without goalkeepers. It is played on an area the size of half a hockey pitch. It provides young players with opportunities for development, success and above all enjoyment.
Back to Hockey	Back to Hockey provides a gentle introduction or re-introduction to hockey. It's open to all females whether they have played before or not.
Rush Hockey	Aimed at increasing participation through a small sided game (5-a-side) and can be played on any indoor or outdoor surface.
Junior Development (JDC) and Junior Academy (JAC) centres	A JDC is a local training centre for the U13 to U17 age groups. Each centre is open to any player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach. After playing for a club or school, attending a centre is the next step on the Player Pathway. In order to become a JDC, the site must provide a full size (preferably floodlit) AGP. A JAC is the next step on the Player Pathway. JACs are located, in the majority of cases, at the same locations as JDCs.

<sup>8</sup>

## **England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17 Whole Sport Plan**

England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.



To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

## ***Lawn Tennis Association***

The LTA aim to get more people to play tennis more frequently and the places to play strategy is a way of doing this. The strategy will aim to provide high quality facilities for everyone at a convenient location.

It's one plan that aims to increase opportunities for people to play tennis on a regular basis at tennis clubs close to their home, which provides high quality opportunities on safe and well maintained tennis courts.

The strategy sets out:

- ◀ Overall vision for places to play
- ◀ How to grow regular participation by supporting places to play to develop and deliver the right programmes
- ◀ Capital investment decisions to ensure we invest in the right facilities to grow the sport
- ◀ Supporting performance programmes in the right locations

The LTA is committed to growing the sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class tennis facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition.

The overall aim for the next five years (2011-2016) is to ensure that, as far as practicably possible, the British population has access to and are aware of the places and high quality tennis opportunities in their local area. In brief

- ◀ Access for everyone to well maintained high quality tennis facilities which are either free or pay as you play
- ◀ A Clubmark accredited place to play within a 10 minute drive of their home
- ◀ Indoor tennis courts within a 20 minute drive time of their home
- ◀ A mini tennis (10 and under) performance programme within a 20 minute drive of their home (Performance Centres)
- ◀ A performance programme for 11 - 15 year olds within a 45 minute drive time of their home (High Performance Centre)
- ◀ A limited number of internationally orientated programmes strategically spread for players 16+ with an international programme (International High Performance Centres)

### **APPENDIX 3: GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

APS	Active People Survey
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BBF	British Baseball Federation
B2N	Back to Netball
DBC	Dacorum Borough Council
DPD	Development Plan Document
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EN	England Netball
FA	Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
HCB	Hertfordshire Cricket Board
HFA	Hertfordshire Football Association
HNA	Hertfordshire Netball Association
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NGB	National Governing Body of sport
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQSA	Performance Quality Standards Assessment
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
3G	Third Generation pitch

# APPENDIX 4 – FOOTBALL NON-TECHNICAL SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football							
Please complete one form per pitch							
Site reference: 6 figure grid reference		Site Name:					
Number of pitches on site:		Pitch ID(s):		Pitch size: (Adult, Youth 11x11, 9x6, 7x7 Mini, 5x5, 7x7)			
Availability		Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch? <input type="checkbox"/>					
If yes, please indicate what pitches are overlaid on? (i.e. one youth pitch is overlaid on an adult pitch) in Pitch Issues							
Weather at time of visit		Pitch Issues:					
Assessment Criteria (please mark 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	
<b>Playing surface</b>							
Grass Cover	Good >80%	Standard 60-80%	Poor <60%		Walk through the middle of the pitch		
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the largest size allowed	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		
Evensness 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: Preview (Information from maintenance schedule or grounds team)						Section total	
Are any of the items applied to the pitches during the course of the season to support the maintenance							
Grass cutting	Yes, as required	Yes, but not frequent enough	No				
Seeded	Yes, as required	Not known	No				
Mowed (per year)	Three or more times	Once/twice	No				
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months	Within the last 12 months	No				
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months	Within the last 12 months	No				
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months	Within the last 12 months	No				
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.						Section total	
PITCH SCORE		0.0%		RATING		Poor	
<b>Built facilities Quality (the following information will provide a quality rating for the changing room and ancillary facilities)</b>							
Comments							
Is there a clubhouse on site?	Yes	No					
Is there a kitchen or bar within the clubhouse?	Yes	No					
Is there a set of changing rooms for the pitch?	Yes	No					
Quality of the changing accommodation (exterior)?	Good	Adequate	Poor				
Quality of changing accommodation (interior)?	Good	Adequate	Poor				
Shower provision	Self contained in dressing rooms	Communal	None				
Is there dedicated toilets for players?	Self contained in dressing rooms	Communal player toilets	None				
Is there an officials changing room?	Yes, with dedicated toilet/shower	Yes, but shared toilet/shower	No				
Is there access to dedicated spectator toilets?	Yes	No					
Is there a dedicated medical room?	Yes	No					
Are accessible (DDA compliant) facilities provided?	Yes	No			DDA compliant		
Is appropriate car parking available?	Yes	No					
Is there a boundary fence preventing unauthorised access?	Yes	No					
BUILT FACILITIES QUALITY SCORE						0.0%	
Poor							
Section total							
Ancillary Issues:							
Pitch ancillary facilities (The following information does not influence the site assessments but is valuable for when discussing site by site action plans)							
Are goalposts safe?	Yes	No			Goalposts should comply with British Standards. A Code of Practice BS 8461 has also been completed and copies of all of these three standards are available from the British Standards Institute.		
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes	No					
Is there a perimeter rail around the pitch?	Yes	No			eg: stadia rail ideally 1.1m high		
Is there a covered stand?	Yes	No			For spectators to watch		
Pitch site guidance							
Age	Formet (maximum format but can play smaller numbers)	Pitch size (yards)	Maximum Goal Size (feet)	Scoring: 100% - 75% Good 74.9% - 50% Standard 49.9% - 0% Poor			
U7	5 v 5	30x20 to 40x30	12 x 6				
U8	5 v 5	30x20 to 40x30	12 x 6				
U9	7 v 7	50x30 to 60x40	12 x 6				
U10	7 v 7	50x30 to 60x40	12 x 6				
				SAVE this completed form with an appropriate name BEFORE clicking one of the two buttons below. CLEAR FORM for next site (completely clears ALL fields on the form) CLEAR FORM to reset Pitch on this site (clears ONLY the Pitch fields on the form, leaving the Site fields intact)			

# APPENDIX 5 – CRICKET NON-TECHNICAL SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Cricket						
Please complete one form per pitch						
Site reference			Site Name			
6 figure grid reference			No of Pitches:			
Pitch ID			No of wickets:	Natural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non turf
Weather at time of visit:						
Availability						
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused						
General comments/observations						
*You will need a cricket ball and ruler to assess wicket quality as indicated						
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 (use the guidance notes to help complete)
<b>About the cricket outfield</b>						
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	<80% falls below the ECB basic standard		
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Ideally 12mm - 25mm		
Evenness	Even	Uneven	Ball should run without deviation or ramp			
Evidence of Dog fouling/glasses/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager			
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager			
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required eg from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and tows etc may also wish to refer to user survey			
						section total
<b>Artificial Wickets</b>						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes	No	There should be no trip points			
Evenness of wicket	Even	Uneven	There should be no contours in surface levels			
Stump holes	Yes	No	Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball			
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes	No	There should be none			
Rips or surface lifting	Yes	No	If "yes" contact site manager			
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes	No	If "yes" contact site manager			
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes	No				
						section total
<b>Grass Wickets</b>						
Presence of line markings	Yes	No				
Evidence of rolling	Yes	No	i.e. is wicket smooth and uniform			
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes	No	3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square			
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes	No				
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes	No	Scale: 80%+ = Yes, 80% = No Please note that <80% falls below the ECB basic standard			
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound/bounce?	Yes	No				
						section total
<b>Changing/ Pavilion</b>						
Umpires provision	Yes	No				
Toilets	Yes	No				
Hot/cold water	Yes	No				
Heating	Yes	No				
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention			
						section total
<b>Non Turf Cricket Practice Nets</b>						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes	No				
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even	Uneven				
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes	No				
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes	No				
No rips or surface lifting	Yes	No				
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes	No				
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes	No				
Is the steel frame/ posts upright?	Yes	No	Ideally assessed with a spirit level but can be achieved by eye.			
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes	No				
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes	No				
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes	No				
Is appropriate safety/ supervisory signage present?	Yes	No				
						section total
Maximum score	<b>180</b>	<b>Scoring</b>		Score	Percentage Score	Facility Present?
		0	0%	No		
		0	0%	No		
		0	0%	No		
		0	0%	No		
		0	0%	No		
		<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>			
		<b>Overall score</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	
Potential Rating: <span style="background-color: #d9ead3; padding: 2px 10px;"><b>Poor</b></span>						
SAVE this completed form with an appropriate name BEFORE clicking one of the two buttons below.  <div style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">CLEAR FORM for next Site</div> (completely clears ALL fields on the form)  <div style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">CLEAR FORM for next Pitch on this Site</div> (clears ONLY the Pitch fields on the form, leaving the Site fields intact)						
Rating: <=50% Poor 51-80% Standard >81% Good						