

WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 13: FOOTBALL

Introduction

Lancashire Football Association (LFA) and Manchester Football Association (MFA) are both responsible for the development of football in the Borough. There are a large number of leagues (38 affiliated leagues) providing football from under 7's through to open age, for both males and females. Wigan has range of leagues from across the North West accommodating teams in Wigan, from the Preston and District Football League to the Mid Cheshire Football League.

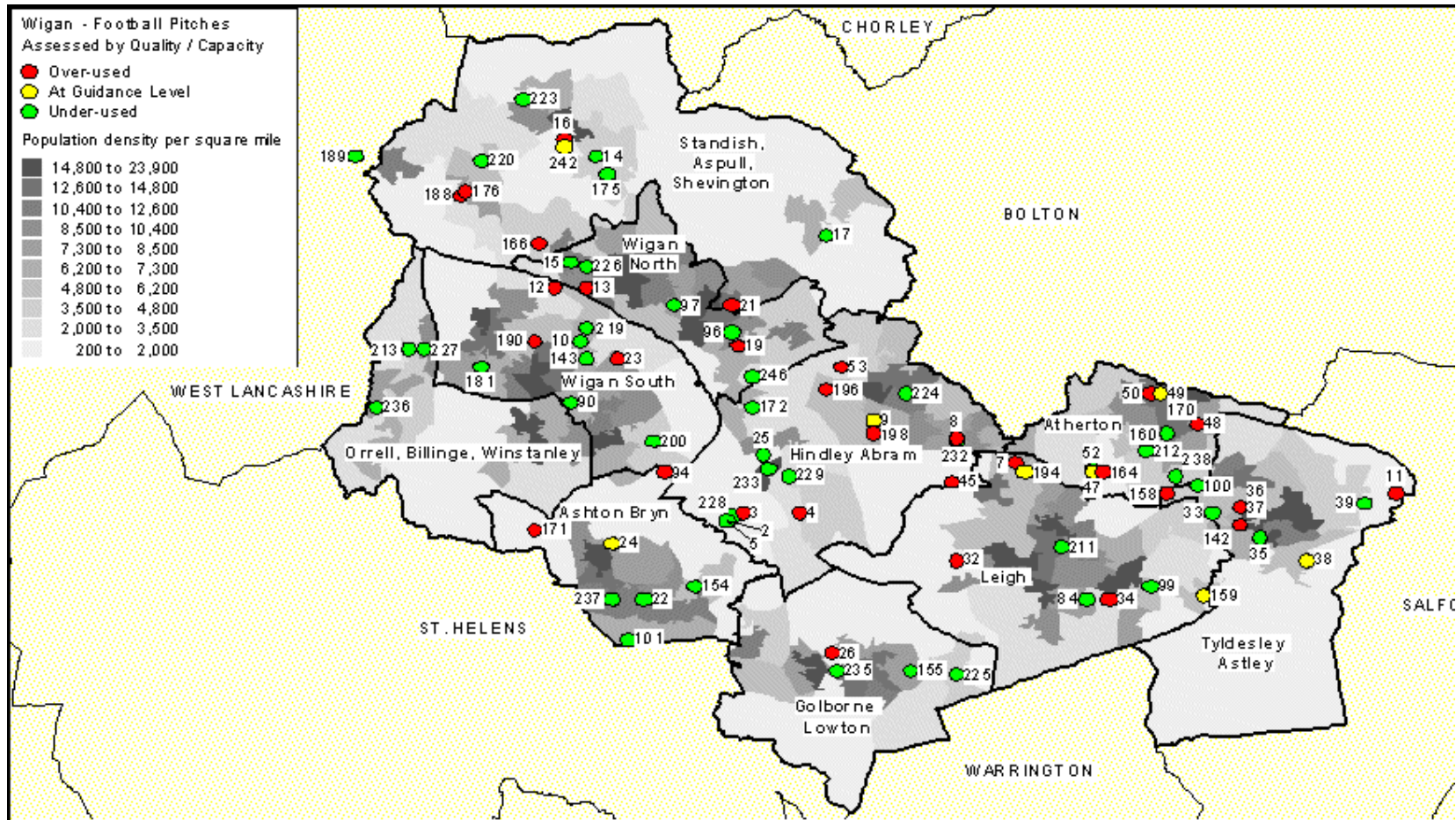
Table 13.1: Summary of pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini-soccer
Ashton Bryn	6	2	-	10	-	9	-	5
Atherton	11	1	2	10	-	13	-	1
Golborne Lowton	3	3	-	5	-	2	-	5
Hindley Abram	15	3	9	13	-	21	5	23
Leigh	12	-	3	17	-	25	2	3
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	3	-	1	-	-	15	-	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	16	2	4	18	1	25	-	17
Tyldesley Astley	12	3	1	10	-	19	-	3
Wigan North	6	-	-	14	-	-	-	1
Wigan South	23	-	1	31	3	28	8	-
WIGAN	107	14	21	128	4	157	15	58

Although there appears to be a significant number of analysis areas where junior and women's football is not played, this is because it is targeted at central venue sites, where segregated changing accommodation is accessible. Numbers are relatively low because some leagues play outside of the Borough at central venue sites.



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Fig

Figure 13.1: Location of football pitches in Wigan



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Table 13.2 – Key to map of football pitches

Site name	KKP Ref	Analysis area	Community use	Senior pitches	Junior pitches	Mini pitches
Ashton Athletic FC	171	Ashton Bryn	Yes	2		
Ashton Town FC	154	Ashton Bryn	Yes	1		
Byrchall High School	101	Ashton Bryn	Yes	1	1	
King George V Playing Fields	22	Ashton Bryn	Yes	1		
Leigh Hamers Athletic Club	94	Ashton Bryn	Yes	1		
RL Hughes Primary	237	Ashton Bryn	No		1	
Byrn Recreation Recreation Ground	24	Ashton Bryn	Yes	1		
Atherton Collieries	160	Atherton	Yes	1		
Atherton FC	164	Atherton	Yes	1		
Atherton Laburnum Rovers FC	170	Atherton	Yes	1		
Devonshire Road Playing Field	50	Atherton	Yes	2		
Douglas Street	48	Atherton	Yes	1		
Hesketh Fletcher High School	212	Atherton	Yes	3		
Howe Bridge	52	Atherton	Yes	1		2
Lodge Lane	47	Atherton	Yes	2		2
Sacred Heart RC Primary	238	Atherton	No		1	
Spa Road	49	Atherton	Yes	1		
Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Centre	26	Golborne Lowton	Yes	1		
Hesketh Meadow	155	Golborne Lowton	Yes	2	2	
Lowton Sports College	225	Golborne Lowton	No	3		
Lowton West Primary	235	Golborne Lowton	No		1	
Abram Byrn Gates Primary School	228	Hindley Abram	No		1	
Abram CE Primary School	229	Hindley Abram	No			1
AFC Hindley	198	Hindley Abram	Yes	1	1	5
Bryn Gates	2	Hindley Abram	Yes			1



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Site name	KKP Ref	Analysis area	Community use	Senior pitches	Junior pitches	Mini pitches
Cardinal Newman Playing Field	53	Hindley Abram	Yes			1
Furlong Close	3	Hindley Abram	Yes	1		
Hindley Community High School	224	Hindley Abram	No	2		
Hindley Green St Johns Primary	232	Hindley Abram	No			1
Holy Family Catholic Primary	233	Hindley Abram	No		1	
Kildare Street	196	Hindley Abram	Yes	1		
Kingsdown Road/Whitley Crescent	4	Hindley Abram	Yes	1		
Leigh Street	45	Hindley Abram	Yes	2		
Leyland Park	9	Hindley Abram	Yes	3		
Miners Welfare Playing Fields	25	Hindley Abram	Yes	1		
Springview Community Sports Association	172	Hindley Abram	Yes	1		
St John Street	5	Hindley Abram	Yes	1		
Thomas Street	8	Hindley Abram	Yes	1		
Bedford High School	99	Leigh	No	1	1	
Brunswick Recreation Club (Hindley Green)	211	Leigh	Yes	1		1
Dootsons Park	34	Leigh	Yes	1		
Marsh Playing Fields	30	Leigh	Yes	1		
Marsland Green	159	Leigh	Yes	1		
Melrose Tip Playing Field	7	Leigh	Yes	1		
Toch H Park,	84	Leigh	Yes	1		
Watson Playing Fields	32	Leigh	Yes	2		
Westleigh High School (off site pitches)	194	Leigh	Yes	1		
Abraham Guest High School (off site)	213	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	3		
Orrell Holgate Primary	236	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	No			1
St Peters Catholic High School	227	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	No	1		
Apperley Lane South	189	Outside	Yes	1		1



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Site name	KKP Ref	Analysis area	Community use	Senior pitches	Junior pitches	Mini pitches
Ashfield Park	14	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2	2	
Aspull Civic	17	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2		3
Christopher Park	166	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	1		
Highfield Avenue	188	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	1		
Shevington High School	220	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2		
Shevington Recreation Ground	176	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	1		
Southlands Ave Playing Fields	16	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	1		
St Catherine's Playing Fields	21	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2		
Standish High School	223	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2		
The Convent Playing Fields	175	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2		
Wood Fold Primary	242	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	No			1
Astley & Tyldesley Miners Welfare Institute	33	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	2		
Astley Street	37	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	1		1
City Road, Mosley Common	11	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	1		
Ellesmere Street	38	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	1		
Gin Pit	142	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	2		
Hindsford AFC	158	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	1		
The Ley Playing Field	35	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	1	1	
Mosley Common	39	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	1	2	
St George's Park	36	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	2		
Tyldesley Fred Longworth High	100	Tyldesley Astley	No	1	1	
Coronation Park, Standish Lower Ground	15	Wigan North	Yes	1		
Joy Mining Machinery	246	Wigan North	Yes	1		



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Site name	KKP Ref	Analysis area	Community use	Senior pitches	Junior pitches	Mini pitches
Rose Bridge High School	96	Wigan North	No	1		
St Mary's RC High School	97	Wigan North	No	6		
William Fosters	19	Wigan North	Yes	3		
Woodhouse Stadium	13	Wigan North	Yes	1		
Alexandra Park	143	Wigan South	Yes			1
Hawkley Hall High School	200	Wigan South	Yes	1		
PEMBEC	190	Wigan South	Yes	1		
Laithwaite Playing Fields	10	Wigan South	Yes	5		
Little Lane	90	Wigan South	Yes	4		
Parsons Meadows	23	Wigan South	Yes	5		
Robin Park	219	Wigan South	Yes	1		
Scot Lane	12	Wigan South	Yes	3		
St John Rigby College	181	Wigan South	Yes	2		

Development

LFA has highlighted a number of priorities for the development of football across the County, which are directly relevant for Wigan.

Table 13.3: LFA priorities and their impact on Wigan

Priority	County vision	Wigan
Development of 9 a side football	In order to bridge the gap between mini and junior football, the FA is proposing to recognise and support the development of 9 a side football pitches.	Currently there are no dedicated pitches in Wigan. However, WLCT has a strategy in place and is addressing this through the development of pitches.
Changing facilities for mini-soccer	Due to child protection regulations, all venues hosting mini-soccer matches must have access to changing facilities.	Currently there is no dedicated grass mini-soccer central venue in Wigan. The majority of mini soccer is catered for on astro turf.
Availability of changing facilities	All league competitions require teams to have access to changing facilities.	Currently, there are teams playing on local authority pitches without access to changing facilities. This contravenes league rules.



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Football Forum

The Wigan Football Forum has been inactive for the past couple of years. Prior to this it was a decision making forum regarding site management and was facility driven in terms of lobbying for better quality pitches and associated facilities. The Forum is currently being re established and should now focus on development issues and should have better representation from women's football and education representatives.

9 a side football

To assist in junior development from 7 a side football to 11 a side football, 9 a side football has recently been introduced nationally by The FA.

At present, there are no competitive 9 a side pitches provided in the Borough. Three clubs playing 9 a side football access leagues such as the Bolton and Bury League and the Preston City League and play at central venues outside of the Wigan authority area. However, this is only a small number and clubs report latent demand for pitches to be provided in Wigan.

In order to help bridge the gap between mini and junior football, WLCT in partnership with the LFA, is proposing to develop 9 a side football pitches in Wigan to cater for U10 through to U12 age groups. Both club and league consultation identifies demand for 9 a side pitches in Wigan. In particular, Wigan Youth Football League identifies demand for at least four 9 a side pitches.

Recognising this need, the WLCT strategy seeks to use opportunity of facility development to provide facilities that are appropriate for 9 a side football and thus minimise impact on current demand for existing grass pitches. It is in the process of developing three specific 9 a side sites at Howe Bridge, Hindley (St Thomas) and Shevington High School. Consultation with the Wigan Youth Football League identifies it would like to work closely with WC in the managing of pitch allocations and is considering extending the League to Saturdays to allow more usage of the pitches.

Howe Bridge

This project is providing an equivalent of six new grass pitch facilities for pitch losses through the development of Leigh Sports Village (LSV). As part of the development, five College pitches were given over to WC for community use (that were not used for community use previously).

- ❑ One pitch is for the use of Atherton Town (it's existing training pitch has been used to gain access to LSV.)
- ❑ The area of two of the remaining five pitches is to be set out as four 9 a side pitches (equivalent area of two full size grass pitches).
- ❑ The remaining three pitches will be allocated based on demand.



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The four 9 a side pitches will be coming into play September 07-08 following the formal hand over from the drainage contractor. Wigan and District Youth League will be allocated the pitches on Sunday and it will administer the allocation of these pitches in line with current processes. The Bury and Bolton League is being contacted to agree a similar process for Saturdays but will currently not be managed by the League in the same way.

Changing facilities will be available via an agreement with Atherton Town FC but this will have some restrictions on availability and quality of changing offered. This proposal has no effect on existing grass pitch provision.

Hindley (Thomas St) Primary School

This project is at design and feasibility stage and will provide three 9 a side football pitches:

- ❑ It includes improvement of one existing grass pitch and converting it from a junior pitch to a 9 a side pitch which is more appropriate for this site.
- ❑ An adjacent school will provide two new 9 a side pitches (this is an equivalent area of one full size grass pitch).
- ❑ An adjacent school will provide access to one half size all weather pitch that can be used for 9 a side.

The implementation date for this project is more likely to be for the season 2008-09. The Wigan and District Youth League will be allocated the pitches on Sunday and it will administer the allocation of these pitches in line with current processes. Assessment is to be made of the required use by the Bury and Bolton League for Saturday use. Changing facilities will be made available via the School as part of a community use agreement. This proposal takes out of play one poor junior pitch and replace it with an improved 9 a side pitch and provides access to two new 9 a side grass pitches.

The School will have access during curriculum time. Weekend use will be managed by the appropriate leagues and it is hoped that an appropriate community group will manage the out of school use to facilitate appropriate training.

Shevington High School

This project is part of a larger multi million pound proposal to develop the School to provide opportunity for community links and facilities and will provide four 9 a side grass pitches:

- ❑ It includes changing two existing full size grass pitches currently available to the community on an ad hoc basis into four 9 a side grass pitches.
- ❑ Other developments on site include a proposed 3rd generation turf pitch that could be used for training.
- ❑ Changing will be made available by internal changes to the School or by the development of a community building by virtue of a partner in the project.



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The implementation date for this project is currently unidentifiable and subject to a complex process of external funding.

Women's and girls' football

The Lancashire Girls' League provides football opportunities for women/girls from U10 through to open age. Wigan Athletic Ladies FC reports that membership levels have dramatically increased with a growth particularly in the U10's and U11's, impacting on greater demand for access to mini football pitches. In order to accommodate teams the Club accesses pitches at a number of sites including Pemberton High Business and Enterprise College (PEMBEC), Kingsdown Road and Scot Lane. In addition, the Club reports latent demand for four junior teams. Pitches at Kingsdown Road are not frequently marked out and there is some concern regarding the future use of these pitches.

St Cuthberts's ARLFC has entered into a partnership with PEMBEC to develop Kingsdown Road for rugby. This will create spare rugby pitch capacity at Scot Lane and due to a lack of demand for rugby pitches at Scot Lane, it is likely that these pitches can go some way towards replacing football pitches for girls'/ladies teams to accommodate Wigan Athletic Ladies FC.

Consultation with Lancashire FA suggests that there is likely to be low levels of latent demand from girls' teams in Wigan. This is, in part, identified as being due to a lack of access to good quality, segregated changing accommodation generally across the Borough. Even well established clubs, such as Wigan Athletic Ladies FC, find it difficult to accommodate all teams at suitable sites; it is near impossible for new teams to find suitable sites and facilities.

Wigan Athletic FC Football in the Community (WAFC)

Wigan Athletic FC in the Community is one of the main deliverers of football activity in communities in the Borough. The aim is to forge closer links with the community and Wigan Athletic FC through working closely with primary schools to deliver curricular and extra curricular activities. Consultation identifies a lack of football pitches in primary schools in Leigh resulting in sessions being delivered on school playgrounds. One of the main focuses of WAFC is the delivery of girls'/women's football. The activities act as a feeder into Wigan Athletic Ladies FC.



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Pitch management

Pitch allocation

Management of pitch allocations is carried out by WLCT and is moving more towards leagues managing whole sites. This works well from a management perspective and league/team perspective. The South Lancashire League has been managing its pitch allocations for the last few years and has found it much easier to accommodate teams. However, leagues believe that enforcement of allocations by WLCT could be improved in order that pitches are not overplayed. This is often caused by unofficial use of the pitches for mid week training and it is proposed that WLCT manage this training in order to reduce the unofficial use.

Hire charges

The Council operates a three tier hire charged based on the facilities available at the site and is not based on a quality assessment. The grades applied are as follows:

- ❑ A - pitch with changing and shower.
- ❑ B - pitch with changing but no shower.
- ❑ C - pitch only.

A number of clubs consider that the cost of hiring senior pitches is high. The following table compares hire charges for surrounding local authorities:

	Wigan	Bolton	Chorley	West Lancashire
Football pitch	£515 (A)	£385 (A)	£300 (A)	£241 (A)
	£425 (B)	£240 (C)	£170 (C)	£220 (B)
	£335 (C)			£143 (C)

(A=pitch with changing and shower, B=pitch with changing but no shower and C pitch only)

The local authority football pitches in Wigan appear to be considerably more expensive to hire than in other neighbouring local authorities. This is not necessarily reflected by site quality, as clubs feel that site quality is generally poorer than neighbouring authorities. Clubs also suggest that the cost of hiring pitches would not be an issue if facilities were of a higher standard. In terms of senior pitches, 48% were assessed as good quality in Wigan. As a comparison, 57% of senior pitches in neighbouring Bolton were assessed as good quality.

Clubs pay per individual team using per pitch. This can be costly particularly for clubs, which have a number of teams renting the same pitch. Clubs would prefer to pay one consolidated charge per pitch if they are the only club using that pitch, although this would not necessarily reflect the level of use of each pitch.



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Priority access to pitches

As agreed through the Football Forum, WLCT applies an historical usage approach to pitch bookings. There is no formal priority booking system in place that rewards better quality clubs (i.e. those offering young people development opportunities and playing in competitive league structures with requirements for changing provision) and in particular, those clubs that have achieved Charter Standard accreditation. In total, there are 13 Charter Standard clubs in Wigan.

Cancellations

Pitches are inspected on Thursdays to declare the state of play for weekend matches. An automated telephone line has been set up for clubs to ring to identify if their pitch is playable. Clubs feel that sites, which are identified as unplayable on Thursday, are, on some occasions, fit for weekend fixtures. However, during periods of inclement weather, the Trust has a system in place using a 'three option' procedure where fixtures are either, off, off on selected sites, or open pending a referee inspection.

Key issues for football

Demand

League consultation suggests there has been a decrease in the number of teams participating in Wigan over the last five years. This is most significant in the Leigh area, where, the Leigh and Amateur District Football League has recently disbanded. The Leigh and District Youth Football League (LDYFL) also reports a significant membership reduction in junior teams (34) in the last few years and currently only has one U14 division. However, demand for pitches remains in Leigh but teams now play within Bolton leagues. Teams in the East of the Borough are more likely to travel to Bolton to access provision than stay within Wigan and travel to the West of the Borough.

In order to better bridge the gap across the age groups and therefore attract a more consistent membership, LDYFL will start to introduce more divisions, starting next season with two U7s divisions (demand has been identified through consultation with primary schools).

Planned 9 aside junior pitches in Leigh are already booked to capacity and there is significant demand for access to pitches at the Leigh Sports Village site, with enquires already being received resulting in a waiting list recently being set up.

Some local authority sites, including Coronation Park, Gossips, King George V Playing Fields and Miners Welfare Playing Fields, currently have no teams allocated to play competitively. This is reported to be due to a lack of demand in area coupled with poor quality pitches and changing accommodation.



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Across the Borough it has been identified that there is demand for more multi pitch sites in order to accommodate clubs which have a number of teams. This would enable teams to play at one site as oppose to playing at disparate sites throughout the Borough. For example, Leigh RMI FC has nine teams in total. In order to accommodate the number of teams the Club accesses pitches at three different sites. It plans to increase the number of teams to 13 next season. The Club is in consultation with Lowton Sports College about using its pitches. Accessing pitches at Lowton Sports College would enable the Club to host at least half of its teams and allow them to train at one site. It would also allow the development of girls through the availability of segregated changing provision.

Latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded if there was access to a sufficient number of pitches. Consultation reveals that a number of clubs currently have latent demand which cannot be met to due a lack of access to good quality facilities.

Table 13.4: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Site	Latent demand	Pitch requirement
Atherton Collieries FC	Atherton Collieries	2 senior teams 1 junior team	1 x senior pitch 0.5 x junior pitch
Wigan Athletic Ladies FC	Pemberton Business and Enterprise College (PEMBEC)	1 senior 4 junior teams	0.5 x senior pitch 1.5 x junior pitch
Woodfold JFC	Wood Fold Primary School	1 mini team 1 junior team	0.5 x mini pitches 0.5 x junior pitch
Scorpions FC	St Catherine's Recreation Ground	2 junior teams	1 x junior pitch

This level of additional demand will be taken into account later in this section and assessed against current levels of overplay, to assess the need for additional pitches. It is likely that better quality pitches and ancillary facilities will accommodate this expressed latent demand without the need for additional pitches. The spreading of pitch usage from peak times (currently Sunday for seniors) to Saturday may also help to accommodate some demand.

Pitch quality

There is significant variation in pitch quality across Wigan ranging from sites assessed as poor quality such as Miners Welfare Playing Fields (scored 39%), where pitch surface is damaged due to illegal use and where there are currently no allocations, to sites such as the highest scoring local authority site, Laithwaite Playing Fields (scored 74%), where there are good quality pitches and segregated changing accommodation. Privately owned sites tend to score significantly higher than local authority owned sites.



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Overall, the quality of local authority pitches has improved over the last three years, thought to be due to increased maintenance work and investment from WC. However, a common issue across the Borough is the inadequate drainage on pitches. Although there is some evidence of drainage, it appears during inclement weather pitches do not drain well, creating surface water. A number of clubs identified that matches are regularly called off for this reason, which in return puts pressure on clubs in the latter half of the season to complete matches. Consultation reports demand for pitches to be rolled more and top dressed. Due to unseasonable weather conditions, it is often difficult for grounds maintenance to access pitches, restricting the amount of times the grass is cut and resulting in long grass issues. WLCT states that with the exception of a few sites, playing fields require significant investment in the drainage infrastructure to secure real benefits to playing surfaces.

As agreed through the Football Forum, Scot Lane is the local authority flagship pitch facility and the processes used for investment was/is applied to other key sites across the Borough. Pitches at these key sites will accommodate up to three matches per week due to investment in pitch quality and a high level of maintenance applied, which is able to sustain high pitch standards over the coming years. These sites are as follows:

- ❑ Scot Lane.
- ❑ Laithwaite Playing Fields.
- ❑ Leyland Park.
- ❑ St George's Park.
- ❑ Parsons Meadows.
- ❑ Ashfield Park.

League consultation highlights that the quality of local authority pitches is regularly affected by vandalism in the form of illegal vehicular use on pitches and/or dog fouling. Wigan Council acknowledges the right of people to have access to Council owned property through its Open Fields Policy and to some extent this can promote pitches to be used other than for competitive matches, leading to misuse of pitches. It is these openly accessible pitches at sites such as Parsons Meadow, Fosters Playing Fields, Little Lane, Marsh Lane and Watsons Playing Fields that suffer from regular damage to pitch surface/quality due to unofficial use.

There are policies and defensive measures in place to deter off road vehicle use. Although our consultation highlights off road vehicle use to be an issue, few official complaints are actually received by WLCT. Statements received are encouraged to be reported to the Police, to build up evidence in order to be able to act upon them.



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Ancillary facilities

Changing accommodation

There has been some investment in new changing room provision at key local authority sites since reorganisation. These include facilities at Leyland Park, Little Lane, St John Street, Parsons Meadow and Scot Lane.

In total there are 15 local authority owned sites with access to changing facilities compared to 29 sites with no changing provision. Consultation reports there appears to be a significant lack of changing accommodation in the Leigh area with sites such as Lodge Lane and Watsons Playing Fields having no provision.

Access to adequate toilets and changing facilities is a requirement for the majority of leagues operating in Wigan. However, due to the lack of access to such provision, this is something that junior and mini leagues, in particular, do not enforce, even though it is recognised as a child protection issue. Consultation and site assessments identify ancillary facilities at the following local authority sites to be of particularly poor quality at Marsh Playing Fields and Ashfield Park.

There is no changing accommodation at the following sites:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alexandra Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Gin Pit (possible use of private facility) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Astley Street. | <input type="checkbox"/> Lodge Lane. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Byrn Gates. | <input type="checkbox"/> Melrose Tip. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Mosley Common. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Road. | <input type="checkbox"/> Queensway. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coronation Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Southlands Avenue. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Devonshire Road. | <input type="checkbox"/> Spa Road. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dootsons Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> The Ley Playing Fields. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dorset Road. | <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Street. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Douglas Street. | <input type="checkbox"/> Watson Playing Fields. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ellesmere Street. | <input type="checkbox"/> Whithill Street |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furlong Close. | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodhouse Stadium. |

Car parking

Car parking is an issue at Laithwaite Park, particularly at peak times. Leyland Park also has a particular issue and WLCT is working with leagues to resolve this issue. Parking is also an issue at Scot Lane when Wigan Athletic FC is playing at home on a Saturday afternoon.



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Leasing

A number of clubs are, or have been, interested in taking a long-term lease on a site. This would give them the security of tenure required (circa. 25 years subject to progress) to apply for external funding to improve the current state of facilities. In the main WLCT will consider leasing sites with two or less pitches in order that investment can then be focused on multi pitch sites. The following sites are currently leased from WC to football clubs:

- ❑ Jubilee Park – Pennington FC.
- ❑ Brocstedes Park – Ashton Athletic FC.
- ❑ Rear of Howe Bridge Sports Centre – Atherton Town FC.

There are also number of local authority sites which could be suitable for a long term lease by clubs. These sites either have two or less pitches or are currently not being used for competitive sport, but, with investment, could be suitable sites, including:

- ❑ Kingsdown Road.
- ❑ Coronation Park (WLCT has approached a club).
- ❑ King George V Playing Fields.
- ❑ Miners Welfare Playing Fields.
- ❑ Dootsons Park (WLCT has approached a club).
- ❑ Douglas Street (leasing in progress).
- ❑ Ellesmere Street.
- ❑ Gossips.

Recognising the large stock of one and two pitch sites, WLCT has already gone some way towards encouraging and negotiating the long term leasing of sites. However, approximately 30 clubs have been deterred from proceeding due to the current state of sites (i.e. no changing accommodation and poor quality pitches) and the associated long term commitment to securing capital and revenue funding that would be required. This remains a particular issue at Byrn Recreation Ground. The Wigan Council Open Field Policy is also an issue that often deters clubs from leasing sites, in that it prevents council owned recreation areas from being fenced, something that clubs would like to carry out in order to protect facilities that they would manage.

Lodge Lane

Real FC identifies demand to lease pitches at Lodge Lane. However, the land has been allocated for future cemetery provision (although there is no current timescales in place for this to happen) in order to cater for additional burial space in the Borough. Not only will this mean that the Club is unable to have a long term lease on the site, but it may eventually result in the Club having to access pitches elsewhere.



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St James Park

WLCT has established and supported Wigan Rovers FC in expressing an interest in leasing its home ground, St James Park, Poolstock. St James Church owns the land and the Club is currently in negotiations with the Church to secure long term tenure of the Site. However, consultation reports the Church has not been forthcoming and negotiations have been ongoing for a number of years. Wigan Rovers FC shares the senior football pitch with Highfield Grange FC. Consultation with both Clubs report that with better quality changing accommodation available on site, both clubs could provide more youth teams. Currently there are three porta cabins on site utilised as changing rooms.

Education sites

There are few, if any, formal use agreements in place for the use of education owned playing fields by football clubs in Wigan. A small number of secondary school playing fields are used competitively by football clubs, including Westleigh High School (off site pitches), Abraham Guest High School and Hawkley Hall High School. Some schools state that their facilities are available for community use but are currently not in use for example, Byrchall High School, Shevington High School, Standish High School, St John Rigby College, PEMBEC and Hesketh Fletcher High School. Although this provides some spare capacity, it would appear that there are a variety of reasons why clubs are currently not using the sites, relating to access to changing accommodation and a lack of awareness of availability and a lack of use

Primary school sites could hold the potential capacity to cater for mini and junior football demand. For example, Woodfold JFC expresses latent demand at Wood Fold Primary School even though there is currently no community use of the site. Only a small number of primary schools sites are currently being used for community use. Access to appropriate changing accommodation remains an issue at primary school sites.



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Provision of football pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

Calculation of *capacity* is based on the qualitative ratings. Taking into consideration SE guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

- ❑ If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as two matches per week.
- ❑ If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as one match per week.
- ❑ If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week.

This section presents the current pitch stock available for football in the Borough. It illustrates:

- ❑ Number of pitches rated as Good (G), Average (A) and Poor (P) on each site.
- ❑ The type of pitch(es) on the site (senior, junior, mini).
- ❑ The column entitled 'matches per week' is split into three sections – play, capacity and rating:
 - The current level of play per week (0.5 for each match played at the site, assuming half of matches will be played 'away').
 - The capacity of the pitches on each site.
 - The rating of the pitches, which indicates if pitches are played under capacity (green), played at capacity (amber) or played over-capacity (red).

For the purposes of this report, KKP has used Sport England guidelines to calculate capacity. However, some good quality local authority pitches will accommodate up to three matches per week (as agreed through the Football Forum, when it was active) due to investment in pitch quality and a high level of maintenance applied, which is able to sustain high pitch standards over the coming years. These sites are as follows:

- ❑ Scot Lane.
- ❑ Laithwaite Playing Fields.
- ❑ Leyland Park.
- ❑ St George's Park.
- ❑ Parsons Meadows.
- ❑ Ashfield Park.



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Table 13.5: Football provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community Use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments	
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating		
22	King George V Playing Fields	Ashton Bryn	Yes		1									-	1.0		Currently no teams allocated to this site. This is reported to be due to a lack of demand in area coupled with poor quality facilities.
24	Whithill Street	Ashton Bryn	Yes			1								0.5	0.5		No access to changing accommodation.
94	Leigh Harriers Athletic Club	Ashton Bryn	Yes	1										3.5	2.0		It is likely that these pitches are able to accommodate more than 2 matches per week due to the high standard maintenance.
101	Byrchall High School	Ashton Bryn	Yes			1			1					1.0	2.0		Currently used by Ashtonians AFC. Taking into consideration the poor quality and school usage, the site is actually played to capacity.
154	Ashton Town FC	Ashton Bryn	Restricted	1										1.0	2.0		Spare capacity at this site will allow for the Club to develop further teams.
171	Ashton Athletic FC	Ashton Bryn	Restricted	2										6.5	4.0		It is likely that these pitches are able to accommodate more than 2 matches per week due to the high standard maintenance.
47	Lodge Lane	Atherton	Yes		2						2			3.0	3.0		No access to changing accommodation. There is occasional unofficial use of pitches, although youth congregation on the car park is a major issue.



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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community Use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
48	Douglas Street	Atherton	Yes			1						2.5	0.5		No access to changing accommodation. Leasing of the site in progress.	
49	Spa Road	Atherton	Yes			1						0.5	0.5		No access to changing accommodation.	
50	Devonshire Road Playing Field	Atherton	Yes			2						2.5	1.0		No access to changing accommodation.	
52	Howe Bridge	Atherton	Yes	1						2		0.5	6.0		9 aside pitch developments planned at this site.	
160	Atherton Collieries	Atherton	Restricted	1								1.0	2.0		Latent demand expressed at this site.	
164	Atherton FC	Atherton	Restricted	1								7.0	2.0		It is likely that these pitches are able to accommodate more than 2 matches per week due to the high standard maintenance.	
170	Atherton Laburnum Rovers FC	Atherton	Restricted	1								2.0	2.0		Site being played to capacity but it is likely that these pitches are able to accommodate more than 2 matches per week due to the high standard maintenance.	
212	Hesketh Fletcher High School	Atherton	Yes		3							-	6.0		Although available for community use, there are currently no teams allocated to play here.	
26	Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Centre	Golborne Lowton	Restricted	1								5.5	2.0		Overplay is due to the large number of junior and mini teams currently allocated to play at the site.	



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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community Use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
155	Hesketh Meadow	Golborne Lowton	Yes	2			2						3.0	8.0		Significant spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.
2	Bryn Recreation Ground	Hindley Abram	Yes								1		1.0	1.0		No access to changing accommodation. No arrangement regarding leasing of this site could be reached. Ideal site potential for mini soccer centre with investment.
3	Furlong Close	Hindley Abram	Yes		1								1.5	1.0		No access to changing accommodation. Increasing pitch quality would accommodate overplay.
4	Kingsdown Road	Hindley Abram	Yes			1							1.0	0.5		No site specific changing accommodation, but teams can access St John Street facilities. Increasing pitch quality would accommodate overplay.
5	St John Street	Hindley Abram	Yes		1								0.5	1.0		Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.
8	Thomas Street	Hindley Abram	Yes			1							1.0	0.5		No access to changing accommodation.
9	Leyland Park	Hindley Abram	Yes	3									6.0	9.0		Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.
25	Miners Welfare Playing Fields	Hindley Abram	Yes			1							-	0.5		Currently no teams allocated to this site. This is reported to be due to a lack of demand in area coupled with poor quality facilities.



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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community Use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
45	Leigh Street	Hindley Abram	Yes		2								2.5	2.0		Increasing pitch quality would cater for overplay.
53	Cardinal Newman Playing Field	Hindley Abram	Yes							1			2.0	1.0		Increasing pitch quality would cater for overplay. Ideal site potential for mini soccer centre.
172	Springview Community Sports Association	Hindley Abram	Restricted		1								-	1.0		Pitches currently not being used due to pitch improvements being carried out.
196	Kildare Street	Hindley Abram	Yes	1									3.0	2.0		Some play should be transferred elsewhere to reduce overplay.
198	AFC Hindley	Hindley Abram	Restricted	1						5			19.5	12.0		Overplay is due to the large number of junior and mini teams currently allocated to play at the site.
7	Melrose Tip Playing Field	Leigh	Yes			1							1.5	0.5		No access to changing accommodation. Increasing pitch quality will cater for overplay.
32	Watson Playing Fields	Leigh	Yes			2							3.0	1.0		No access to changing accommodation. Increasing pitch quality will cater for overplay.
34	Dootsons Park	Leigh	Yes			1							2.0	0.5		No access to changing accommodation.
84	Toch H Park	Leigh	Restricted	1									1.0	2.0		Currently used East Leigh Junior FC. Some space for club to further develop teams.



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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community Use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
30	Marsh Playing Fields	Leigh	Yes		1								3.5	1.0		Increasing pitch quality would go someway towards reducing overplay at this site.
159	Marsland Green	Leigh	Restricted			1							0.5	0.5		No changing accommodation on site. Leigh RMI Junior FC use a storage container as a place to change.
194	Westleigh High School (off site pitches)	Leigh	Yes			1							1.0	1.0		Increasing pitch quality would allow further teams to use the site if required.
211	Brunswick Recreation Club (Hindley Green)	Leigh	Yes	1						1			1.5	4.0		Currently used by Leigh RMI Junior FC but some spare capacity for further teams to use the site if required.
213	Abraham Guest High School	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	3									7.5	12.0		Already a good level of community use. Taking into account school usage, pitches are actually played to capacity.
189	Apperley Lane South	Outside	Yes	1						1			2.5	4.0		Although just outside the Borough, teams from Wigan do access the site.
14	Ashfield Park	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2			2						6.5	12.0		Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.
16	Southlands Ave Playing Fields	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes		1								1.5	1.0		No access to changing accommodation.
17	Aspull Civic	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2						3			9.0	10.0		Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.



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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community Use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
21	St Catherine's Playing Fields	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes			2							3.0	1.0		Latent demand expressed at this site. Increasing pitch quality will go some way towards catering for this demand.
166	Christopher Park	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	1									2.5	2.0		Currently used by Wigan & Leigh College FC.
175	The Convent Playing Fields	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes		2								1.0	2.0		Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.
176	Shevington Recreation Ground	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes			1							1.0	0.5		Increasing pitch quality would cater for overplay.
188	Highfield Avenue	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes			1							1.5	0.5		Increasing pitch quality would cater for overplay.
220	Shevington High School	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2									-	8.0		9 aside pitch developments planned at this site which will increase play at the site to capacity.
223	Standish High School	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2									-	8.0		Although available for community use, there are currently no teams allocated to play here.
11	City Road	Tyldesley Astley	Yes		1								2.0	1.0		No access to changing accommodation. Increasing pitch quality would cater for overplay.
33	Astley & Tyldesley Miners Welfare Institute	Tyldesley Astley	Restricted	2									0.5	4.0		Used by Astley & Tyldesley FC, there is spare capacity for club to further develop teams.



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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community Use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
35	The Ley Playing Field	Tyldesley Astley	Yes		1				1				0.5	1.5		No access to changing accommodation.
36	St George's Park	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	2									5.0	6.0		Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.
37	Astley Street	Tyldesley Astley	Yes			1					1		1.5	1.5		No access to changing accommodation. Increasing pitch quality would allow further teams to use the site if required.
38	Ellesmere Street	Tyldesley Astley	Yes		1								1.0	1.0		No access to changing accommodation. Increasing pitch quality would allow further teams to use the site if required.
39	Mosley Common	Tyldesley Astley	Yes			1			2				1.0	1.5		No access to changing accommodation. Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.
142	Gin Pit	Tyldesley Astley	Yes			2							3.5	1.0		No site specific changing accommodation, but teams can access privately owned facilities. Increasing pitch quality would cater for overplay.
158	Hindsford AFC	Tyldesley Astley	Restricted			1							1.0	0.5		Increasing pitch quality would cater for overplay.
13	Woodhouse Stadium	Wigan North	Yes			1							1.0	0.5		No access to changing accommodation. Increasing pitch quality would cater for overplay.



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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community Use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments	
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating		
15	Coronation Park, Standish Lower Ground	Wigan North	Yes		1									-	1.0		Currently no teams allocated to this site. This is reported to be due to a lack of demand in area coupled with poor quality facilities.
19	William Fosters	Wigan North	Yes		3									5.0	3.0		Increasing pitch quality would cater for overplay.
246	Joy Mining Machinery	Wigan North	Restricted	1										1.0	2.0		Used by North Star FC with some spare capacity for club to develop teams further.
12	Scot Lane	Wigan South	Yes	3										9.0	9.0		Site currently played to capacity and further play should not be allowed.
10	Laithwaite Playing Fields	Wigan South	Yes	5										8.0	15.0		Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.
23	Parsons Meadows	Wigan South	Yes	5										7.5	15.0		Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.
90	Little Lane	Wigan South	Yes	4										3.0	8.0		Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere.
143	Alexandra Park	Wigan South	Yes		2									1.0	2.0		No access to changing accommodation. Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere



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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community Use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments	
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating		
181	St John Rigby College	Wigan South	Yes	2										-	8.0		Currently no formal community use of this site.
190	PEMBEC	Wigan South	Yes			1								3.5	1.0		Latent demand expressed at this site.
200	Hawkley Hall High School	Wigan South	Yes	1										0.5	4.0		Some use of the site by Hawkley FA which could be further developed.
219	Robin Park	Wigan South	Yes	1										1.0	2.0		Spare capacity at this site which could cater for identified overplay/demand from elsewhere

There are no formal pitches marked out at the following sites but these sites are available for casual use: Haigh Road, Lilford Park, Nel Pan Lane and Holgate playing fields.



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Shortfall, adequacy and requirement

Summary of current demand

The table below summaries the sites in each area, which are currently being played beyond their capacity. The capacity of the site is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

Table 13.6: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area

Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
Leigh Harriers Athletic Club	Ashton Bryn	1.5
Ashton Athletic FC	Ashton Bryn	2.5
Douglas Street	Atherton	2.0
Devonshire Road	Atherton	1.5
Golborne Parkside	Golborne Lowton	1.0
Furlong Close	Hindley Abram	0.5
Kingsdown Road	Hindley Abram	0.5
Thomas Street	Hindley Abram	0.5
Leigh Street	Hindley Abram	0.5
Cardinal Newman	Hindley Abram	1.0
Kildare Street	Hindley Abram	1.0
AFC Hindley	Hindley Abram	0.5
Melrose Tip	Leigh	1.0
Watson	Leigh	2.0
Dootsons Park	Leigh	1.5
Southlands Ave	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	0.5
St Catherine's	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	2.0
Christopher Park	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	0.5
Shevington Rec	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	0.5
Highfield Ave	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1.0
City Road	Tyldesley, Astley	1.0
Gin Pit	Tyldesley, Astley	2.5
Hindsford AFC	Tyldesley, Astley	0.5
Woodhouse Stadium	Wigan North	0.5



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Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
William Fosters	Wigan North	2.0
PEMBEC	Wigan South	2.5
Total		31 matches

There are a significant number of sites that are played over their capacity across Wigan. In the main, pitches are only slightly overplayed which equates to a significant total amount. For the majority of sites, overplay is due to poor quality pitches, for example at St Catherine's Playing Fields and Devonshire Road Playing Fields.

A number of sites are not currently played to capacity. Where possible, it is recommended that overplay (as indicated above) is directed to these sites. Such recommendations will be included in the Strategy and Action Plan document and will be site specific.

Summary of future/latent demand

The table below summaries the latent demand which has emerged from consultation.

Table 13.7: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Site	Latent demand	Pitch requirement
Atherton Collieries FC	Atherton	Atherton Collieries	2 senior teams 1 junior team	1 x senior pitch 0.5 x junior pitch
Wigan Athletic Ladies FC	Wigan South	PEMBEC	1 senior 4 junior teams	0.5 x senior pitch 1.5 x junior pitch
Woodfold JFC	Standish, Aspull & Shevington	Wood Fold Primary School	1 mini team 1 junior team	0.5 x mini pitches 0.5 x junior pitch
Scorpions FC	Standish, Aspull & Shevington	St Catherine's Recreation Ground	2 junior teams	1 x junior pitch
Total				1.5 x senior pitches 3.5 x junior pitches 0.5 mini pitches



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Team generation rates (TGRs)

Football team generation rates (TGRs)

The following TGRs (calculated based on estimated population projections to 2017) have been calculated for each area of Wigan. The TGRs below take into account current levels of play and therefore, where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams currently operate at that age group, for football, in that area.

Table 13.8: Football TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior men (16-45)	Senior women (16-45)	Junior boys (10-15)	Junior girls (10-15)	Mini soccer (6-9) mixed
Ashton Bryn	1:475	-	1:107	-	1:250
Atherton	1:390	-	1:41	-	1:986
Golborne Lowton	1:946	-	1:490	-	1:236
Hindley Abram	1:605	-	1:73	1:280	1:86
Leigh	1:543	-	1:96	1:863	1:815
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	-	-	1:60	-	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1:394	1:5,609	1:58	-	1:110
Tyldesley Astley	1:498	-	1:56	-	1:456
Wigan North	1:521	-	-	-	1:1,801
Wigan South	1:232	1:2,121	1:57	1:195	-
WIGAN	1:476	1:12,427	1:80	1:769	1:275
BOLTON	1:766	1:10,894	1:117	1:1,553	1:147
NATIONAL AVERAGE	1:452	1:19,647	1:195	1:4,038	1:431



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Using the TGRs above, the following target TGRs (in blue) have been set across Wigan based on achievable targets identified through the consultation and based on analysis of comparable TGRs. This then provides an indication as to how many additional football teams (figures in bold) will be generated in 2017 if these targets are met.

Where TGRs are relatively high in comparison to the whole Borough, it is recommended that these should be maintained. Where TGRs are lower than the Borough, target TGRs should be set as aspiration.

Table 10.8: Football TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior men (16-45)	Senior women (16-45)	Junior boys (10-15)	Junior girls (10-15)	Mini soccer (6-9) mixed
Ashton Bryn	1:475	-	1:80	-	1:250
	0.6	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.3
Atherton	1:390	1:5,609	1:41	1:769	1:275
	0.6	0.6	7.1	1.0	2.8
Golborne Lowton	1:476	-	1:117	-	1:236
	5.5	0.0	6.9	0.0	0.3
Hindley Abram	1:605	1:5,609	1:73	1:280	1:86
	0.8	1.2	1.3	0.3	1.4
Leigh	1:543	1:5,609	1:96	1:769	1:275
	1.0	1.4	-4.9	0.4	6.4
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	1:476	-	1:60	-	1:275
	9.8	0.0	0.8	0.0	4.0
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1:394	1:5,609	1:58	1:769	1:110
	1.1	0.1	1.6	1.8	1.0
Tyldesley Astley	1:498	-	1:56	-	1:275
	0.6	0.0	1.2	0.0	2.3
Wigan North	1:521	-	1:80	-	1:275
	0.8	0.0	18.7	0.0	5.9
Wigan South	1:232	1:2,121	1:57	1:195	1:275
	2.4	0.0	0.3	0.1	7.4



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Future PPM summary

Sport England's PPM (playing pitch model) is used to assess whether the supply of pitches will be sufficient at peak times in the future (up to 2017). The previous TGRs have been applied to the PPM calculation to provide a summary of surpluses and deficiencies. This is shown below and takes account of the additional teams estimated to require pitches if TGR targets are achieved (highlighted in bold on the previous page).

Table 10.9: Future PPM summary

Analysis area	Football		
	Senior pitches	Junior pitches	Mini pitches
Ashton Bryn	1.8	-3.0	-2.7
Atherton	5.4	-5.5	0.1
Golborne Lowton	-0.2	-1.4	-2.6
Hindley Abram	8.7	-7.1	-1.1
Leigh	6.3	-7.9	-1.7
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	3.0	-4.7	1.0
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	16.0	1.4	4.0
Tyldesley Astley	12.0	2.7	1.0
Wigan North	6.0	0	0
Wigan South	12.8	-17.2	1.0
WIGAN	71.8	-42.7	-1.0

Although there is likely to be significant deficiencies of both junior and mini football pitches across Wigan in 2017, there is a significant surplus of senior pitches. The significant shortfall of junior pitches against a significant oversupply of senior pitches also indicates that junior teams are consistently playing on senior sized pitches (particularly in Wigan South, where there are currently no actual junior sized pitches available). It is therefore recommended that some senior pitches are used to accommodate junior and mini pitches.



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Football summary

- ❑ In total, 29 sites are currently overplayed in Wigan on a weekly basis. There are a significant number of sites that are played over their capacity across Wigan. In the main, pitches are only slightly overplayed.
- ❑ There are a significant number of one and two pitch sites owned by WC that are overplayed due to poor quality and also have no changing accommodation. Leasing of these sites should be a priority for WLCT. However, there are a number of issues deterring clubs from leasing pitches which should be resolved.
- ❑ Four clubs have expressed latent demand, which equates to the additional requirement of 1.5 senior pitches, 3.5 junior pitches and 1.5 mini-pitches.
- ❑ Although there is likely to be significant deficiencies of both junior and mini football pitches across Wigan in 2017, there is a significant surplus of senior pitches. It is therefore recommended that some senior pitches are used to accommodate junior and mini pitches.
- ❑ League requirements state that all teams, no matter what level of competition, should have access to changing facilities at their home site. In Wigan there are 29 sites with no changing facilities that are currently being used by teams. These include Lodge Lane and Watsons Playing Fields in the Leigh area.
- ❑ There is no priority access to the Grade A pitches in Wigan, through recognition of the Charter Standard scheme or levels of junior development.
- ❑ There are a number of local authority sites which could be suitable for a long term lease by clubs. These sites either have two or less pitches or are currently not being used for competitive sport, but, with investment, could be suitable sites to accommodate both current and future demand. These include Dootsons Park and Kingsdown Road.
- ❑ Generally, football pitches in Wigan are more expensive to hire than in neighbouring local authorities. Clubs believe that the quality of pitches in Wigan does not reflect value for money and in comparison with Bolton, there is a higher percentage of poor quality senior pitches in Wigan.



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PART 14: CRICKET

Introduction

The Lancashire Cricket Board (LCB) is responsible for the development and governance of cricket in the Borough. The majority of senior league cricket is played on Saturdays and Sundays with junior cricket being played throughout the weekday evenings. WC provides one cricket pitch but the vast majority of cricket pitches in Wigan are privately owned.

There a large number of senior leagues from across the North West accommodating teams from Wigan, ranging from the Liverpool and District League to the Bolton and District Cricket Association. There are no Wigan specific senior leagues. However, this is not seen as an issue even though clubs tend to have to travel some distances to play fixtures. The Wigan and District Junior League is the only local, Wigan specific league and the vast majority of junior teams play within this league. This is said to promote and sustain junior participation.

Table 14.1: Summary of pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of available pitches	No. of teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
Ashton Bryn	-	-	-	-	-
Atherton	1	-	-	5	-
Golborne Lowton	1	2	-	4	-
Hindley Abram	2	6	-	10	-
Leigh	3	9	-	10	-
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	3	9	1	14	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1	2	-	4	-
Tyldesley Astley	1	3	-	4	-
Wigan North	1	3	-	4	-
Wigan South	1	2	-	4	-
WIGAN	14	36	1	59	-



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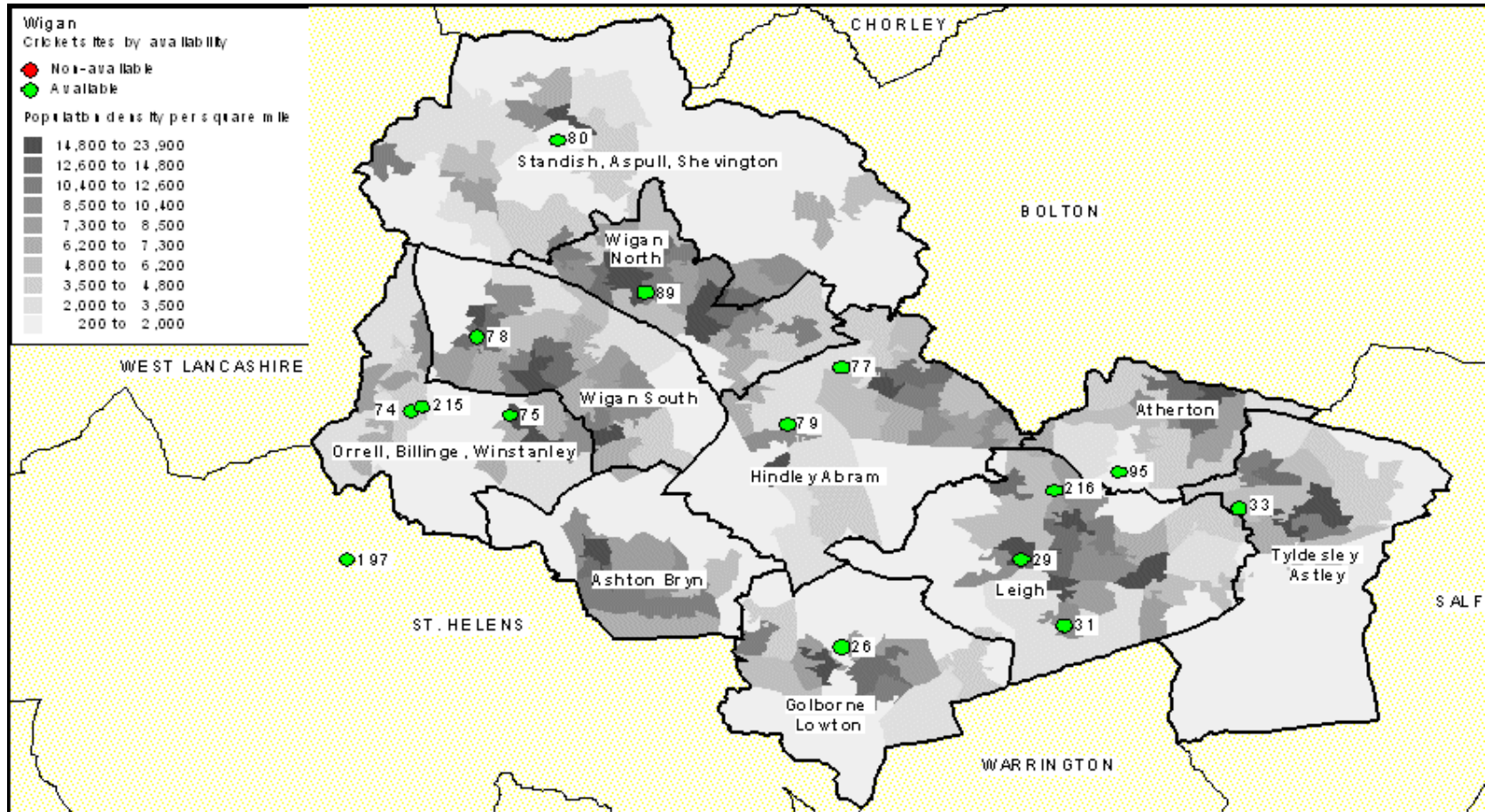


Figure 14.1: Location of cricket pitch sites in Wigan



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Table 14.2: Key to site location map

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Cricket pitches
Atherton Cricket Club	95	Atherton	Yes	1
Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Centre	26	Golborne Lowton	Yes	1
Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	77	Hindley Abram	Yes	1
Spring View Cricket Club	79	Hindley Abram	Yes	1
Leigh Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club	31	Leigh	Yes	1
Westleigh Cricket Club	29	Leigh	Yes	1
Westleigh Methodist Cricket Club	216	Leigh	Yes	1
Highfield Cricket Club	75	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	1
Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	74	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	1
Winstanley Park CC	215	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	1
John Eddleston Sports Ground	197	Outside	Yes	1
Standish Cricket Club	80	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	1
Astley & Tyldesley Miners Welfare Institute	33	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	1
Wigan Cricket Club	89	Wigan North	Yes	1
Norley Hall Cricket Club	78	Wigan South	Yes	1

In addition, to the pitches listed above, WC provides one cricket pitch at Aspull Civic Centre. However, this pitch is over marked with football pitches and for this reason is counted within the football section.

Development

Wigan Cricket Development Group (WCDG)

WCDG is a group of partners including 13 clubs, schools, coaches, WC< and LCB. The aim of the Group is to increase the participation in cricket and provide more opportunities for young people to be involved in the sport. The LCB regards the WCDG county development plan as good practice model for the County. Throughout consultation, a number of clubs confirmed the efficiency and significance of the Group in the promotion and delivery of the sport. It is thought this is one of the reasons clubs in the Borough have generally experienced a growth in junior membership.



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Junior development

Focus clubs have been identified strategically by the LCB as clubs that are committed to long-term junior development. This includes the adoption of a development plan and achieving (or working towards) Clubmark accreditation. In return, clubs receive support, both technical and financial, from the LCB. Nine clubs in Wigan are classified as focus clubs:

- ❑ Astley and Tyldesley Cricket Club.
- ❑ Atherton Cricket Club.
- ❑ Highfield Cricket Club.
- ❑ Hindley St Peters Cricket Club.
- ❑ Leigh Cricket Club.
- ❑ Norley Hall Cricket Club.
- ❑ Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club.
- ❑ Standish Cricket Club.
- ❑ Wigan Cricket Club.

Adult membership levels at the majority of clubs have remained static over the last three years and junior membership has increased, particularly in the lower age groups. All clubs in Wigan host a junior section. Wigan Cricket Club has the largest junior section with a membership of 80 and providing four junior teams.

School club links

A school club link is an agreement between a school or sport partnership and a community-based sports club to work together to meet the needs of all young people, provide new and varied opportunities for young people, help young people to realise their ambition and agree a good standard or provision. For example, consultation identifies a good example of a school club link operating in Wigan, between Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club and St James Primary School. This direct link involves a club coach delivering sessions at the School and providing a stepping stone option to joining the Club. This has increased junior membership considerably over the last 12 months.

Through WCDG, clubs are encouraged and supported to establish a school club link through delivery of coaching sessions in primary and secondary schools. Coaching sessions are usually undertaken indoors using school halls. However, clubs report that delivery can be difficult, particularly in primary schools, where the available of either indoor or outdoor space is limited.



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Women's and girls' cricket

Although Wigan provides cricket teams at U13 and U15 in the Youth Games, competitive girls' cricket is inactive in clubs. It is a priority for the LCB to address the lack of exit routes for those participating in the Youth Games. A limited number of girls are participating in cricket through mixed teams. Atherton Cricket Club has four junior girl members. However, the Club reports that a lack of segregated changing facilities inhibits this developing further, especially competitively. Women's cricket is in a similar situation with only one club, Highfield Cricket Club providing a women's team.

Key issues for cricket

School cricket

A community sports coach is employed in Wigan to deliver coaching in primary schools, specifically targeting Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. In order to help sustain cricket participation in schools, resource packs are distributed to primary schools, allowing teachers to link the sport into other subjects in the curriculum. To date, 60 out of 160 primary schools in the Borough have participated in cricket festivals.

Even with the above in place, there is no school cricket league in the Borough. Consultation suggests school competitions can help to sustain junior cricket and to promote school club links. The audit identifies very few cricket pitches at both primary and secondary school sites. Hindley High School reports it is restricted in terms of delivering the sport due to a lack of access to pitches. It is likely that this is due, in part, to the cost of the upkeep of a cricket wicket/pitch, which is seen as too expensive for schools to maintain to an adequate standard.

Better usage could be made of cricket facilities in the Borough, both in terms of the availability of club pitches to schools and also the availability of school indoor training space to clubs.

Demand

The vast majority of private cricket sites provide one cricket pitch. In total, five clubs operate third or fourth teams. Clubs operating third and fourth teams report difficulty in accessing additional pitches. The most popular and most cost effective way for clubs to access second pitches is usually hiring school or local authority pitches. However, due to a lack of both school and WC pitches, Hindley Cricket Club accesses a local authority pitch in Southport to accommodate its third team, even though it would rather play within Wigan.



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A number of other clubs are currently operating at capacity. This is a particular issue at Atherton, Springview and Highfield cricket clubs. Due to the large number of teams operating, pitches are constantly in use throughout the season accommodating match play and training. This does not allow the square to rest and is having an impact on pitch quality. Although clubs express latent demand, they are concerned regarding the additional cost implications of accessing a second pitch. Highfield Cricket Club is currently in the process of identifying land to accommodate a suitable second pitch. It has stopped recruiting new members and there is already a waiting list of 15 juniors.

Latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded if there was access to a sufficient number of pitches. The table below summarises specific latent demand expressed by clubs for additional pitches.

Table 14.3: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Site	Level of latent demand	Pitch requirement
Atherton Cricket Club	Atherton Cricket Club	1 senior team and 1 junior team	0.5 cricket pitch
Springview Cricket Club	Springview Cricket Club	1 senior team and 1 junior team	0.5 cricket pitch
Highfield Cricket Club	Highfield Cricket Club	1 senior team, U9s and U15s	0.5 cricket pitch
Hindley Cricket Club	Hindley Cricket Club	1 senior team	0.5 cricket pitches
Total			2 cricket pitches

Quality of pitches

Consultation and site assessments rate the majority of cricket pitches in the Borough as good quality. Clubs tend to employ a groundsman, which in return, improves the standard and quality of pitches. A few clubs detailed below are experiencing issues with pitch quality.

There is one WC owned cricket pitch provided at Aspull Civic Centre (over marked with mini football pitches). Consultation and site assessments identify the quality of the square to be poor. Clubs using the pitch believe this to be through a lack of specialist maintenance, for example, the outfield grass is kept too long. Hindley St Peters CC uses this site to accommodate their third team fixtures.



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The cricket pitch at Springview Cricket Club is of poor quality. This is due to poor drainage, not helped by the fact that the pitch is used as a cut through due to its position near to the main road and poor perimeter fencing. The Club is in the process of relocating the square away from the main road.

Golborne Cricket Club pitch quality has declined since last season due to moss growing on the outfield, which is now spreading to other areas. The Club suggests the sharing of specialised machinery across a number of clubs would help to reduce such problems occurring.

Club developments

Goose Green Cricket Club

Goose Green Cricket Club currently plays on a pitch at the rear of The Holt Arms Public House, Billinge. However, as the Club is developing and progressing into higher leagues, the Club is investing in, with the help of external funding, the development of its own privately owned cricket ground. This is situated in Winstanley, and is a piece of land known as Pony Dick, an old mining colliery.

Hindley Saint Peters Cricket Club

St Peters Pavilion Working Group is a partnership between Hindley Saint Peters ARLFC, St Peters Church and Hindley Saint Peters Cricket Club (HSPCC) created to develop facilities at St Peters Recreation Ground (owned by the Diocese of Liverpool). The development will include one cricket pitch, permanent practice nets, enclosed perimeter fencing around the site and a clubhouse facility. The area also incorporates a MUGA, children's play area with picnic area and additional car parking. Planning permission has been granted by WC.



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Provision of cricket pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

There is no capacity for cricket pitches as it is not possible to determine the number of matches that can be played on a particular pitch. This is due to the length of matches, which cannot always be determined.

Table 14.4: Cricket provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Pitches	Matches					Peak use
					Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Other	
95	Atherton Cricket Club	Atherton	Yes	1	-	-	2.5	-	-	250%
26	Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Centre	Golborne Lowton	Yes	1	-	1.0	2.0	-	-	200%
77	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	Hindley Abram	Yes	1	-	1.0	2.5	-	1.0	250%
79	Spring View Cricket Club	Hindley Abram	Yes	1	-	1.0	2.5	-	-	250%
29	Westleigh Cricket Club	Leigh	Yes	1	-	1.0	2.5	-	-	250%
31	Leigh Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club	Leigh	Yes	1	-	2.0	2.5	-	-	250%
216	Westleigh Methodist Cricket Club	Leigh	Yes	1	-	1.5	-	-	-	150%
74	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	1	-	1.5	2.5	-	-	250%
75	Highfield Cricket Club	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	1	-	2.0	3.5	-	0.5	350%
215	Winstanley Park CC	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	1	-	1.0	1.0	-	-	100%
197	John Eddleston Sports Ground	Outside	Yes	1	-	-	-	-	-	
80	Standish Cricket Club	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	1	-	-	2.0	-	1.0	200%



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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Pitches	Matches					Peak use
					Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Other	
33	Astley & Tyldesley Miners Welfare Institute	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	1	-	1.5	2.0	-	-	200%
89	Wigan Cricket Club	Wigan North	Yes	1	-	1.5	2.0	-	-	200%
78	Norley Hall Cricket Club	Wigan South	Yes	1	-	-	2.0	-	1.0	200%



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Cricket team generation rates (TGRs)

The following TGRs (calculated based on estimated population projections to 2017) have been calculated for each area of Wigan. The TGRs below take into account current levels of play and therefore, where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams currently operate at that age group, for cricket, in that area.

Table 14.5: Cricket TGRs

Analysis area	Senior (18-55) Mens	Senior (18-55) Womens	Junior (11-17) Boys	Junior (11-17) Girls
Ashton Bryn	-	-	-	-
Atherton	-	-	1:184	-
Golborne Lowton	1:3,017	-	1:274	-
Hindley Abram	1:1,626	-	1:184	-
Leigh	1:1,283	-	1:209	-
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	1:644	1:4,980	1:74	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1:4,665	-	1:403	-
Tyldesley Astley	1:2,129	-	1:299	-
Wigan North	1:3,004	-	1:398	-
Wigan South	1:4,844	-	1:452	-
WIGAN	1:39,299	-	1:3,571	-
BOLTON	1:1,023	1:57,420	1:194	-
NATIONAL AVERAGE	1:1,415	1:54,815	1:1,480	21,052



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Using the TGRs above, the following target TGRs (in blue) have been set across Wigan based on achievable targets identified through the consultation and based on analysis of comparable TGRs. This then provides an indication as to how many additional cricket teams (figures in bold) will be generated in 2017 if these targets are met.

There TGRs are relatively high in comparison to the whole Borough, it is recommended that these should be maintained. Where TGRs are lower than the Borough, target TGRs should be set as aspiration (based on the comparison TGRs presented above). It is also recommended that, in analysis areas where cricket appears to be relatively strong, women's TGRs are set based on that produced in the Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley area, which is the only analysis area with a women's team.

Table 10.16: Cricket TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior (18-55) Mens	Senior (18-55) Womens	Junior (11-17) Boys	Junior (11-17) Girls
Ashton Bryn	1:1,415	-	1:1,480	-
	4.6	0.0	0.8	0.0
Atherton	1:1,023	1:4,980	1:184	21,052
	5.1	0.9	0.3	0.2
Golborne Lowton	1:3,017	-	1:274	-
	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0
Hindley Abram	1:1,626	-	1:184	-
	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0
Leigh	1:1,283	1:4,980	1:209	21,052
	0.5	2.1	0.6	0.4
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	1:644	1:4,980	1:74	-
	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.0
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1:4,665	-	1:403	-
	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0
Tyldesley Astley	1:2,129	1:4,980	1:299	21,052
	0.2	1.2	0.2	0.2
Wigan North	1:3,004	-	1:398	-
	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0
Wigan South	1:4,844	-	1:452	-
	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0



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Future PPM summary

Sport England's PPM (playing pitch model) is used to assess whether the supply of pitches will be sufficient at peak times in the future (up to 2017). The previous TGRs have been applied to the PPM calculation to provide a summary of surpluses and deficiencies. This is shown below and takes account of the additional teams estimated to require pitches if TGR targets are achieved (highlighted in bold on the previous page).

Table 10.17: Future PPM summary

Analysis area	Cricket pitches
Ashton Bryn	-
Atherton	-1.7
Golborne Lowton	-1.1
Hindley Abram	-3.3
Leigh	-2.8
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	-4.4
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	0.6
Tyldesley Astley	-1.1
Wigan North	0.6
Wigan South	-1.2
WIGAN	-14.5

Although the figures above show there to be a significant undersupply of cricket pitches in total across Wigan, to some extent these figures are exaggerated. The calculation does not fully take into account the number of matches which can be accommodated per day, as it is difficult to provide an average match length and it often differs between senior and junior matches.

Therefore the majority of additional demand could be accommodated on the current supply of pitches. The majority of future demand equates to the need to accommodate additional junior matches, which can be played before senior matches.



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Cricket summary

- ❑ WC only provides one cricket pitch, which is used as a third team pitch. It was assessed as poor quality and it over marked with football pitches. All private grounds are rated as good quality and consultation shows that they are well maintained.
- ❑ Better usage could be made of cricket facilities in the Borough, both in terms of the availability of club pitches to schools and also the availability of school indoor training space to clubs.
- ❑ Four cricket clubs have expressed latent demand for cricket pitches, equating to the need for an additional two cricket pitches across the Borough. In the main, this demand comes from the need for clubs to access a second pitch to cater for 3rd and 4th teams and through the growth in junior participation.
- ❑ There are two cricket developments in Wigan that will provide an additional two cricket pitches. However, these pitches will only cater for current demand and the latent demand outlined will remain.



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PART 15: RUGBY LEAGUE

Introduction

In total, there are 19 rugby league clubs playing across the Borough. Rugby league is at the forefront of sports within the Borough with clubs operating from grassroots through to a professional level. The Rugby Football League (RFL) in conjunction with British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA) is responsible for the development of the sport across England, from the national team to grassroots development. The North West Counties League is the main league servicing the Borough with a total of 15 clubs playing from Wigan. The League covers a geographical area stretching from Cumbria in the North, through Lancashire, Cheshire, Liverpool, Manchester and parts of Derbyshire.

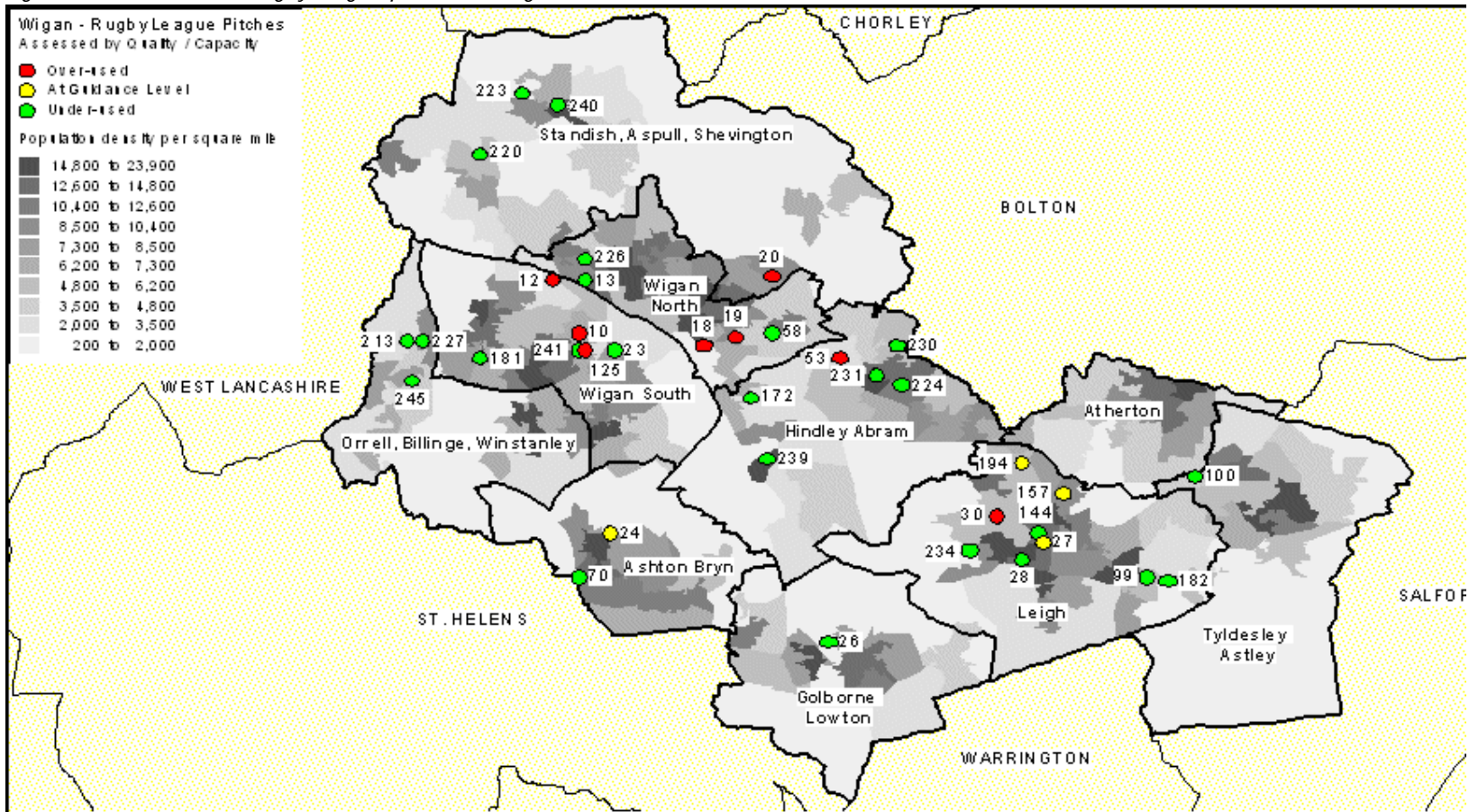
Table 15.1: Summary of pitch and team information in rugby league

Analysis area	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini rugby
Ashton Bryn	3	-	-	2	-	3	-	-
Atherton	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Golborne Lowton	4	-	-	2	-	5	-	3
Hindley Abram	4	-	-	4	-	6	-	2
Leigh	6	5	3	7	-	15	3	6
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	2	-	-	1	-	6	-	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	5	-	-	7	-	2	-	3
Tyldesley Astley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wigan North	6	-	-	5	-	9	-	-
Wigan South	9	1	1	15	-	19	-	7
WIGAN	39	6	4	44	-	65	3	21



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Figure 15.1: Location of rugby league pitches in Wigan



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Table 15.2: Key to map

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Senior rugby	Junior rugby
Cansfield School off site pitch (Ashton Bears ARLFC)	70	Ashton Bryn	Yes	2	
Bryn Recreation Ground	24	Ashton Bryn	Yes	1	
Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Centre	26	Golborne Lowton	Yes	3	
All Saints CE Primary (Hindley)	231	Hindley Abram	No		1
Cardinal Newman Playing Field	53	Hindley Abram	Yes	3	
Castle Hill St Philips CE Primary	230	Hindley Abram	No		1
Hindley Community High School	224	Hindley Abram	No	2	
Springview Community Sports Association	172	Hindley Abram	Yes	1	
St Ambrose Barlow RC Primary	239	Hindley Abram	No		1
Bedford High School	99	Leigh	No	1	1
Hilton Park	144	Leigh	No	1	
Kings Park	157	Leigh	Yes		2 mini
Leigh East ARLFC	27	Leigh	Yes	1	
Leigh Miners Welfare and Recreational Club	28	Leigh	Yes	1	
Marsh Playing Fields	30	Leigh	Yes	2	1
St Peters CE Juniors (Leigh)	234	Leigh	No		1
Sutton Park, Bedford	182	Leigh	Yes	1	4
Westleigh High School (off site pitches)	194	Leigh	Yes	1	
Abraham Guest High School	213	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	2	
St Peters Catholic High School	227	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	No	2	
Wigan Warriors High Performance Training Centre	245	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	No	1	
Cale Lane	20	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2	
Shevington High School	220	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2	
St Marie's RC Primary	240	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	No		1
Standish High School	223	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	1	



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Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Senior rugby	Junior rugby
Tyldesley Fred Longworth High	100	Tyldesley Astley	No		1
Clarington Grove Playing Fields	18	Wigan North	Yes	2	
Ince Rose Bridge Sport and Community Club	58	Wigan North	Yes	1	
William Fosters	19	Wigan North	Yes	1	
Woodhouse Stadium*	13	Wigan North	Yes	2	
Laithwaite Playing Fields	10	Wigan South	Yes	1	
Parsons Meadows	23	Wigan South	Yes	3	
Scot Lane	12	Wigan South	Yes	2	
St John Rigby College	181	Wigan South	Yes	3	
St Jude's Catholic Primary School	125	Wigan South	Yes		1
St Marks CE Primary	241	Wigan South	No		1

**Contains multi pitch posts to cater for football and rugby.*

Development

Wigan and Leigh Service Area

The development of rugby league is supported by the Wigan and Leigh Service Area, which is represented through a full time service co-ordinator and supported by the education sector, a junior development forum and professional clubs (Wigan Warriors RLFC and Leigh Centurions RLFC). The service area offers player development and representative pathways for young players and support for senior players within the game, as well as club and coach development opportunities. It also leads rugby league development in schools and with women and girls.

Junior development

Clubs generally report that membership levels have increased over the last five years, particularly at a junior level with the majority of clubs boasting extensive junior sections. For example, Shevington Sharks ARLFC membership levels have significantly increased and it now operates 15 teams in total, compared to five years ago when the Club had only one team. This is due, in part, to the emphasis on junior development through the designation of a rugby community officer who delivers coaching sessions into local feeder schools as well as schools outside of the Borough. The Club reports that members travel from as far as Ormskirk and Chorley to play rugby in Wigan.

Leigh East ARLFC has recently obtained funding from the RFL to fund a three year post of a rugby development officer. This post will focus on establishing links with the Lowton School Sports Partnership.



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Women's and girls' rugby

There is no competitive league structure for women's and girls' rugby league in the Borough. A number of clubs operate at least two girls' teams which play competitively through festivals organised through the Wigan and Leigh Service Area.

Key issues for rugby league

Demand

Consultation identifies that there is a general perceived lack of rugby league pitches across the Borough to service current demand. In particular, this is reported by clubs playing in Standish, Shevington and Atherton. Secondary schools are the main provider of rugby league pitches in Standish and Shevington. However, it can be difficult to hire secondary school pitches for adult rugby, as schools often feel that this has a negative impact on the quality of pitches and reduces school usage. Clubs also report that access to changing accommodation is limited at school sites.

Due to the relatively recent growth in the number of junior teams operating in the Borough, many clubs have to play across a number of different sites, resulting in clubs feeling quite disparate, particularly on a social/club management basis. It is evident from consultation that there is a need for more rugby pitches to be available at singular sites to accommodate clubs who have a number of teams.

Latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded if there was access to a sufficient number of pitches. The table below summarises specific latent demand expressed by clubs for additional pitches.

Table 15.3: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Site	Analysis area	Level of latent demand	Pitch requirement
Wigan St Judes ARLFC	Parsons Meadow	Wigan South	4 junior teams	1 junior pitch
Shevington Sharks ARLFC	Shevington High School	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Several junior teams	2 junior pitches
Total				3 junior pitches

This level of additional demand will be taken into account later in this section and assessed against current levels of overplay



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It would appear that latent demand is relatively low. However, this may be due to the fact that it is suppressed due to the issues with current demand and poor quality pitches. It is likely that increasing pitch quality will accommodate the majority of latent demand identified above.

Quality of pitches

A common issue raised throughout consultation is the poor drainage of WC pitches, resulting in unplayable pitches and significantly reduced capacity of pitches. Due to inadequate drainage, Kings Park is unplayable for a proportion of the rugby season, leading to Atherton Dragons ARLFC hiring additional pitches at Hesketh Fletcher High School. Site assessments rate the pitches as below average (41%) with evidence of unofficial use at the time of assessment.

Over half (50%) of fixtures played by Hindley Saint Peters ARLFC at Cardinal Newman Playing Fields were cancelled last season after the three pitches became significantly waterlogged. Site assessments rate the pitch as adequate quality (60%). Up to six matches can be postponed in any one weekend for this reason, although it would appear that the site is being significantly overplayed anyway. There are reports that the Club also train four evenings per week at the site, creating further pressure on the pitches. Improved fixture management at this site is required.

Ancillary facilities

Clubs using WC sites generally report a lack of changing provision particularly in the Atherton and Leigh areas. When pitches at Marsh Playing Fields are being used to capacity not all teams can access the changing accommodation. Consultation and site assessments also highlight that the toilet and shower facilities are of poor quality. There is no segregation for junior use but this could be achieved, as there are lots of rooms.

Consultation with the North West Counties League identifies it is a league stipulation for clubs to provide access to ancillary facilities for home and away clubs. It reports privately owned club facilities are on the whole now installing segregated women's/girls' changing facilities.

The lowest quality site assessed is Cansfield School off site pitch where Ashton Bears ARLFC plays. Site assessments show this is due to lack of segregated changing provision and evidence of vandalism. This is in comparison to Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Centre, which was assessed as excellent quality.



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Leasing of sites

There is a similar situation with leasing rugby league pitches as there is with football pitches. A number of clubs have been deterred from proceeding due to the current state of sites (i.e. no changing accommodation and poor quality pitches) and the associated long term commitment to securing capital and revenue funding that would be required. The Wigan Council Open Field Policy is also an issue that often deters clubs from leasing sites, in that it prevents council owned recreation areas from being fenced, something that clubs would like to carry out in order to protect facilities that they would manage.

Atherton Dragons ARLFC aspires to achieve security of tenure by leasing the pitches it currently rents local education authority site Kings Park in order to further develop the site, as it currently has no changing rooms. It currently has a verbal agreement to use the pitches until the end of June with WC Children and Young Peoples Service. The Club is newly established and currently provides two junior teams. It will introduce two new teams next season. There is capacity at Kings Park to accommodate these new teams.

Wigan St Judes ARLFC has a 25 year lease on an area of land at WC owned Parsons Meadow which consists of a clubhouse facility and car park (this does not include pitches). The Club has expressed an interest in leasing an additional area of land at the site to house an indoor training facility. This would allow all teams to train at the one site as oppose to accessing The Deanery High School and Hawkley High School. The Club rents three pitches on a yearly basis and WC maintains the pitches. It is happy to continue renting the pitches as this is more cost effective for the Club, as WC maintains the pitches.

Club developments

A significant concern for rugby league clubs in Wigan is securing access to sites that are large enough to cater for the whole club i.e. one club sites. Many clubs play across a number of sites, usually managed in different ways from local authority sites to school sites. It can be difficult for clubs to socialise and can bridge gaps between the teams, reducing the transition to the next age group.

Shevington Sharks ARLFC

Shevington Sharks ARLFC is working in partnership with Shevington High School, Shevington Parish Council, WC and WLCT in the development of sporting facilities at the School site. The development plan includes provision of an all weather pitch (APW - 3rd generation turf), clubhouse, and drainage improvements to the current pitch provision (including two rugby pitches). It is proposed that the Club will lease and therefore manage and maintain the grass pitches and clubhouse.

Drainage improvements to the pitches will increase their capacity and allow the Club to accommodated both current and latent demand. However, it will still need to access one pitch at St John Rigby College to accommodate all teams.



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Leigh East ARLFC

Its current home ground is located off Grassmere Street (owned by Wigan Education Authority) and provides a clubhouse, one senior rugby league pitch, one shale AWP and two grassed areas for training. The facilities are assessed as poor quality. The Club provides two senior teams and fourteen junior teams (including two U18 teams) and also rents two senior, one junior and one mini rugby pitch at Marsh Playing Fields.

The Club will be relocating to Leigh Sports Village (LSV), which will provide it with access to three senior rugby pitches and an AWP (3rd generation turf) on a priority rental basis and a long term lease of a clubhouse. In effect, this replaces the loss of a senior pitch at Grassmere Street and the need for use of senior rugby pitches at Marsh Playing Fields. Grassmere Street is being sold to developers and the funds are being used to develop LSV. However, this does not replace the need for continued use of junior/mini pitch provision at Marsh Playing Fields.

The Club has concerns over the cost arrangement for the use of three grass pitches and an AWP for training purposes. Recent communications by the Club with LSV identified costs to be particularly high.

Hindley Saint Peters ARLFC

St Peters Pavilion Working Group is a partnership between Hindley Saint Peters ARLFC, St Peters Church and Hindley Saint Peters Cricket Club (HSPCC) created to develop facilities at St Peters Recreation Ground (owned by the Diocese of Liverpool). The rugby club leases pitches on a yearly basis and has access to changing accommodation on the adjacent development. The Club is in the process of negotiating a long-term lease of the site. However, the capacity of the changing rooms is not sufficient to accommodate peak time usage of the pitches and the Club suggests that the pitches at Cardinal Newman are overused with its three pitches accommodating nine matches a week. The associated business development plan for St Peters Recreation Ground identifies enhancement of the playing pitches (currently has three rugby pitches at the site) and a new clubhouse facility. The area currently incorporates a MUGA, children's play area with picnic area and additional car parking. Planning permission has been granted by WC.



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Provision of rugby league pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

Table 15.4: Rugby league provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week		
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	capacity	rating
24	Whithill Street	Ashton Bryn	Yes			1							0.5	0.5	
70	Cansfield School off site pitch (Ashton Bears ARLFC)	Ashton Bryn	Yes	2									2.0	4.0	
26	Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Centre	Golborne Lowton	Yes	3									5.0	6.0	
53	Cardinal Newman Playing Field	Hindley Abram	Yes		3								5.0	3.0	
172	Springview Community Sports Association	Hindley Abram	Yes	1									1.0	2.0	
27	Leigh East ARLFC	Leigh	Yes	1									2.0	2.0	
28	Leigh Miners Welfare and Recreational Club	Leigh	Yes	1									0.5	2.0	
30	Marsh Playing Fields	Leigh	Yes		2			1		1			4.5	5.0	
157	Kings Park	Leigh	Yes								2		1.0	1.0	
182	Sutton Park, Bedford	Leigh	Yes	1			4						5.0	10.0	
194	Westleigh High School (off site pitches)	Leigh	Yes			1							1.0	1.0	
213	Abraham Guest High School	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	2									3.5	8.0	
20	Cale Lane	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes			2							2.5	1.0	
220	Shevington High School	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	2									3.0	8.0	



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KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week		
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	capacity	rating
223	Standish High School	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	1									-	4.0	
13	Woodhouse Stadium	Wigan North	Yes			2							-	1.0	
18	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	Wigan North	Yes		2								4.5	2.0	
19	William Fosters	Wigan North	Yes		1								1.5	1.0	
58	Ince Rose Bridge Sport and Community Club	Wigan North	Yes	1									1.0	2.0	
10	Laithwaite Playing Fields	Wigan South	Yes	1						1			2.0	4.0	
12	Scot Lane	Wigan South	Yes	2									4.5	4.0	
23	Parsons Meadows	Wigan South	Yes	3									4.0	6.0	
125	St Jude's Catholic Primary School	Wigan South	Yes						1				1.5	1.0	
181	St John Rigby College	Wigan South	Yes	3									3.0	12.0	



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Shortfall, adequacy and requirement

Summary of current demand

The table below summarises the sites in each area, which are currently being played beyond their capacity. The capacity of the site is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

Table 15.5: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area

<i>Site</i>	<i>Analysis area</i>	<i>Weekly overplay of matches</i>
Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Hindley Abram	2.0
Cale Lane	Standish, Aspul, Shevington	1.5
Clarrington Grove Playing Fields	Wigan North	2.5
William Fosters	Wigan North	0.5
Scot Lane	Wigan South	0.5
St Jude Primary School	Wigan South	0.5
Total		7.5 matches

Pitches are only slightly overplayed. However, in the majority of instances this appears to be due to the quality of pitches being either poor or average.

Summary of future/latent demand

The table below summarises the latent demand which has emerged from consultation.

Table 15.6: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Site	Analysis area	Level of latent demand	Pitch requirement
Wigan St Judes ARLFC	Parsons Meadow	Wigan South	4 junior teams	1 junior pitch
Shevington Sharks ARLFC	Shevington High School	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Several junior teams	2 junior pitches
Total				3 junior pitches



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Rugby team generation rates (TGRs)

The following TGRs (calculated based on estimated population projections to 2017) have been calculated for each area of Wigan. The TGRs below take into account current levels of play and therefore, where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams currently operate at that age group, for rugby, in that area.

Table 15.7: Rugby TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior men (18-45)	Senior women (18-45)	Junior boys (13-17)	Junior girls (16-17)	Mini-rugby (8-12)
Ashton Bryn	1:2,228	-	1:255	-	-
Atherton	1:3,635	-	-	-	-
Golborne Lowton	1:2,223	-	1:152	-	1:505
Hindley Abram	1:1,828	-	1:222	-	1:1,228
Leigh	1:1,235	-	1:99	-	1:501
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	1:4,126	-	1:123	-	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1:955	-	1:557	-	1:788
Tyldesley Astley	-	-	-	-	-
Wigan North	1:1,374	-	1:123	-	-
Wigan South	1:479	-	1:91	-	1:872
WIGAN	1:1,319	-	1:168	-	1:1,186
BOLTON	1:12,343	-	1:812	-	-
NATIONAL AVERAGE	1:5,078	1:47,625	1:657	1:5,077	1:677



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Using the TGRs above, the following target TGRs (in blue) have been set across Wigan based on achievable targets identified through the consultation and based on analysis of comparable TGRs. This then provides an indication as to how many additional cricket teams (figures in bold) will be generated in 2017 if these targets are met.

Where TGRs are relatively high in comparison to the whole Borough, it is recommended that these should be maintained. Where TGRs are lower than the Borough, target TGRs should be set as aspiration.

Table 10.23: Rugby TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior men (16-45)	Senior women (16-45)	Junior boys (10-15)	Junior girls (10-15)	Mini soccer (6-9) mixed
Ashton Bryn	1:2,228	-	1:255	-	1:1,186
	0.1	-	0.2	-	1.4
Atherton	1:3,635	-	1:168	-	1:1,186
	0.1	-	4.2	-	1.1
Golborne Lowton	1:2,223	-	1:152	-	1:505
	0.1	-	0.3	-	0.2
Hindley Abram	1:1,828	-	1:222	-	1:1,228
	0.2	-	0.4	-	0.1
Leigh	1:1,235	1:47,625	1:99	1:5,077	1:501
	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.1	0.4
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	1:1,319	-	1:123	-	1:1,186
	2.3	-	0.4	-	1.2
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1:955	1:47,625	1:557	1:5,077	1:788
	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Tyldesley Astley	1:1,319	-	1:168	-	1:1,186
	3.8	-	5.2	-	1.6
Wigan North	1:1,374	1:47,625	1:123	1:5,077	1:1,186
	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.1	2.0
Wigan South	1:479	-	1:91	-	1:872
	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.0



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Future PPM summary

Sport England's PPM (playing pitch model) is used to assess whether the supply of pitches will be sufficient at peak times in the future (up to 2017). The previous TGRs have been applied to the PPM calculation to provide a summary of surpluses and deficiencies. This is shown below and takes account of the additional teams estimated to require pitches if TGR targets are achieved (highlighted in bold on the previous page).

Table 10.24: Future PPM summary

Analysis area	Rugby	
	Senior pitches	Junior pitches
Ashton Bryn	1.9	-1.6
Atherton	-0.5	0
Golborne Lowton	2.9	-2.5
Hindley Abram	3.9	-0.2
Leigh	3.2	-2.0
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	-69.9	-24.4
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	3.3	-1.3
Tyldesley Astley	0	0
Wigan North	4.2	-1.7
Wigan South	1.4	-6.0
WIGAN	-49.6	-39.7

Although there is likely to be a slight deficiency of junior rugby pitches across Wigan in 2017, there will be a surplus of senior pitches. This is due to a number of sites that are available for community use but are not used competitively.



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Rugby league summary

- ❑ In total, six sites are currently overplayed in Wigan on a weekly basis. In the main, pitches are only slightly overplayed and this appears to be due to poor quality pitches.
- ❑ Four clubs have expressed latent demand, which equates to the additional requirement of 3 junior pitches.
- ❑ League requirements state that all teams, no matter what level of competition, should have access to changing facilities at their home site. Although the situation is improving at privately owned sites, local authority sites such as March Playing Fields have poor quality ancillary facilities.
- ❑ There is no competitive league structure for women's and girls' rugby league in the Borough, even though a number of clubs operate at least two girls' teams which play competitively through festivals organised through the Wigan and Leigh Service Area. This could be a potential source of latent demand.
- ❑ Poor quality pitches appears to be a significant issue with sites such as Cardinal Newman Playing Fields and Kings Head Playing Fields where a significant number of matches have been cancelled throughout the season.



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PART 16: RUGBY UNION

Introduction

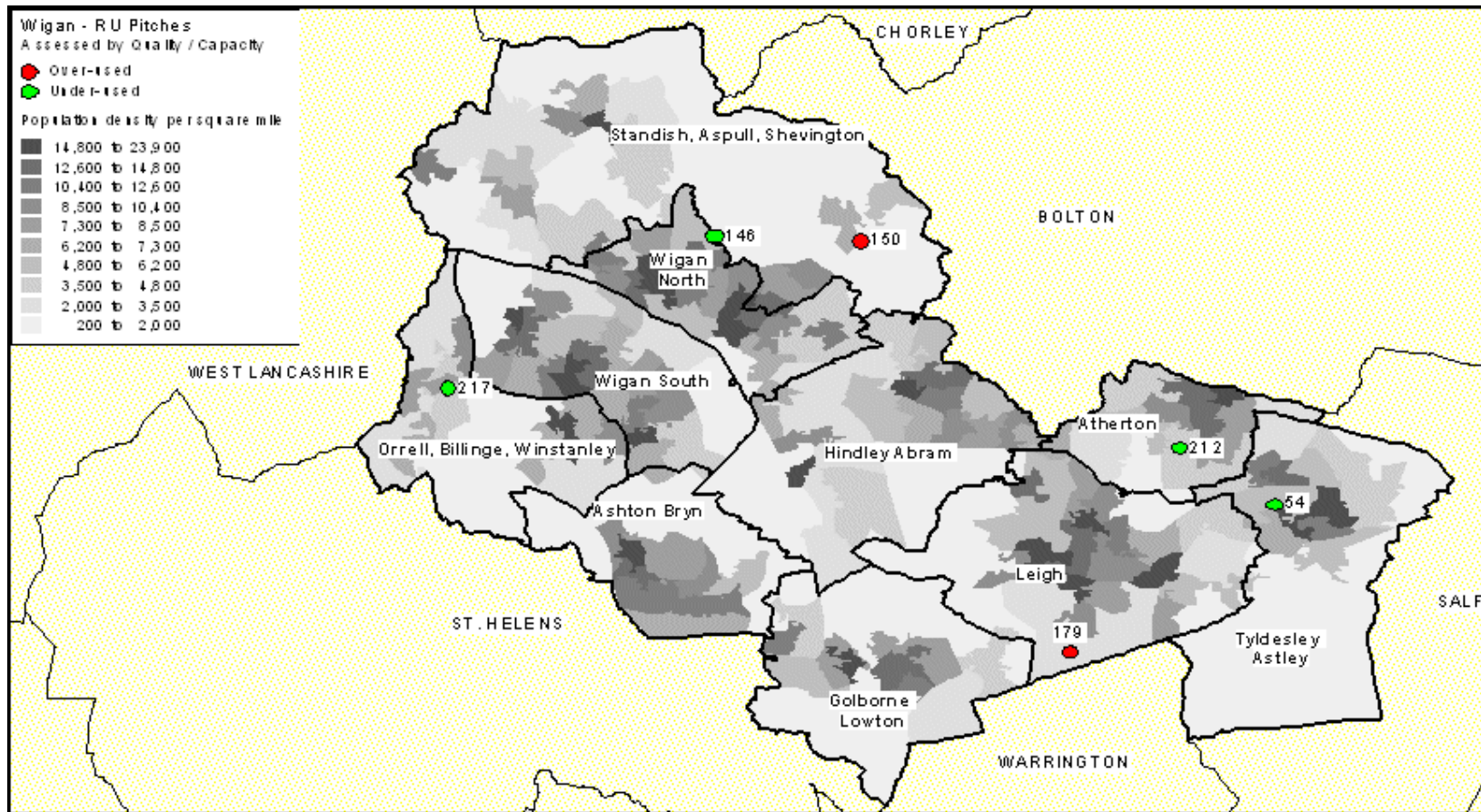
Rugby Union in Wigan is administered by the Lancashire County Rugby Football Union. There are several high standard clubs in Wigan. All currently used rugby union pitches are provided at privately owned sports grounds.

Table 16.1: Summary of pitch and team information in rugby union

Analysis area	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini rugby
Ashton Bryn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Atherton	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golborne Lowton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hindley Abram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leigh	2	-	-	7	1	5	-	-
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	5	-	-	10	2	7	-	-
Tyldesley Astley	3	-	-	3	1	4	-	-
Wigan North	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wigan South	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
WIGAN	12	-	-	22	4	20	-	-



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Figur

Figure 16.1: Location of rugby union pitches in Wigan



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Table 16.2: Key to map

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Rugby pitches
Hesketh Fletcher High School	212	Atherton	1
Leigh RUFC	179	Leigh	2
Orrell RUFC	217	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	1
Wigan RUFC	146	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	3
Woodshaw Park (Aspull RUFC)	150	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	2
St George's Park (Tyldesley RUFC)	54	Tyldesley Astley	3

In addition to the above sites, three rugby pitches are available at St John Rigby College. However, these are also used by a rugby league team and, as such, have been counted within the total rugby league pitch stock.

Development

Wigan Rugby Development Group has been established to provide support and assistance to the development of the sport across Wigan. However, not all clubs regularly attend meetings. WLCT and the RFU are considering an incentive for club attendance and have also changed the meetings to focus on subjects such as funding.

Clubs tend to be quite self focused in terms of club development, resulting in some duplication in developing school club links. The Group is currently looking at the potential of employing a community sports coach to help deliver skills based activities in primary and secondary schools, clubs and provide extra curricular learning in a structured and planned way.

There is a perception amongst rugby union clubs that there is a lack of funding available for their sport in Wigan for facility development and improvements due to the dominance of rugby league. Clubs feel that, because they tend to own their own facilities, there is a perception that they can afford to carry out improvements. WLCT provides assistance and support through the development group and sports development. Each club can also access yearly funding to improve pitches and facilities. However, not all clubs utilise this due to the paperwork required and a lack of voluntary assistance.

Women and girls

The majority of clubs have one women's team. However, there are no girls' rugby union teams competing in Wigan. Girls' rugby is slowly developing through targeted training/coaching sessions at clubs. The annual girls' rugby union festival with local secondary schools will be running this year and a team will feed into the Greater Manchester Games. Exit routes from such activities can be difficult to secure for rugby union. At a junior age, and particularly in terms of primary school delivery, rugby union



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and rugby league are delivered as rugby skills and there is little to differentiate between the two codes. Juniors tend to feed into rugby league clubs due to the more wide spread locations offered by clubs.

Key issues for rugby union

Orrell RUFC

Orrell RUFC senior team has now played its last match at the Edge Hall Road ground. The site is privately owned and the Club has been unable to afford the increasing rent at the site over the past few years. It is likely that the senior team will merge with neighbouring club Orrell Anvils RUFC.

Orrell RUFC junior and colts teams already play and train at St John Rigby College, Orrell. It has access to three pitches and one all weather pitch on the College grounds. However, it is actively looking to acquire land to develop a clubhouse and its junior sections. The Club reports latent demand for U10 and U15 boys' and a girls' teams. It is looking in the Orrell area but at present has not identified any appropriate land.

Leigh RUFC

The Club is based at Hand Lane, Leigh, where it owns two junior pitches and a clubhouse. It also leases the two pitches on the Mills Caskell Estate (Leigh) and the pitch at Tams Avenue (Leigh) for training sessions. The Club currently fields nineteen teams from U7s to Vets and it is increasingly difficult to accommodate all teams on one site. It is also exploring the opportunity of renting pitches at Leigh Sports Village.

The Club is working with the RFU and WLCT to develop both the playing and coaching infrastructure and the facilities. It is actively involved in the Go Play Rugby scheme and off the back of this success, expresses latent demand for an additional senior men's team and a women's team (to link into the existing senior ladies section).

Plans have been submitted to WC for ground upgrades and the development of a new floodlit training area at the Tams Avenue site, currently owned by WC. The current changing facilities at Hand Lane are poor quality and are being used beyond their capacity. This results in a cramped changing area and shortage of hot water at peak times.



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Provision of rugby union pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

Table 16.3: Rugby union provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	capacity	rating	
212	Hesketh Fletcher High School	Atherton	Yes		1									-	2.0	
179	Leigh RUFC	Leigh	Yes	2									6.5	4.0		
217	Orrell RUFC	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	1									0.5	2.0		
146	Wigan RUFC	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	3									4.0	6.0		
150	Woodshaw Park (Aspull RUFC)	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes		2								5.0	2.0		
54	St George's Park (Tyldesley RUFC)	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	3									4.0	6.0		

Although available for community use, Hesketh Fletcher High School pitches are currently not in use. This could therefore create some additional capacity to accommodate latent demand, although there are no teams specifically within the Atherton area.



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Shortfall, adequacy and requirement

Summary of current demand

The table below summaries the sites in each area, which are currently being played beyond their capacity. The capacity of the site is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

Table 16.4: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area

<i>Site</i>	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
Leigh RUFC	Leigh	2.5
Woodshaw Park	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	3.0
Total		5.5 matches

Summary of future/latent demand

The table below summaries the latent demand which has emerged from consultation.

Table 16.5: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Site	Latent demand	Pitch requirement
Orrell RUFC	St John Rigby's College	U10 and U15 boys teams U10 girls teams	1 junior pitch
Leigh RUFC	Leigh RUFC	Senior men's team and a women's team	1 senior pitch
Total			1 junior pitch 1 senior pitch



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Rugby team generation rates (TGRs)

The following future TGRs (based on estimated population projections to 2017) have been calculated for each area of Wigan. Where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams operate at that age group, for rugby, in that area.

Table 16.6: Rugby union TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior men (18-45)	Senior women (18-45)	Junior boys (13-17)	Junior girls (16-17)	Mini-rugby (8-12)
Ashton Bryn	-	-	-	-	-
Atherton	-	-	-	-	-
Golborne Lowton	-	-	-	-	-
Hindley Abram	-	-	-	-	-
Leigh	1:1,235	1:6,967	1:297	-	-
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	1:2,063	-	-	-	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1:669	1:2,602	1:159	-	-
Tyldesley Astley	1:1,556	1:3,866	1:208	-	-
Wigan North	-	-	-	-	-
Wigan South	-	-	1:317	-	-
WIGAN	1:2,638	1:11,529	1:503	-	-
BOLTON	1:8,228	1:40,365	1:1,785	-	-
NATIONAL AVERAGE	1:7,032	1:43,770	1:2,105	1:19,524	1:2,639



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Using the TGRs above, the following target TGRs (in blue) have been set across Wigan based on achievable targets identified through the consultation and based on analysis of comparable TGRs. This then provides an indication as to how many additional cricket teams (figures in bold) will be generated in 2017 if these targets are met.

Where TGRs are relatively high in comparison to the whole Borough, it is recommended that these should be maintained. Where TGRs are lower than the Borough, target TGRs should be set as aspiration.

Table 10.23: Rugby TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior men (16-45)	Senior women (16-45)	Junior boys (10-15)	Junior girls (10-15)	Mini soccer (6-9) mixed
Ashton Bryn	-	-	-	-	-
Atherton	-	-	-	-	-
Golborne Lowton	-	-	-	-	-
Hindley Abram	-	-	-	-	-
Leigh	1:1,235	1:6,967	1:297	-	-
	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	1:2,063	1:11,529	1:503	-	-
	0.1	0.3	1.6	0.0	0.0
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1:669	1:2,602	1:159	-	-
	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0
Tyldesley Astley	1:1,556	1:3,866	1:208	-	-
	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Wigan North	-	-	-	-	-
Wigan South	-	-	1:317	-	-
			0.1		



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Future PPM summary

Sport England's PPM (playing pitch model) is used to assess whether the supply of pitches will be sufficient at peak times in the future (up to 2017). The previous TGRs have been applied to the PPM calculation to provide a summary of surpluses and deficiencies. This is shown below and takes account of the additional teams estimated to require pitches if TGR targets are achieved (highlighted in bold on the previous page).

Table 10.24: Future PPM summary

Analysis area	Rugby	
	Senior pitches	Junior pitches
Ashton Bryn	0	0
Atherton	1.0	0
Golborne Lowton	0	0
Hindley Abram	0	0
Leigh	-2.2	-2.6
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	-0.2	0
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	4.9	0
Tyldesley Astley	2.9	0
Wigan North	0	0
Wigan South	0	-2.0
WIGAN	6.4	-4.7

Although there is likely to be a slight deficiency of junior rugby pitches across Wigan in 2017, there will be a surplus of senior pitches. This reflects that juniors are currently playing on senior sized pitches, which to some extent maybe acceptable.

Rugby union summary

- ❑ In total, two sites are currently overplayed in Wigan on a weekly basis. In the main, pitches are only slightly overplayed and this appears to a genuine need for additional pitches.
- ❑ Four clubs have expressed latent demand, which equates to the additional requirement of 3 junior pitches.
- ❑ Although available for community use, Hesketh Fletcher High School pitches are currently not in use. This could therefore create some additional capacity to accommodate latent demand, although there are no teams specifically within the Atherton area. Given that there is a pitch available for community use in the Atherton area at a High School site, further consideration should be given to setting an aspiration TGR in that analysis area to use to work towards establishing use of the pitch.
- ❑ The majority of clubs have one women's team. However, there are no girls' rugby union teams competing in Wigan.



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PART 17: HOCKEY

Introduction

Governance of the sport is devolved by England Hockey (EH) at a regional and local level to regional and county associations.

EH recognises that clubs are informally very active in Wigan. However, EH aims to ensure this is now done through the correct governing body procedures e.g., affiliation and accreditation. In total, there are four affiliated clubs within the Borough and Wigan Hockey Club is in the process of working towards accreditation.

There are a number of leagues covering Wigan, including the Bolton Sports Federation Hockey League, North West Hockey League and Manchester Junior Hockey League.

Current provision

Table 17.1: Summary of pitches available for community use by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of available STPs (full sized synthetic hockey pitches)
Ashton Bryn	-
Atherton	-
Golborne Lowton	1
Hindley Abram	-
Leigh	-
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1
Tyldesley Astley	-
Wigan North	1
Wigan South	2
WIGAN	5



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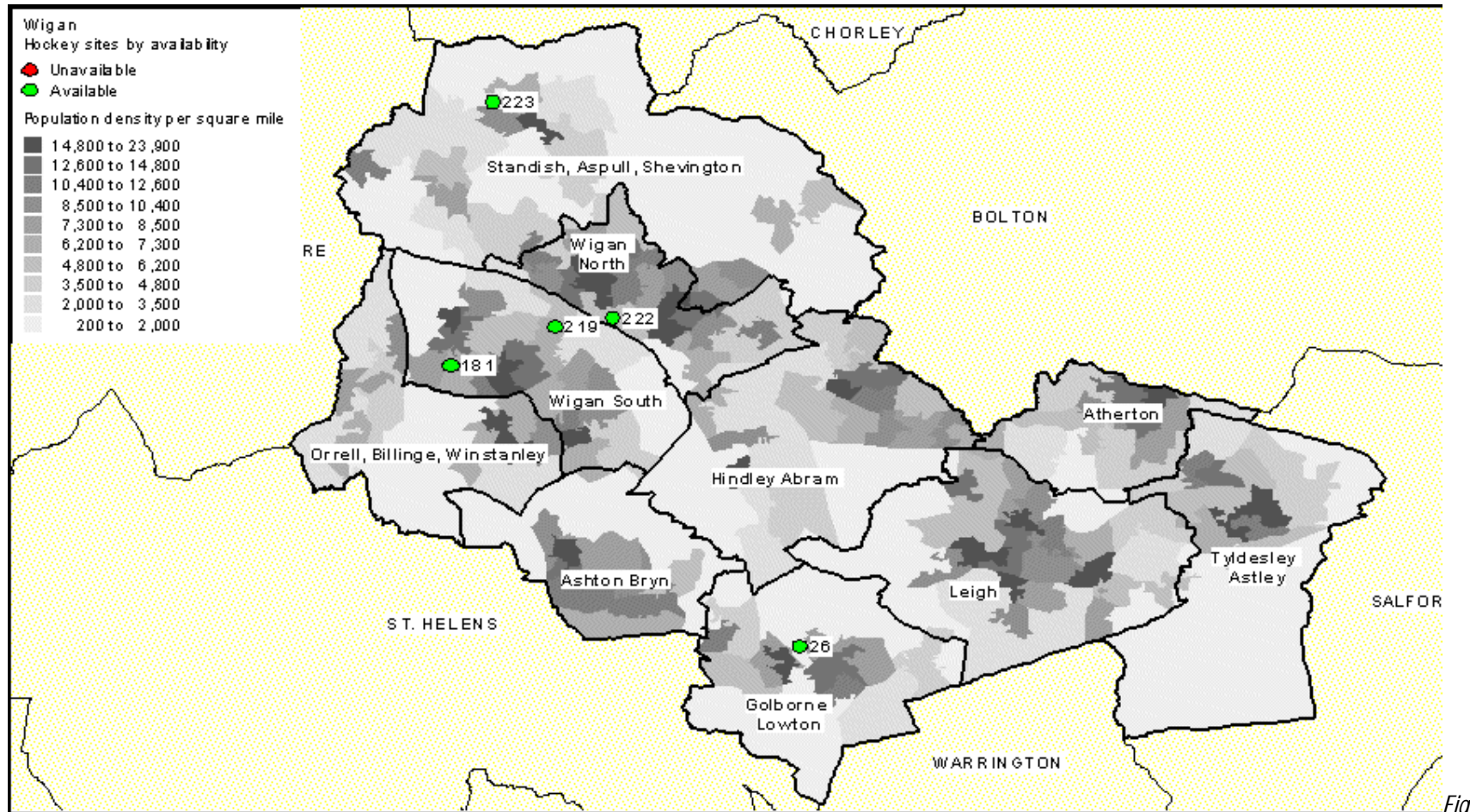


Figure 17.1: Provision of hockey sites across Wigan



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Table 17.2: Key to hockey map

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	STPs (full sized synthetic hockey pitches)	Quality rating
Golborne Parkside Sports & Community Centre	26	Golborne Lowton	1	Adequate
Standish High School	223	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	1	Good
The Deany High School	222	Wigan North	1	Good
Robin Park	219	Wigan South	1	Good
St John Rigby College	181	Wigan South	1	Good

There is a concentration of STP provision in the West of the Borough. Although there appears to be some gaps in provision in the Leigh area, this will be met by new provision at Leigh Sports Village. Provision in Bolton at Canon Slade High School and Thornleigh High School also goes someway to servicing areas in Wigan.

Junior development

There are two clubs (Westleigh Hockey Club & Wigan Hockey Club) operating junior teams. Wigan Hockey Club has a strong junior section currently operating four teams. It has informal school club links with Abraham Guest High School. This has helped the Club to increase its junior membership. The Club also has an active membership with male and female sections.

A significant number of smaller sized multi use games areas (MUGAs), suitable for developing junior hockey and training are now available at the majority of secondary school sites. Westleigh Hockey Club for example has informal school club links with Westleigh High School. The Club delivers coaching sessions using the MUGA at the school during curricular time. It is hoped that these facilities will increase the availability of facilities for junior development.

Key issues

Pitch quality

The majority of STPs in Wigan are of good quality and have no specific issues. However, consultation and site assessments report that the STP at Golborne Sports and Social Club is of adequate quality with some minor repairs required. The carpet is coming towards the end of its lifespan and has approximately five years usage remaining. The goalposts are in disrepair and will soon be replaced by Golborne Sports and Social Club. This is also supported by the site assessment.



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Ancillary quality

Golborne Hockey Club reports demand to develop both a female and junior section. However, due to the lack of segregated changing facilities at its home ground, Golborne Sports and Social Club the Club reports this is not possible. The Club shares the changing rooms with the cricket section.

Demand

Westleigh Hockey Club has recently formed and operates a girls/ladies team and a mixed team. The Club plays in the Bolton Sports Federation League. However, the League plays on central venue sites in Bolton, using STPs at Canon Slade High School and Thornleigh High School.

No clubs report latent demand for additional pitch facilities.

Hockey team generation rates (TGRs)

The following TGRs (based on estimated population projections to 2017) have been calculated for each area of Wigan. Where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams operate at that age group, for hockey, in that area.

Table 17.3: Hockey TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior (16-45) Men's	Senior (16-45) Women's	Junior (11-15) Boys	Junior (11-15) Girls
Ashton Bryn	-	-	-	-
Atherton	-	-	-	-
Golborne Lowton	1:2,364	-	-	-
Hindley Abram	-	-	-	-
Leigh	1:3,076	-	-	-
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	-	-	-	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	-	-	-	-
Tyldesley Astley	-	-	-	-
Wigan North	1:2,430	1:1,922	1:293	-
Wigan South	-	-	-	-
WIGAN	1:7,741	1:16,569	1:2,598	-

Where TGRs are relatively high in comparison to the whole Borough, it is recommended that these should be maintained. Where TGRs are lower than the Borough, target TGRs should be set as aspiration. Given that there is a pitch available for community use in the Atherton area at a High School site, further consideration should be given to setting an aspiration TGR in that analysis area to use to work towards establishing a new team/club.



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Hockey summary

- ❑ The availability of MUGAs at school sites should help to encourage and increase junior hockey participation.
- ❑ It appears that current demand generated by clubs can comfortably be accommodated on STPs within the Borough.
- ❑ The STP located at Golborne Sports and Social Club is rated as adequate quality. The carpet is likely to need replacing over the next five to six years.



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PART 18: BOWLS

Introduction

The British Crown Green Bowling Association is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport. Locally, it is administered by over sixteen leagues covering the Borough of Wigan, each affiliated to Lancashire Crown Green Bowling Association, including Hindley and District, Wigan Borough Pensioners Bowling League, Carlsberg Tetley North Saturday Bowling League and the Leigh and District Parks Bowling League.

Bowls in Wigan is played on crown bowling greens. Wigan has over 145 clubs playing competitively across the Borough. In total, there are over 25 private bowling greens in the Borough. The remaining clubs play on greens located on WC managed sites (mainly park greens).

Table 18.1: Summary of greens available for community use by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of available greens
Ashton Bryn	3
Atherton	2
Golborne Lowton	4
Hindley Abram	5
Leigh	9
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	5
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	4
Tyldesley Astley	1
Wigan North	14
Wigan South	6
WIGAN	53



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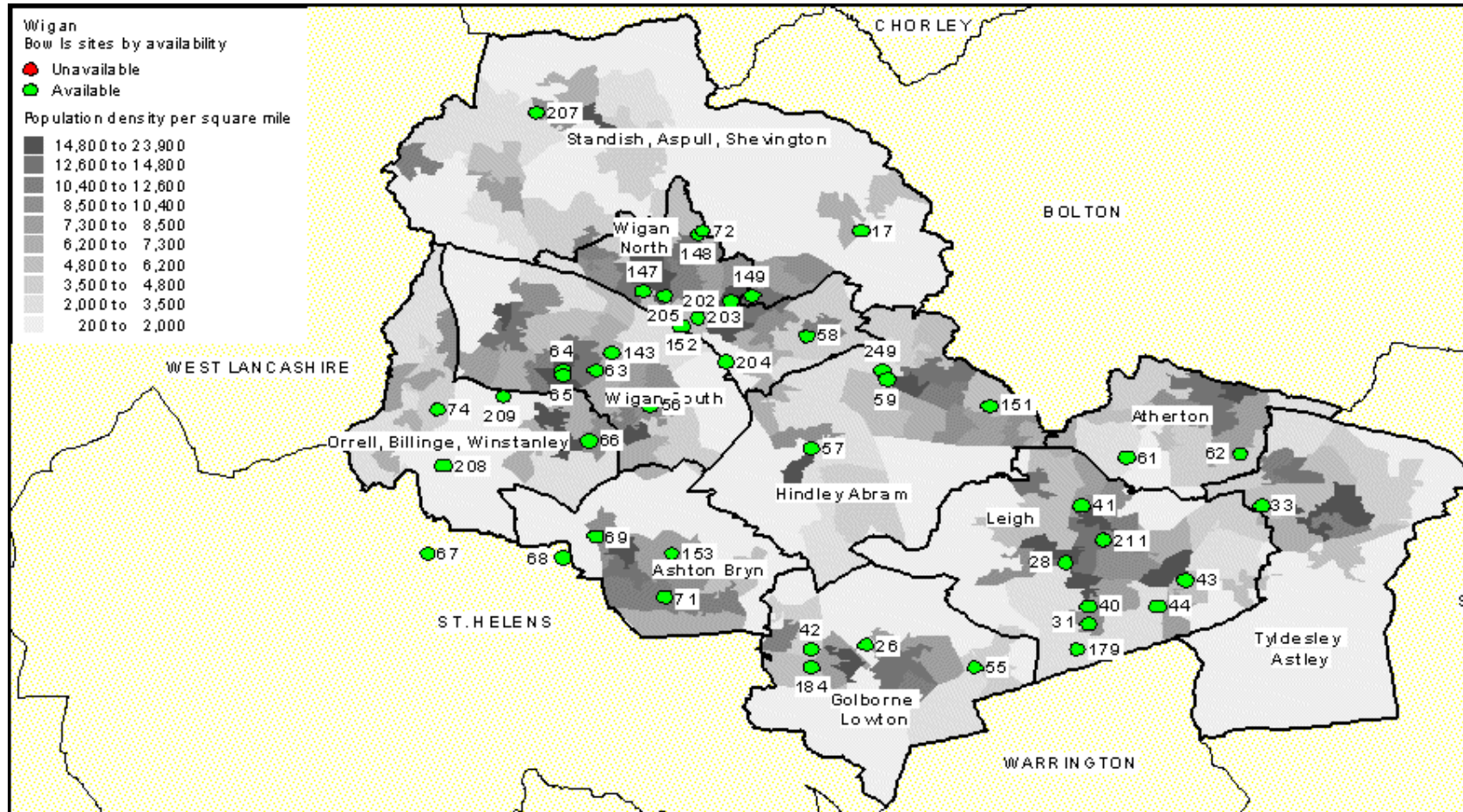


Figure 18.1: Location of bowls greens in Wigan



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Table 18.2: Key to bowls map

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Green quality
Alexandra Park	143	Wigan South	Average
Ashton Recreation Ground	71	Ashton Bryn	Below average
Aspull Civic	17	Standish, Aspull Bryn	Good
Astley and Tyldesley Miners Welfare Institute	33	Tyldesley Astley	Excellent
Bears Head	148	Wigan North	Good
Bedford Park	43	Leigh	Below average
Beer Engine Pub	56	Wigan South	Good
Bellingham Bowling Club	72	Wigan North	Good
Botanical Gardens	62	Atherton	Good
Brunswick Recreation Club (Hindley Green)	211	Leigh	Excellent
Bryn Masonic Hall	153	Ashton Bryn	Below average
Bucks Head	44	Leigh	Excellent
Bulls Head	210	Wigan North	Excellent
Coronation Park	15	Wigan North	Good
Dootsons Park	34	Leigh	Good
Gardener's Arms Bowling Green	61	Atherton	Good
Garswood Hall Bowling Club	76	Atherton	Excellent
Golborne Cricket Club	73	Golborne Lowton	Excellent
Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Centre	26	Golborne Lowton	Good
Golborne Working Mens Conservative Club	42	Golborne Lowton	Good
Great Acre Bowling Acre	202	Wigan North	Good
Highfield Gardens	209	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Good
Holts Arms	67	Outside of the Borough	Good
Ince Rose Bridge Sport and Community Club	58	Wigan North	Excellent
Ince Rose Bridge Sport and Community Club	58	Wigan North	Average
Leigh Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club	31	Leigh	Excellent
Leigh Miners Welfare and Recreational Club	28	Leigh	Good
Leigh RUFC	179	Leigh	Excellent
Lord Nelson	152	Wigan North	Good



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Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Green quality
Mesnes Park	205	Wigan North	Good
Naylor's BC	184	Golborne Lowon	Average
Newton Central Conservative Club	64	Wigan South	Good
North Ashton Village Club	68	Outside of the Borough	Good
Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	74	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Excellent
Our Ladys Bowling Club	69	Ashton Bryn	Good
Pagefield Hotel	147	Wigan North	Good
Pemberton Conservative Club	208	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Good
Pennington Park	40	Leigh	Average
Platt Bridge Community Centre	57	Hindley Abram	Good
Platt Lane	59	Hindley Abram	Good
Ravine Bowling Club	65	Wigan south	Good
Red Lion Bowling Club	55	Golborne, Lowton	Good
Sacred Heart Parish Club	151	Hindley, Abram	Good
Shevington Village Bowling Club	206	Standish, Aspull, Bryn	Excellent
St Aidan's Bowling Club	66	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Excellent
St Benedict's	114	Hindley Abram	Good
St Marine's Bowling Club	207	Standish, Aspull Bryn	Excellent
St Matthews Bowling Club	63	Wigan South	Good
St Patrick's Bowling Club	203	Wigan North	Excellent
St Paul's Sports and Social Club	41	Leigh	Excellent
Walmesley Park	204	Wigan North	Below average
Whelley Labour Club	149	Standish, Aspull Bryn	Good
William Fosters	19	Wigan North	Good

Consultation identifies a perceived lack of bowling greens in Lower Ince (falling with the Wigan North analysis area). As a result, members of Lower Ince Bowling Club travel approximately two miles to access a green at Platt Bridge Community Centre. The Club reports its preferred home green would be in Lower Ince in order to sustain current membership, as they are unlikely to continue to travel this distance to play.

Bedford Liberal Bowling Club reports that members would prefer to use the bowling green at Bedford Park. However, due to the poor quality of the green members travel to use a private green at the Red Lion Hotel approximately four miles away. KKP site assessments also rate Bedford Park bowling green as below average quality.



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Junior development

Analysis of membership within clubs in Wigan shows there is a moderate level of junior participation. In total, 64 juniors are members belonging to a Club in the Borough. Leigh Cricket Club Bowling Club (LCCBC) and Pennington Church have the highest levels of junior membership standing at ten. There is no junior specific competition in the Borough. Junior teams tend to play competitively in the Leigh and District Bowling League against senior teams.

An initiative led by Orrell Bowling League (in conjunction with Lancashire Crown Green Bowling Association) is targeting secondary schools (through the Abraham Guest High School SSP) and introducing young people to crown green bowling. Individual clubs are paired up with a secondary school to develop school club links. Taster coaching sessions are delivered during the curricular. This approach may have a positive impact on the current structure of the game within the Borough, introducing younger people into the sport in order to sustain membership levels.

Key issues for bowls

Management

Representatives from each local authority operated site meet yearly to discuss improvements to the greens, facilities and development of the sport. The Forum (in conjunction with WLCT) produced a plan on site improvements to identify what was needed. Consultation identifies demand for the Forum to meet more frequently, perhaps at the beginning and end of the bowling season.

Each club member should pay a minimal fee (currently £10) per season for the use of any WLCT maintained bowling green. Monies are collected and are available for improvements and developments. Regular maintenance is carried out in addition, out of a separate budget. The development fund is prioritised and agreed through the Forum. Each venue can nominate two representatives to attend the Forum to bring any issues forward and to decide on how funding should be allocated. In comparison to neighbouring authorities, this is quite a unique system but is viewed as a good system to have in place.



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Demand

The table below summaries information gathered from postal questionnaires. In total, questionnaires were sent to 145 clubs and 63 responded, which equates to a response rate of over two fifths (43%).

Table 18.3: Summary of returned bowls questionnaires in Wigan

Question	Private clubs	Leased sites	Rented sites
Average membership numbers per club.	54	91	33
Average catchment area of club.	Up to 2 miles	2-5 miles	2-5 miles
No. of clubs where membership has decreased in last three years.	4	2	8
No. of clubs where membership has increased in the last three years.	4	4	5
No. of clubs with a formal development plan.	2	5	2
No. of clubs where green is available for 'pay and play'.	15	5	12
No. of sites where green has got slightly or much better since last season.	11	6	12
No. of sites where green has got slightly or much worse since last year.	6	0	11
No. of clubs who have expressed a need for another green to meet demand.	4	6	4
No. of clubs whose grounds have suffered from vandalism in the last year.	8	4	24

The majority of bowling leagues servicing Wigan have not experienced a growth in membership levels over the last three years and, therefore, do not need to operate a waiting list. Analysis of membership levels shows that three fifths (60%) of clubs report that membership levels have remained static over the last three years.

There is a perception of overplay on local authority bowling greens. Hindley and District Bowling League reports greens are now being used more often as clubs are fielding more teams. However, it appears to be more in relation to quality issues. For example, an ancillary facility at Highfield Gardens has been closed due to fire damage and, as a result, teams using this site play fixtures using Alexandra Park. This has impacted on the wear and tear on the green. In total, over 19 teams use both greens throughout the season (nine teams using green two and ten teams using green one). Consultation with clubs and leagues highlights the number of games on the green is having a detrimental impact in terms of the overall quality of the greens. KKP site assessments rate both greens adequate quality (57%).



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Quality

The majority of clubs playing on local authority maintained greens report a decline in quality over the last 12 months. Although WLCT undertakes the regular maintenance of greens, clubs carry out additional maintenance in order to ensure the green quality is kept to an adequate standard during the season. Whilst there is a regular grass cutting on local authority greens, users believe that grass cutting should be carried out at least three times a week during the bowling season. In common with local authority greens nationwide, clubs report a lack of specialist preparation and maintenance, in particular the treatment of scarifying, maintaining of the gutter boards and more frequent watering. However, the majority of bowling greens in Wigan are assessed as good or excellent quality.

Site assessments show four sites (Bedford Park, Ashton Recreation Ground, Bryn Masonic Hall and Walmersley Park) have been assessed as below average. Three of these sites (Ashton Recreation Ground, Bedford Park and Walmersley Park) are greens owned by the local authority. These greens all had evidence of wear and tear reported during the site assessment. In comparison, greens scoring as excellent quality include Garswood Hall Bowling Club, St Aidan's Bowling Club, Shevington Village Bowling Club and St Marine's Bowling Club. These are all privately owned bowling greens.

Bowling greens and clubhouse facilities suffer from regular instances of vandalism. A large number of parks bowling greens and clubhouse facilities suffer from regular instances of illegal use, with reports of dog fouling and youths using the green to play football and golf. Clubs report the level of vandalism is having a detrimental impact on the green quality, including local authority and private greens.

Walmersley Park bowling green scored low for perimeter fencing and was also one of the lowest scoring sites overall. Although perimeter fencing around greens helps to create a more enclosed site, which in return should help to deter vandalism and increase green quality, there are a number of examples in Wigan where fencing has not helped to deter vandalism and in some cases, WLCT are looking to remove it, including Dootsons Park, Coronation Park and William Fosters.

Ancillary facilities

A common issue raised through consultation is the demand for changing and toilet provision at WC owned sites. One fifth of clubs (22%) playing on local authority sites, identify access to improved ancillary facilities would help to attract new members. Ancillary facilities at Platt Lane were assessed as very poor quality. The pavilion is beyond economic repair and needs to be replaced and some external funding is required to achieve this. Fire damage on local authority ancillary facilities has resulted in some facilities being unavailable and resulting no access to shelter or toilet facilities.

Over the last four years, there has been a rolling programme for the installation of green-side shelters across the Borough. To date, there are five local authority sites that have benefited from this. Consultation identifies some demand for additional seating and shelters on other council sites such as Ashton Recreation Ground and Alexandra Park.



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Site specific issues

Table 18.4: Summary of site specific issues

Site name	KKP ref	Comments
St Paul's Sports and Social Club	41	Demand for toilet provision at the site. Toilets are available only during the evenings when the Social Club is open.
Pagefield Bowling Club	147	Club cannot play fixtures into the evening due to lack of lighting.
Whelly Labour Club	149	The Club has development plans, which include green improvements, spectator seating and security fencing.
Highfield Gardens	209	Green quality is poorer since last season due to the green subject to vandalism.
Goose Green St Paul's Bowling Club	210	The Club is seeking a grant for the installation of electricity at the site.
Platt Bridge Community Centre	57	Demand for better fencing at the site and a ranger patrol service.
Ashton Recreation Ground	71	Youth congregation is an issue during the evenings.
Mesnes Park	205	Consultation indicated the green is misused to play football, riding bicycles and playing golf.
Platt Lane, Hindley	59	Consultation reports the green quality is much poorer since last season, thought due to be a lack of investment and maintenance.
Golborne Sports and Social Club	26	Demand for additional ancillary facilities at the Site to accommodate the bowling Club and schoolchildren during coaching sessions.

Bowls summary

- ❑ Junior membership is developing across Wigan and will help to sustain demand for provision. However, there is no junior specific competition in the Borough. Junior teams tend to play competitively in the Leigh and District Bowling League against senior teams.
- ❑ There is a perceived lack of bowling greens in Lower Ince. As a result, members of Platt Bridge Bowling Club travel approximately two miles to access a green at Platt Bridge Community Centre. The Club reports its preferred home green would be in Lower Ince in order to sustain current membership, as they are unlikely to continue to travel this distance to play.
- ❑ A lack of specialist maintenance and vandalism on greens and ancillary facilities is reducing the overall quality of local authority sites.



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PART 19: TENNIS

Introduction

The Lancashire Lawn Tennis Association (LLTA) administers, and is responsible for, the development of tennis across Wigan. The LTA identifies Wigan as a focus area for tennis development in the County. In total, there are six affiliated clubs in the Borough of which three clubs (Winstanley Tennis Club, Robin Park Tennis Club and Bellingham Tennis Club) are mini tennis accredited and working towards the Clubmark accreditation.

There are 81 tennis courts available across 28 sites. There are five affiliated tennis clubs playing on private facilities in the Borough. Robin Park Tennis Club is the only Club using the indoor courts at Robin Park Sports Arena competitively. During the winter season the majority of clubs use indoor courts at Robin Park for winter training. There are four large sites providing five or more tennis courts at each site (Morley Street, Winstanley Tennis Club, Leigh Cricket, Tennis & Bowling Club and Westleigh High School). Robin Park Indoor Sports Centre is the only tennis performance centre in the Borough.

Current provision

Table 19.1: Summary of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of available courts
Ashton Bryn	5
Atherton	6
Golborne Lowton	2
Hindley Abram	4
Leigh	9
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	6
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	3
Tyldesley Astley	8
Wigan North	16
Wigan South	6
WIGAN	65



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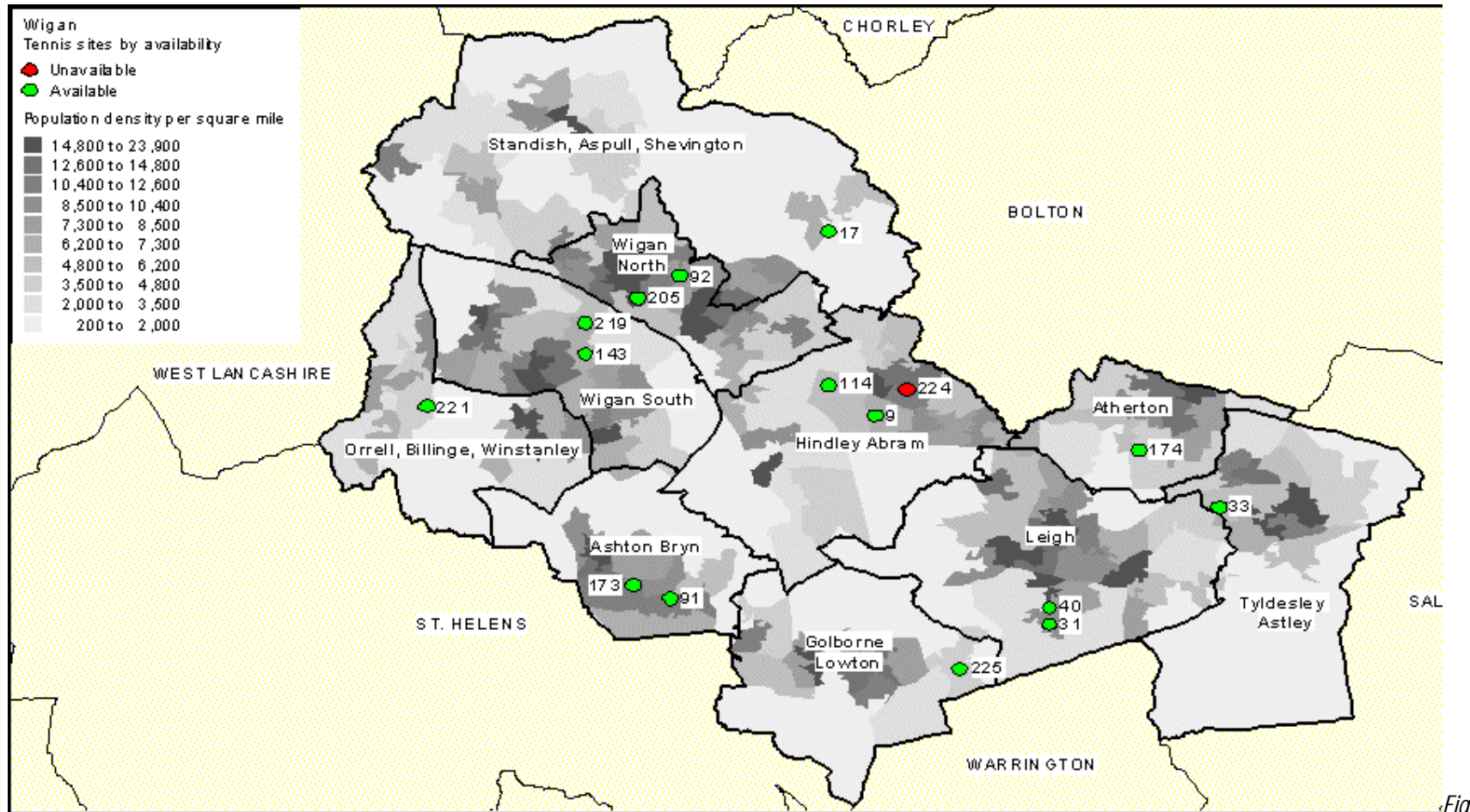


Figure 19.1: Location of tennis courts in Wigan



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Table 19.2: Key to tennis map

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Courts
Jubilee Park	173	Ashton Bryn	Yes	2
Tyldesley Tennis Club	91	Ashton Bryn	Yes	3
Morley Street	174	Atherton	Yes	6
Hindley Community High School	224	Hindley Abram	No	3
Leyland Park	9	Hindley Abram	Yes	3
St Benedict's Primary School	114	Hindley Abram	Yes	1
Leigh Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club	31	Leigh	Yes	6
Pennington Park	40	Leigh	Yes	3
Winstanley Tennis Club	221	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	Yes	6
Aspull Civic	17	Standish, Aspull, Shevington	Yes	3
Astley & Tyldesley Miners Welfare Institute	33	Tyldesley Astley	Yes	8
Bellingham LTC	92	Wigan North	Yes	9
Mesnes Park	205	Wigan North	Yes	7
Alexandra Park	143	Wigan South	Yes	2
Robin Park	219	Wigan South	Yes	4

Key issues for tennis

Development

Due to administration difficulties, Wigan Tennis Strategy Group no longer exists. Consultation with clubs highlighted the effectiveness of the Group as it helped to increase tennis participation in primary schools. A number of clubs consulted expressed demand for the Group to commence operating again.

Wigan has a number of tennis leagues servicing the area including the Warrington Tennis League, Walkden Tennis League and Bolton Sports Federation Tennis League. However, there are no female only leagues operating in the area. Female members are able to play competitively in mixed teams. As a result, female membership at clubs is particularly low and considerably lower than male membership.



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Junior development

Junior membership is generally strong in Wigan and is focused around the three clubs that are mini tennis accredited and working towards Clubmark. The success of these programmes has resulted in two of these clubs (Bellingham TC and Winstanley TC) both expressing demand for additional court capacity. Tyldesley TC also has an emerging junior section and reports some demand for additional court capacity.

Leigh TC junior membership levels have decreased over the last year. This is thought to be due to coaching sessions at Lowton Sports College no longer being delivered. The Club is intending to re-kindle this in the near future. Senior membership levels have increased somewhat through the Club introducing different types of membership rates.

School club links

Tennis school club links are active in the Borough. A number of clubs deliver coaching sessions in local primary schools using school indoor halls and school playgrounds. This often feeds into club coaching sessions, delivered during the school holidays. Consultation with clubs identifies a drop off in membership levels aged 12 – 14 year olds. This may be through a lack of coaching sessions in secondary schools as coaching is generally geared at primary school level. Bellingham TC are a good example of a school club link, with three qualified coaches delivering sessions in 34 primary schools funded by the British Schools Tennis Association and the LTA.

Demand

A number of clubs express demand for floodlighting on courts in order to increase their capacity. In the majority of instances, floodlighting is sufficient to increase capacity without the need for additional courts.

Winstanley Tennis Club has access to six courts in total, which are all used to capacity (one of which is already floodlit). There is demand for floodlighting on three other courts to increase site capacity and therefore enable further junior development work. However, there appear to be issues with the existing power supply to the courts, which could prevent this.

Junior membership levels at Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club (BLTC) have increased over the last three years, currently standing at over 110 members. As a result, the Club is appointing a coach to help develop a mini academy and to deliver the mini tennis accreditation programme. Due to the success of the programme, the Club identifies demand for floodlighting on two courts to increase capacity. It reports a target to achieve 500 members, once this has been achieved the Club has set out plans to install covered tennis courts.



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Tyldesley Tennis Club has access to three artificial turf courts (two of which are floodlit) and is operating at court capacity at peak times (Saturday morning to accommodate junior competitive fixtures). In this instance, additional floodlighting would not adequately increase capacity and therefore the Club identifies latent demand for additional junior teams.

Quality

In general, the majority of private clubs now have access to excellent quality courts, after taking precedence over ancillary improvements over the previous years. For example, this has resulted in ancillary facilities at Winstanley Tennis Club, for example, becoming outdated and in need of modernisation. The Club feels the quality of ancillary facilities is impacting on levels of membership. It is in the process of drawing up plans to develop a new clubhouse facility which will include adequate provision of storage, bigger changing rooms, function room and disabled access.

WC owned tennis courts are generally provided in parks and are managed by WLCT. Seven sites accommodate a total of 26 tennis courts. The majority of these are tarmac, with the exception of Leyland Park, which are grass courts (the nets at this site are permanent). All are available for casual community use. According to the site assessments, the lowest scoring court is located at Robin Park. One of the eight courts as is assessed as low quality. This is due to the level of moss, loose gravel, holes in the court surface, poor line markings and evidence of litter. As a result, the court is no longer used. Courts located at Aspull Civic and Astley Street are both assessed as below average quality. The remaining local authority courts are assessed as good or excellent.

Astley and Tyldesley Tennis Club is in the process of securing a lease on four macadam local authority courts at Gin Pit. The courts are of poor quality and not suitable for competitive use as a result of vandalism and a lack of maintenance. Site assessments rate the courts as adequate quality (58%) i.e. fit for purpose in terms of casual use. In order for the Club to meet funding criteria, a minimum lease of 20 years would be required on the site.

Tennis summary

- ❑ No latent demand was identified throughout the consultation with clubs. Current levels of demand can be met by improving existing facilities, either by upgrading ancillary facilities or installation of floodlights.
- ❑ Floodlights will not only facilitate winter competitions, but also allow county accredited clubs to increase player rankings (through regular winter play). Consultation shows that in order for clubs to develop towards achieving county accredited status and develop player rankings, floodlit courts are needed to provide all round year play.
- ❑ Public accessible courts play an important role as they provide access to the community to participate in the sport.



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PART 20: GOLF

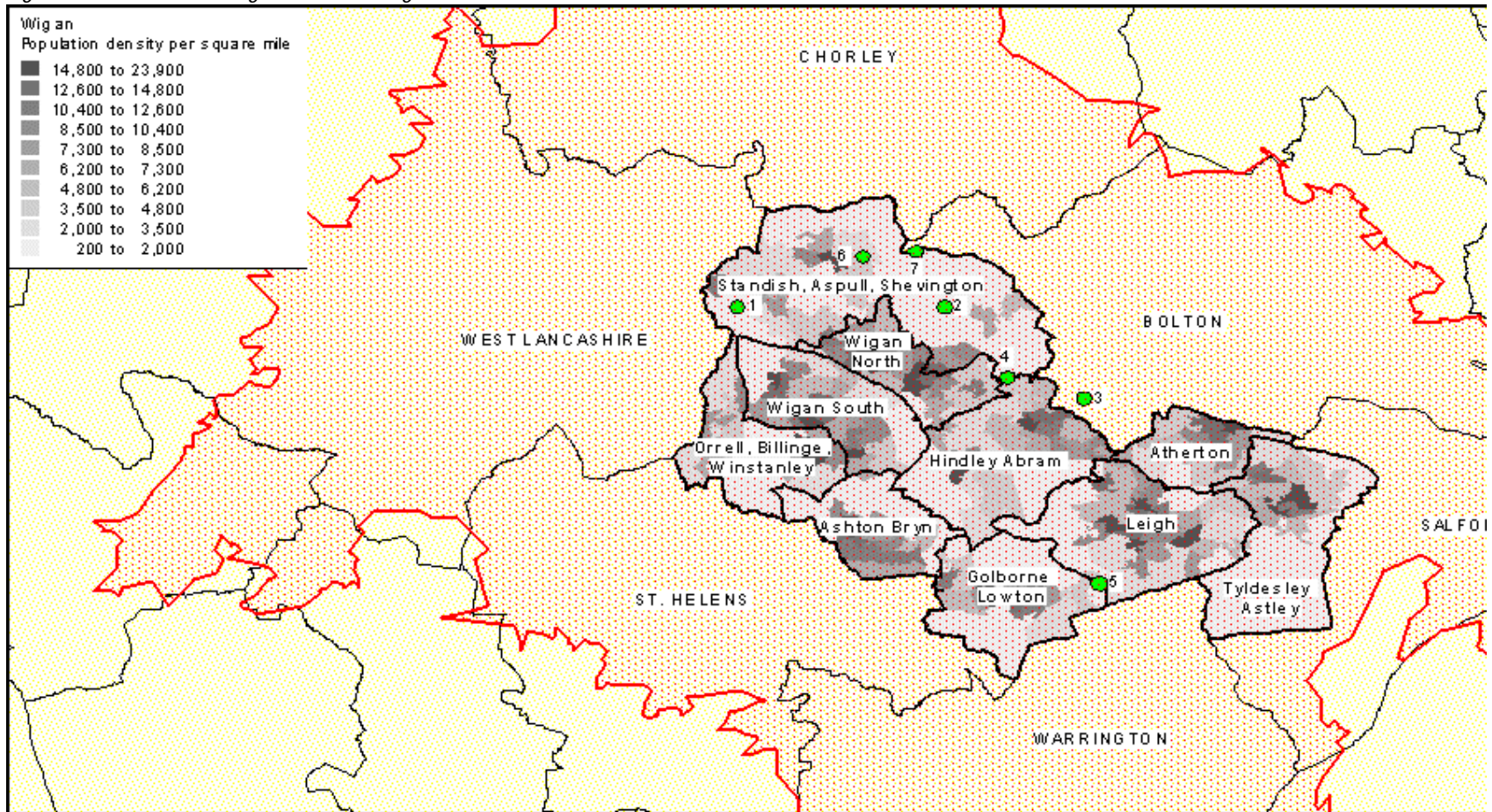
Introduction

There are eight golf courses in the Borough of Wigan, of which two are municipal courses (Pennington Flash and Haigh Golf Club). Pennington Flash Golf Course is owned and maintained by Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council (WC) and Haigh Golf Complex is owned and operated by Wigan Leisure Culture Trust (WLCT). The remaining six courses are private membership clubs.



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Figure 20.1: Location of golf clubs in Wigan with 20 minute drive time catchment areas



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Table 20.1: Key to golf map

KKP ref	Facility name
1	Gathurst Golf Club
2	Haigh Golf Club (Municipal Course)
3	Hart Common Golf Club
4	Hindley Hall Golf Club
5	Pennington Flash Golf Club (Municipal Course)
6	Standish Court Golf Club
7	Wigan Golf Club

Sport England recommends that the drive-time catchment for golf courses be set at 20 minutes.

Table 20.2: Summary of golf facilities in Wigan

Golf club	18 hole	9 hole	Driving range	Practice areas		
				Bunker	Putting	Net
Pennington Flash Golf Club (Municipal Course)		✓			✓	
Haigh Golf Club (Municipal Course)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Gathurst Golf Club	✓				✓	
Hart Common Golf Club	✓		✓		✓	
Hindley Hall Golf Club	✓			✓	✓	
Leyland Golf Club	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Standish Court Golf Club	✓			✓	✓	✓
Wigan Golf Club	✓				✓	✓

Bickershaw Colliery Development

Bickershaw Colliery in Leigh will include the development of an open space, a country park, two nine hole pay and play golf courses and a visitor centre. This is a £36 million project being funded by national regeneration agency English Partnerships through its National Coalfields Programme. Planning applications are due to be submitted in October 2007 to WC and the development of the first 9 hole golf course is due to be open in August 2009.



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Development

The Golf Foundation is a registered charity established to develop and promote junior golf affiliated to English Golf Union. The aims of the organisation are:

- ❑ To provide support for golf sessions at schools and golf facilities so that young people are given their first introduction to golf.
- ❑ To encourage young people to take up the game, develop their playing skills; improve their understanding of the game and work towards the achievement of a playing handicap.
- ❑ To provide competitive opportunities for performance motivated youngsters.

WLCT employs a sports development officer whose remit is golf development. In addition, there is also a full time golf co-ordinator. The overall aim of both roles is to increase participation in the sport targeted at primary and secondary schools within the two School Sports Partnerships.

Haigh Hall Golf Club is currently working towards achieving Golf Mark accreditation. It actively encourages junior participation with half price golf and affordable golf season tickets. There are currently 60 junior members playing in organised weekly competitions on both the 9 hole and the 18 hole courses. Up to 150 juniors regularly attend weekly junior coaching and it is a centre of excellence supported by the English Golf Union and used regularly by the Lancashire Golf Union's Elite Squads. As a coaching centre, it has five fully qualified golf instructors offering golf instruction to all levels of players from complete beginners through to tournament professionals. Regular free taster sessions are delivered including over 50's, health referrals and juniors.

Pennington Flash Golf Club reports difficulty in retaining junior members, with membership levels standing at just three. There is no concessionary discount available for junior members. There is demand for a concessionary rate to coincide with junior competitions at the weekends.

School/club links

Coaching sessions are delivered to both primary and secondary schools through WLCT. Coaching in secondary schools is during the Summer term only and is only available to eight schools within the Borough, due to a lack of resources. Schools are selected on a first come first served basis. However, schools located in close proximity to Haigh Hall Golf Complex are specifically targeted. As of September 2008 schools coaching sessions will be delivered at Haigh Hall Golf Complex, as opposed to delivering sessions at the school site. It is thought on site teaching will be more effective for pupils and teachers. At the end of the curriculum year, all schools in the Borough, regardless of if they received coaching or not from WLCT, are invited to participate in a Wigan Secondary School Golf Championship.



WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Key issues

Demand

Clubs using municipal courses in Wigan generally report a decrease in membership over the last three years. Although pay and play usage remains static, club memberships appear to be decreasing. At Haigh Hall Golf Course for example, Club members have access to the course at all times and also designated tee off times on three days of the week (Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday). However, the Club struggle to fill the Saturday and have never filled the Sunday allocation.

Gathurst Golf Club has the largest number of members, standing at approximately over 560 adult members and 40 junior members. However, the Club reports membership levels have decreased over the last three years, and in particular female membership.

Due to ongoing re-development of both the 18 and 9 hole course Hart Common Golf Club membership levels have decreased significantly. Development on the courses has been ongoing for the past three years. The Club reports, once works have completed, there will be active recruitment of new members. Membership levels currently stand at 212 adult members and 6 junior members.

Quality

Consultation with users highlights strong perceptions regarding the poor quality of municipal courses in Wigan. However, these perceptions appear to be unsubstantiated and this may well be an issue relating to the awareness of the quality of provision and improvements/works recently carried out.

Comments gathered would suggest that the current maintenance operative has a lack of specialist equipment with which to adequately maintain the courses to a high standard. Specifically, the rough areas are left overgrown and the green preparation could also be improved. However, around £100k has recently been spent on specialist equipment and around £10k spent on staff training and there is now a high level of maintenance. Haigh Hall Golf Course is comparable in quality to private clubs.

There are specific perceptions that drainage problems are decreasing the course quality at Pennington Flash Country Park, where the irrigation watering system is no longer working, which has resulted the course drying up at times. Poor drainage also appears to be an issue at Haigh Hall Golf Course, although significant Sport England funding has been spent on trying to improve the situation. The quality of the green at Gathurst Golf Club and Hindley Hall Golf Club has improved in recent years due to ongoing improvements on the drainage system. The Club reports this has had a positive impact on the quality and increasing the capacity of the course.



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Security

Vandalism to cars such as car thefts has been an ongoing issue at Haigh Hall Golf Complex. The car park area is quite secluded and enclosed by shrubs. There is demand for this area to be more open. Consultation reports this may have acted as a deterrent to potential members.

Members of Pennington Flash Golf Club report having to pay an additional parking fee when using the course. The Club will be moving into a portacabin on site and will share this facility with the rangers, this is to act as its clubhouse facility. However, consultation has identified there will no access to a changing facility.

Public right of ways (PROWs)

Vandalism is an issue on courses in the Borough. Consultation suggests this is often as accessibility is gained through perimeter fencing and PROWs situated on/around courses. Haigh Hall Golf Complex is easily accessible as the course can be accessed from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, as a result vandalism is often an issue.

Golf summary

- ❑ There are eight golf courses in the Borough of Wigan, of which two are municipal courses.
- ❑ There are no significant overlaps in the mapped drive time catchment areas of golf courses in Wigan. However, current demand levels are low across private and municipal clubs, with some spare capacity at the majority of clubs.
- ❑ Haigh Hall Golf Club is currently working towards achieving Golf Mark accreditation. It actively encourages junior participation affordable sessions and season tickets. There are issues reported with retaining junior members at Pennington Flash Golf Course.
- ❑ There is a lack of awareness of the high standard and quality of municipal golf courses available in Wigan. Perceptions of poor quality gathered appear to be unsubstantiated.



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PART 21: ATHLETICS

Introduction

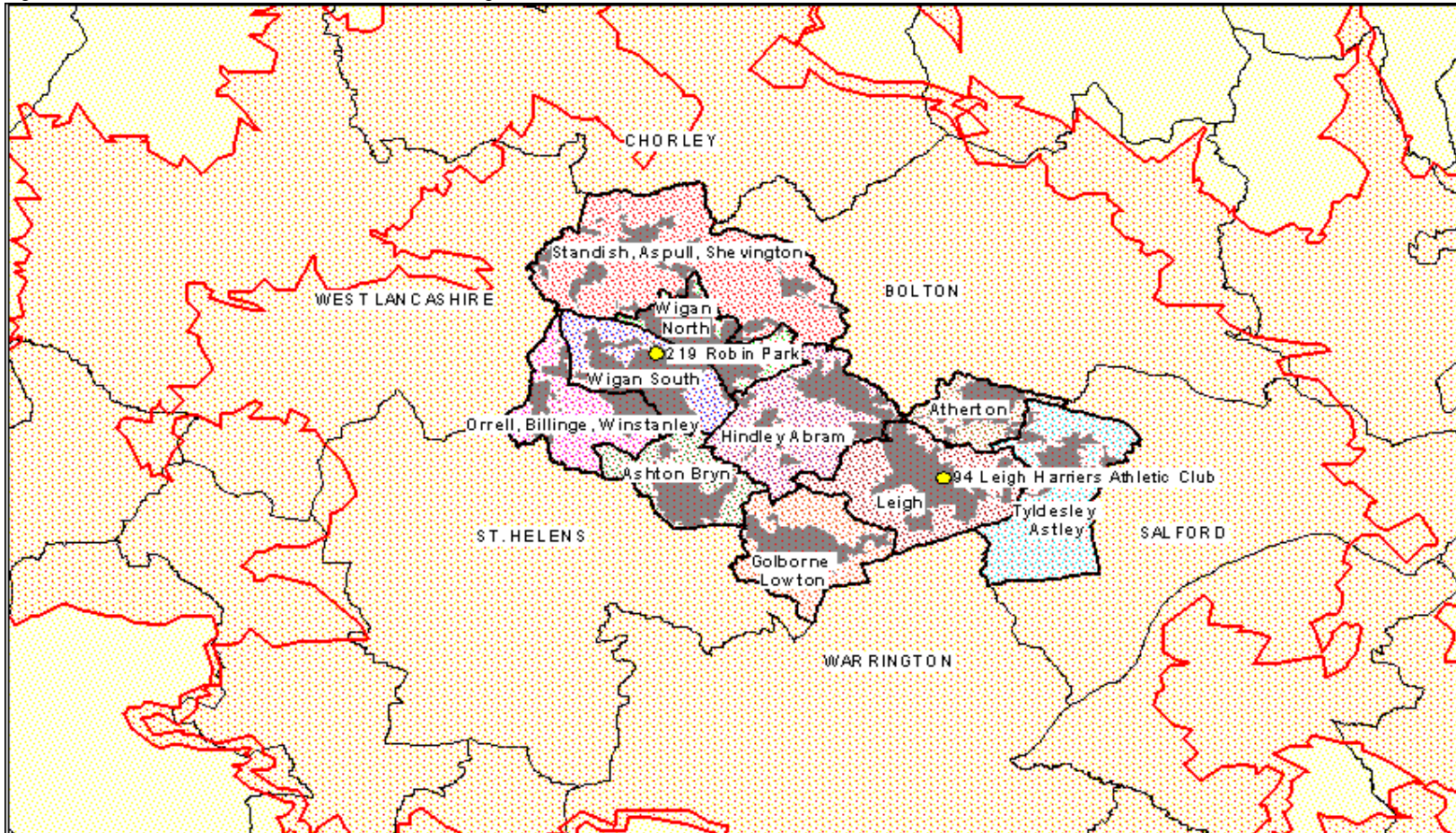
There are two full sized athletic tracks in the Borough. The Leigh Sports Village will also include the development of an eight lane synthetic track, due for completion in 2009. In addition, there are two grass athletic tracks, located at Lowton Sports College and Hindley High School. However, these have not been included within the assessment, as they are not used competitively.

In total, there are three athletic clubs operating within the Borough (Wigan Allstars Athletic Club, Wigan & District Harriers Athletic Club (WDHAC) and Leigh Harriers Athletic Club).



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Figure 21.1: Location of athletics facilities in Wigan with 30 minute drive time



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Table 21.1: Key to athletics map

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area
94	Leigh Harriers Athletic Club	Leigh
219	Robin Park	Wigan South

Key issues

Leigh Sports Village (LSV)

Leigh Sports Village will include the development of a 400 metre running track with covered sprinting facility and field sports area. Leigh Harriers Athletic Club is in negotiations to agree a 60-year lease on the site. The current home track at Holden Lane provides two clubhouses, one cinder athletics track and one senior football pitch (in the centre of the track). The facilities have been assessed as good quality

The land at Holden Road is being sold to developers for £4.5 million and the funds are being used for the development of public facilities at LSV. The LSV will then provide Leigh Harriers AC with an 8 lane synthetic track and one senior football track (in the centre of the pitch), stand/seating area with changing rooms and 60m indoor track. This is due to be available for use from September 2007 and will be leased to the Club on a long term basis.

Development

WLCT employs a sports development officer, with a remit to facilitate the development of athletics within the Borough by working with the two clubs (Leigh Harriers Athletic Club and Wigan Harriers Athletic Club).

Wigan and Leigh Athletics Forum (WALAF), includes representatives on it from Wigan Harriers, Leigh Harriers, Abraham Guest and Lowton School Sports Partnership, School to Club Link Officer, UK Athletics and Wigan Sports Development Unit. Meeting once every eight weeks, the aim is to encourage participation through bridging the gap between the sport and schools. The Group produces a yearly action focusing on five themes - club development, participation, workforce development and nurturing talent and performance. Leigh Harriers has achieved Clubmark and Wigan Harriers is working towards this.

School club links

There are school club links in place in the Borough. Leigh Harriers Athletic Club has feeder links with Lowton Community Sports College, delivering coaching sessions during extra curricular activities both on site and at schools. It is felt it is more effective for schools to use athletic tracks on site as children can experience running on a full track as oppose to a grassed area. This also enables the delivery of other disciplines such as high jumps, throws and hurdles.



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Demand

Membership levels at both clubs stand at over 240 members, with the vast majority of members aged under 16. Consultation identifies a drop off in membership levels in males aged 16 plus, due to a perception that schools influence team sports more than individual sports such as athletics. Wigan and District Harriers report membership levels have increased due to an awareness of the Club and the level of involvement at local schools.

When the football pitch (in the centre of the athletic track) is in use WDHAC reports the track cannot be used. This results in the Club not having training sessions, which at times can result in a number of weeks without any training.

Quality

Consultation reports that lane one at Robin Park Sports Arena is prone to poor drainage. KKP site assessments rate the track as excellent quality (95%) although at the time of the assessment the weather was sunny and dry.

Athletics summary

- ❑ New provision at Leigh Sports Village will meet identified catchment gaps in the East of the Borough.
- ❑ The facilities located at Robin Park are generally good quality, although there are some reported problems with drainage on one lane.



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PART 22: NETBALL

Introduction

All England Netball Association (AENA) is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport. There is no affiliated outdoor league structure in Wigan. Netball clubs from Wigan play competitively both indoor and outdoors at central venue sites outside of the Borough in Leyland and Chorley.

In total, there are 42 netball courts at primary and secondary school sites within Wigan. The majority of these courts are over marked with tennis courts and range in quality. However, currently none of these are used for community use.

Table 22.1: Summary of courts in schools

School name	No. of courts	Type	Quality
Aspull Church Primary School	1	Playground markings	Below average
Atherton St George's C of E Primary	1	Playground markings	Good
Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School	1	Playground markings	Good
Byrchall High School	3	Specific sports area	Good
Chowbent Primary School	2	Playground markings	Below average
Golborne St Thomas C of E Junior and Infant	1	Playground markings	Below average
Hawkley Hall High School	2	Playground markings	Average
Hindley Juniors and Infants	1	Playground markings	Good
Ince CE Primary School	1	Playground markings	Poor
PEMBEC	2	Specific sports area	Below average
Lamberhead Green CPS	1	Playground markings	Average
Lawton Sports College	2	Playground markings	Average
Meadowbank Primary School	1	Playground markings	Average
Newton Westpark Primary School	1	Playground markings	Poor
Parklee Community School	1	Playground markings	Below average
Rose Bridge High School	1	Specific sports area	Excellent
St Benedict's	1	Playground markings	Below average
St Catherine's C of E Primary School	1	Playground markings	Poor
St Catherine's Catholic Primary School	1	Playground markings	Average



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School name	No. of courts	Type	Quality
St Catherine's Catholic Primary School	1	Playground markings	Average
St James's C of E Primary School	1	Playground markings	Poor
St John Fisher	1	Specific sports area	Good
St Michael's CE Primary School	1	Playground markings	Below average
St Peters Catholic High School	1	Specific sports area	Good
St Richard's RC Primary School	1	Playground markings	Poor
Standish High School	2	Specific sports area	Good
The Deanery High School	1	Playground markings	Good
The Deanery High School	2	Specific sports area	Below average
Tyldesley Fred Longworth High	2	Specific sports area	Good
Westleigh High School	4	Playground markings	Good

Key issues

Development

High Five netball is aimed specifically at 9 – 11 age groups and develops young players skills before taking on the full seven – a – side game.

The Borough has a netball community sports coach, funded by the Netball Development Group. This post has helped to increase participation in netball at primary and secondary schools through skill days and the delivery of High Five. The number of children participating in High Five has increased over the recent years. In terms of providing an exit route from the High Five programme, Wigan Netball Club and Tyldesley Netball Club act as feeder clubs within the Borough.



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Demand

Clubs have expressed demand to use outdoor courts in Wigan for training in the months of April to July. With schools being the only provider of outdoor netball courts in the Borough, access to these courts for community use is limited and although some sites provide an adequate number of courts, rarely do they provide access to ancillary provision. Wigan Netball Club and Tyldesley Netball Club both report they would each need access to at least two outdoor netball courts and ancillary facilities (i.e., toilets) for training purposes.

Wigan Netball Club trains using indoor courts at Robin Park Sports Arena. However, the Club would rather train outdoors due to the disruptions caused by the sports hall being used for badminton and other indoor activities i.e. animal shows and other sports festivals. The Club has expressed demand for access to outdoor courts. The outdoor tennis courts at Robin Park could also be used during the summer months for netball. Occasionally netball court lines are marked out on the tennis courts. However, due to health and safety the Club is not able to remove the tennis nets and post.

Netball summary

- ❑ Schools are the main provide of netball courts across the Borough. The majority of these courts are over marked with tennis courts and range in quality. None of these courts are used for community use.
- ❑ Competitive netball is played outdoors and indoors on central venue sites outside of Wigan.
- ❑ Clubs have expressed demand for access to netball courts for training. However, clubs require sites with at least two courts and access to ancillary facilities.



WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 23: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Introduction

There is a range of indoor provision in the Borough of Wigan, managed by a range of providers. The main operator is Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT). The Trust was formed in 2003 and manages the main community indoor sports in the Borough. The 'flagship' facility is Robin Park Arena Sports & Tennis Centre, which operates as a regional centre of excellence for athletics, gymnastics and tennis.

The local authorities adjoining Wigan also provide facilities whose catchments overlap into the Borough. Depending on type of provision people travel both 'into' and 'out of' the Borough to access additional facilities.

Strategic context

'Taking SHAPE for the future: 2006-2012' is the policy framework for delivery of sport, health and physical education for Wigan Borough. It identifies a vision for SHAPE as 'to increase participation in sport and physical activity to enrich lives, improve health, build stronger communities and enable people to reach their full potential.'

One of its four themes is the need 'to provide a dynamic infrastructure.' Key elements of this are:

- A facilities strategy involving statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations that reflects local demand – [we] need to see the development of new facilities, as well as the improvement of existing ones. A coherent 'joined up' approach between the public, private and voluntary sectors should ensure that gaps in facility provision are identified and duplication is reduced.
- An infrastructure that allows access to high quality facilities and services – alongside the physical barriers that prevent participation, there is ample evidence to illustrate how other barriers to participation prevent people taking part in sport and physical activity. [We] need to see targeted services, programmes and interventions that take account of such barriers - as well as the need to have easily accessible high quality facilities.



WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Summary of provision in Wigan

This section provides an overview of the main provision in Wigan.

Table 23.1: Summary of main leisure facilities in Wigan

Site	Facilities
Ashton Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pools - main pool and children's pool <input type="checkbox"/> Floodlit all weather area <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor sports hall <input type="checkbox"/> Profiles fitness suite
Hindley Sports Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Multi use sports hall <input type="checkbox"/> 4 squash courts <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose room <input type="checkbox"/> Function room and bar <input type="checkbox"/> Profiles fitness suite <input type="checkbox"/> Sauna and steam room
Howe Bridge Sports Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Grass pitches <input type="checkbox"/> All weather pitch <input type="checkbox"/> Multipurpose sports hall <input type="checkbox"/> Squash courts <input type="checkbox"/> 25m pool <input type="checkbox"/> Small pool <input type="checkbox"/> Bar/function room <input type="checkbox"/> Conference room/meeting rooms <input type="checkbox"/> Profiles fitness suite
Robin Park Arena Sports & Tennis Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics arena <input type="checkbox"/> Gymnastics centre <input type="checkbox"/> All weather pitches <input type="checkbox"/> Conference facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis centre <input type="checkbox"/> Powerade hall <input type="checkbox"/> Sports hall <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Purpose hall <input type="checkbox"/> Champions bar <input type="checkbox"/> Profiles fitness suite

At present the Trust considers the overall condition of the facilities to be of a reasonable quality. However, it is recognised that more significant internal investment is still needed to assure high quality of facility provision if national and local targets are to be achieved.



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Leigh Sports Village

As noted earlier, new sports facilities are being provided at Leigh Sports Village, which is scheduled to open during 2007. In terms of indoor provision, these include:

- ❑ 8-badminton court sports hall (double basketball/netball court) with retractable seating to support the staging of events.
- ❑ 25-metre, six lane swimming pool, with spectator seating for 180 and space for up to 150 competitors.
- ❑ Profiles health and fitness suite.
- ❑ Multi-purpose rooms to cater for additional activity.

Wigan Joint Service Centre

In 2006, the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Department of Culture Media and Sport gave first stage approval for a Private Finance Initiative scheme to build a Joint Service Centre in the town centre of Wigan. The intention is to demolish the Wigan International Pool by October 2008 and open the new facilities in October 2010. The new facilities will comprise of three zones:

- ❑ An Information and Learning Zone – incorporating a one stop shop and new library.
- ❑ A Neighbourhood Zone - including a range of services directly affecting the community.
- ❑ A Healthy Living Zone – joining up health, special care and leisure facilities including a new swimming pool and primary care facilities.

A range of sport and leisure facilities will be provided to replace the Wigan International Pool. These facilities will be located in the Health Zone and will include:

- ❑ Main pool (25m x 21m) – eight lanes, each of which will be 2.5m wide and the pool will have a uniform depth of 1.8m.
- ❑ Small pool (13m x 7.5m) including a hydrotherapy pool.
- ❑ Pool changing rooms.
- ❑ Health and fitness – fitness suite (air conditioned), health suite (sauna and steam room) and multi-purpose room.
- ❑ Health suite (sauna and steam).
- ❑ Multi-purpose room.
- ❑ Ancillary facilities - reception, management offices and staff facilities.



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Sports halls

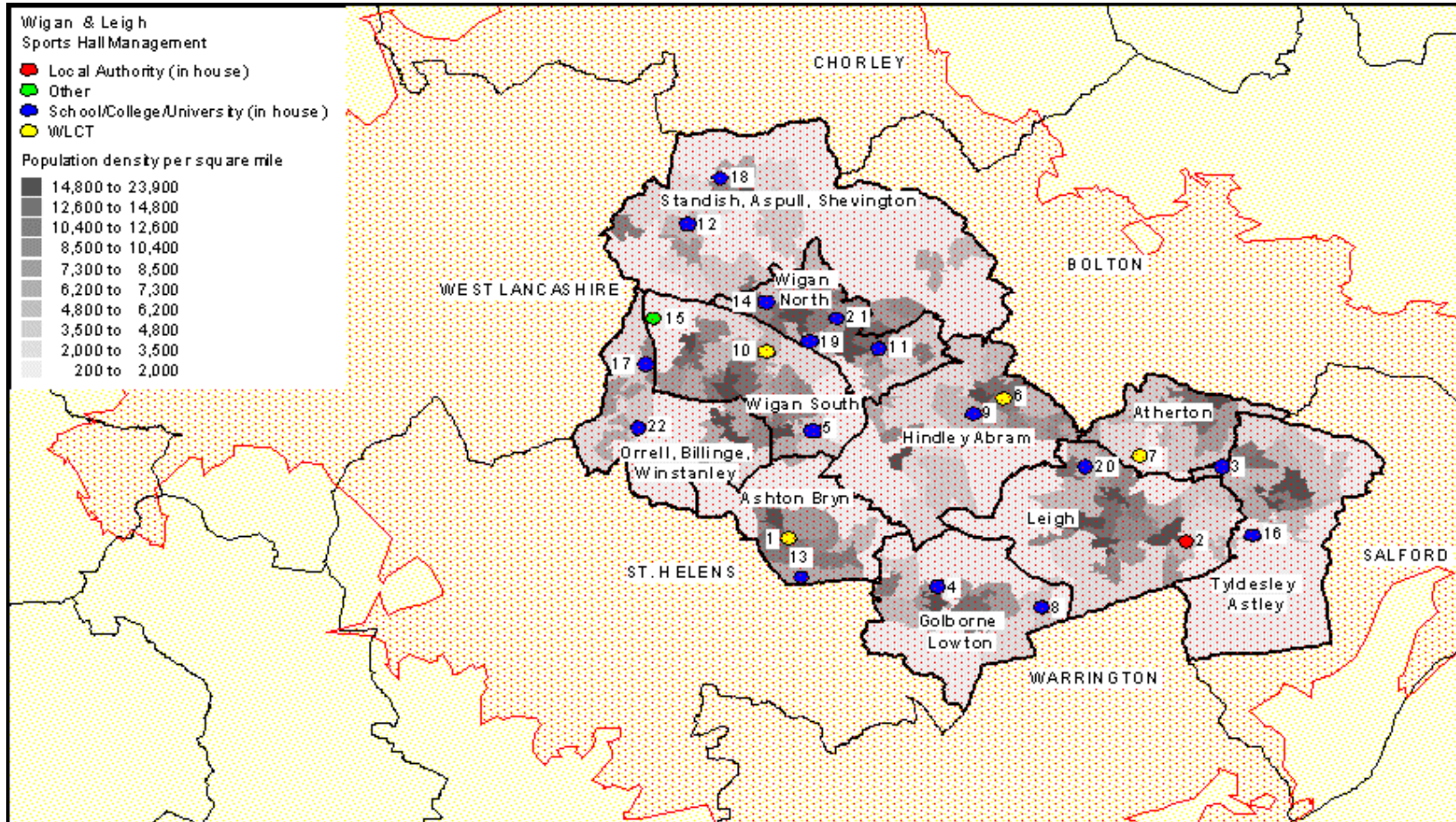
There are 22⁶ sports halls (minimum four badminton court) in Wigan. These have varying degrees of access, with the majority being on education sites (77.3%). Additional provision (eight badminton court hall) will shortly be available for full public access at Leigh Sports Village.

⁶ Data taken from Active Places



WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 23.1: Location of sports hall (min 4 court) in Wigan (with 15-minute drive time catchment)



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Table 23.2 – Sports hall sites in Wigan (min 4 court)

ID	Site Name	No. of badminton courts	Access type	Management type
1	Ashton Leisure Centre	4	Pay and Play	Trust
2	Bedford High School	4	Club/Association	LA (in house)
3	Fred Longworth High School	4	Club/Association	Education
4	Golborne High School	4	Club/Association	Education
5	Hawkley Hall High School	4	Club/Association	Education
6	Hindley Sports Centre	4	Pay and Play	Trust
7	Oakfield High School	4	Club/Association	Education
7	Howe Bridge Sports Centre	6	Pay and Play	Trust
8	Lowton Community Sports College	6	Club/Association	Education
10	Robin Park Arena & Sports Centre	8	Pay and Play	Trust
11	Rose Bridge Sports & Community Centre	4	Club/Association	Education
12	Shevington High School	4	Club/Association	Education
13	St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School	4	Pay and Play	Education
14	St John Fisher Catholic High School	4	Club/Association	Education
15	St John Rigby College	4	Club/Association	Other
16	St Mary's Catholic High School	4	Club/Association	Education
17	St Peters Catholic High School	4	Club/Association	Education
18	Standish Community High School Language College	4	Club/Association	Education
19	The Deanery High School	4	Club/Association	Education
20	Westleigh High School	4	Pay and Play	Education
21	Wigan & Leigh College	4	Private Use	Education
22	Winstanley College Sports Centre	4	Pay and Play	Education

There is a good spread of sports halls across the Borough and all residents are within the 15 minute drive time recommended by Sport England. WLCT considers there to be a gap in provision in the Northeast of the Borough – there is no provision in this area, although residents do have access within 15 minutes' drivetime.

An important consideration in examining the provision of sports hall in Wigan is access – the majority of halls are on school sites and only Hindley Sports Centre has a formal dual use arrangement in place, with WLCT managing the site from 5pm onwards on weekdays and all day at weekends. This suggests that, whilst there is a good range of sports hall provision in the Borough, access is restricted at a number of sites.



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Analysis of demand for sports halls

Table 23.3 – Active Places Power analysis of demand for sports halls

	Current	Future (2013)
Capacity	14950	14950 ⁷
Demand	14038	15796 ⁸
Balance	912	-846
% demand met	106.50%	94.64%

Traditional analysis, through Active Places Power, suggests that a figure of 140% of demand met means that all needs in an area are met (this takes into account the quality of provision and the extent to which school facilities may be available). On this basis, Wigan is significantly under-provided in terms of sports halls, both in terms of current and future demand. Additional provision is being delivered at Leigh Sports Village and this will improve the overall picture. However, a sizeable proportion of the available sports hall space is delivered through the education sector and, in some cases, access is restricted. This suggests a greater focus on securing community use agreements (possibly linked to plans under Building Schools for the Future) is required and that consideration should be given to additional provision if it is not possible to secure greater levels of community access to school based facilities.

⁷ It is not possible currently to update capacity within Active Places Power to reflect changes

⁸ Assumes 6% population growth to 2013 and 1% year on year increase in demand (in line with Wigan's contribution to regional and national participation targets)



WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Swimming pools

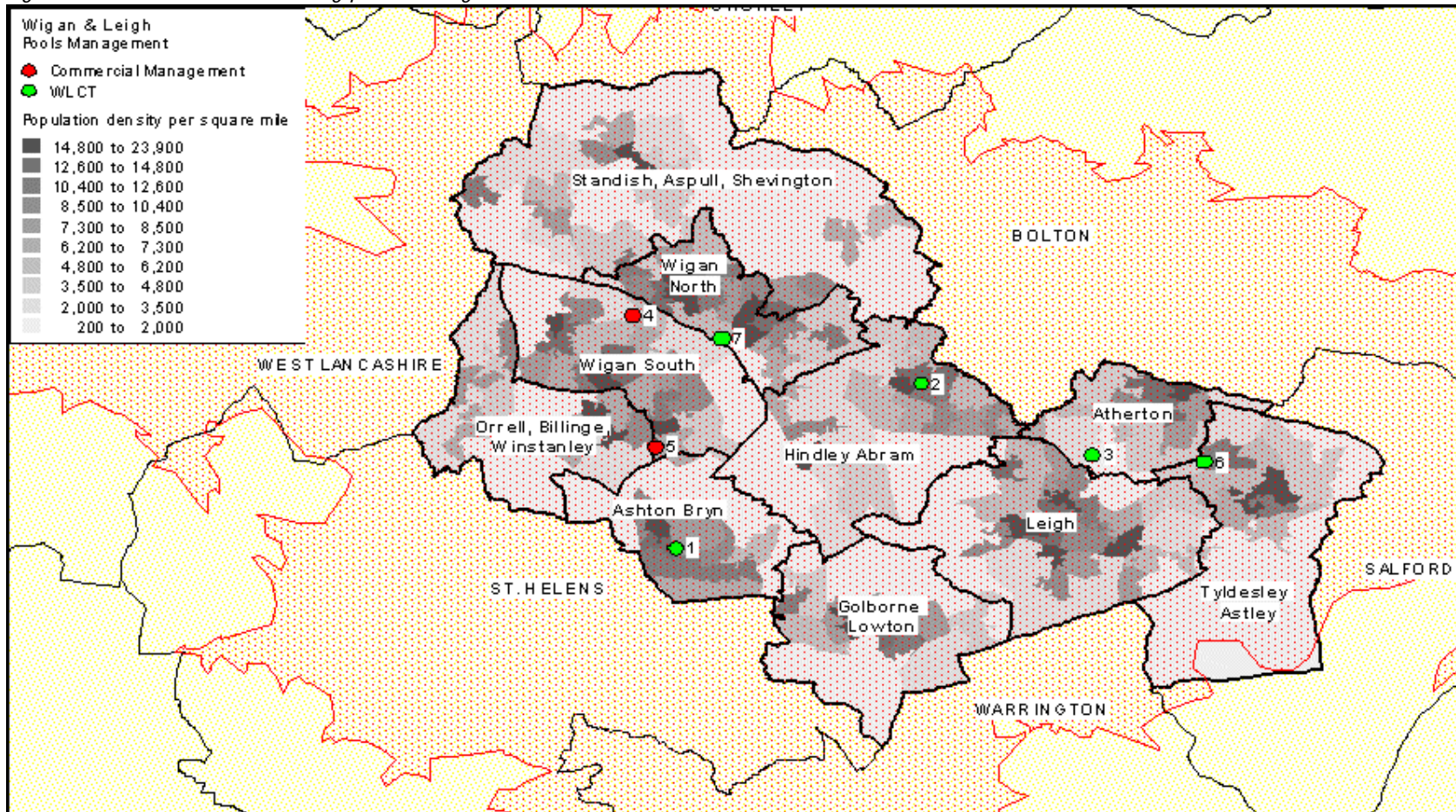
There are currently seven⁹ swimming pools (minimum size 25m) available for public swimming in Wigan. Of these, two have a degree of restricted access due to the fact that they operate on a membership basis only (JJB Sports Health Club and Total Fitness). Additional provision is being made at Leigh Sports Village (25 metre 6 lane pool). A new JJB development is also being constructed in Leigh – this will also provide additional pool space in the area.

⁹ Data taken from Active Places



WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 23.2: Location of swimming pools in Wigan with 15-minute drive time



WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 23.4 – Description of swimming pools in Wigan

ID	Site Name	No. of lanes	Access type	Management type
1	Ashton Leisure Centre	4	Pay and Play	Trust
2	Hindley Pool	6	Pay and Play	Trust
3	Howe Bridge Sports Centre	6	Pay and Play	Trust
4	JJB Sports Health Club	1	Membership	Commercial
5	Total Fitness	6	Membership	Commercial
6	Tyldesley Pool	5	Pay and Play	Trust
7	Wigan International Swimming Pool	6	Pay and Play	Trust

There is a good spread of swimming pools across the Borough and all residents are within the 15 minute drive time recommended by Sport England.

Tyldesley Pool is a converted cinema, which has limited swimming and ancillary facilities. The usage of the pool is extremely low in comparison to other pools across the Borough. Its age and the condition of the premises means that the Pool has a relatively short life span of 5-7 years. The need to replace this pool is questionable, given its proximity to Howe Bridge Sports Centre and provision made by Salford Community Leisure in Worsley.

Wigan International Pool currently houses over 800m² of pool space. The Joint Service Centre, currently being developed in Wigan town centre, will provide a modern swimming pool to replace the existing provision at Wigan International Pool.



WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Analysis of demand for swimming pools

Table 23.5 – Active Places Power analysis of demand for swimming pools

	Current	Future (2013)
Capacity	20564	20564 ¹⁰
Demand	17567	19767
Balance	2997	797
% demand met	116.60%	104.03%

Traditional analysis, through Active Places Power, suggests that a figure of 140% of demand met means that all needs in an area are met (this takes into account the quality of provision and the extent to which some facilities may be available). On this basis, Wigan is significantly under-provided in terms of swimming pools, both in terms of current and future demand. Additional provision is being delivered at Leigh Sports Village and new upgraded facilities will replace those currently at Wigan International Pool - this will improve the overall picture and is likely to provide sufficient water space to meet the needs of the Borough's residents.

¹⁰ It is not possible currently to update capacity in Active Places Power to reflect changes



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Fitness facilities

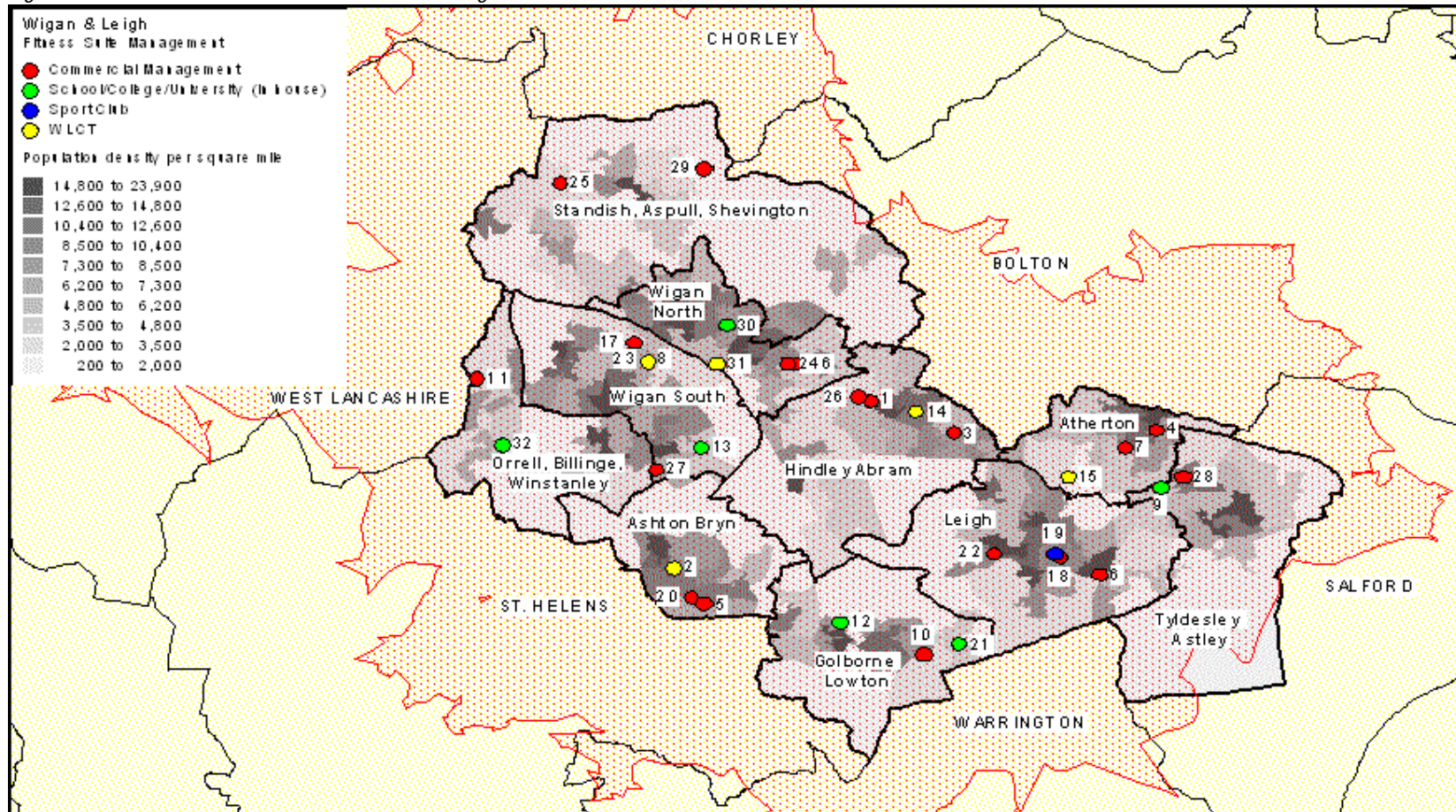
There are 32¹¹ sites, providing a total of 1,522 fitness stations in Wigan. Of these, 78.7% are operated by the commercial sector (split 65.6% membership and 34.4% pay and play); 5.5% at education sites; 14.7% WLCT. Additional provision is being made at Leigh Sports Village, through a new JJB facility in the Leigh area and upgraded facilities will replace those at Wigan International Pool.

¹¹ Data provided by Active Places



WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 23.3 – Location of fitness facilities in Wigan



WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 23.6 – Description of fitness facilities in Wigan

ID	Site Name	No. of stations	Access type	Management type
1	Apex Health & Fitness Centre	37	Membership	Commercial
2	Ashton Leisure Centre	32	Pay and Play	Trust
3	Body Image Fitness Centre (Wigan)	95	Membership	Commercial
4	Cosgroves Physio-Fit Centre	40	Pay and Play	Commercial
5	Extreme Fitness	50	Pay and Play	Commercial
6	F Y Gym	50	Pay and Play	Commercial
7	Fit and Funky	22	Pay and Play	Commercial
8	Fitness First Health Club	100	Membership	Commercial
9	Fred Longworth High School	6	Club/Association	Education (in house)
10	FX Leisure (Warrington)	50	Membership	Commercial
11	FX Leisure (Wigan)	63	Membership	Commercial
12	Golborne High School	14	Pay and Play	Education (in house)
13	Hawkley Hall High School	12	Private Use	Education (in house)
14	Hindley Sports Centre	28	Pay and Play	Trust
15	Howe Bridge Sports Centre	67	Pay and Play	Trust
16	Ince Barbell Boxing & Fitness Club	37	Pay and Play	Commercial
17	JJB Sports Health Club	115	Membership	Commercial
18	Lancastrian Leisure	75	Membership	Commercial
19	Leigh Harriers	15	Membership	Sport Club
20	Lou's Weight (Ladies only)	21	Membership	Commercial
21	Lowton Community Sports College	12	Pay and Play	Education (in house)
22	Peake Fitness	50	Pay and Play	Commercial
23	Robin Park Arena & Sports Centre	60	Pay and Play	Trust
24	Royces Health & Fitness Studio	52	Pay and Play	Commercial
25	Spindles Health & Leisure	11	Pay and Play	Commercial
26	TJ'S Gym	60	Pay and Play	Commercial
27	Total Fitness	200	Membership	Commercial
28	Unit 7 Gym	40	Pay and Play	Commercial
29	Vital Health & Beauty (Kilhey Court)	31	Membership	Commercial
30	Wigan & Leigh College	19	Private Use	Education (in house)
31	Wigan International Swimming Pool	38	Pay and Play	Trust



WIGAN COUNCIL: OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

ID	Site Name	No. of stations	Access type	Management type
32	Winstanley College Sports Centre	20	Pay and Play	Education (in house)

There is a good spread of fitness provision and all residents live within 15 minutes of facilities.

Analysis of demand for fitness provision

Active Places Power does not provide any analysis for fitness provision. Demand has been calculated using the following analysis:

Table 23.7 – Demand analysis for fitness in Wigan

	Current	Future (2013)
Adult population	239,874	254,266 ¹²
UK penetration rate	19.7%	20.9% ¹³
Number of potential members	47,256	53,142
Number of visits per week (1.5 per member)	70,884	79,713
% visits in peak time	65	65
Number of visits in peak time ¹⁴ (equivalent to no. of stations required)	1,181	1,329

Wigan currently has 1522 fitness stations. Anticipated demand in 2013 equates to 1,329. Although a sizeable proportion of provision is made through the private sector, the fact that additional provision is likely to be made in Leigh (proposed at LSV and JJB) and enhanced facilities to replace Wigan International Pool means that there is no need to increase fitness provision further in the Borough.

¹² Assumes population growth of 6% in period

¹³ Assumes growth of 1% year on year as part of Wigan's contribution to regional and national targets

¹⁴ Peak time – estimated at 39 hours (based on Active Places Power figures)



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Additional analysis of demand for fitness provision in Leigh

Current provision in Leigh equates to 190 stations, comprising¹⁵:

- FY Gym 50 stations (commercial management)
- Lancastrian Leisure 75 stations (commercial management)
- Leigh Harriers 15 stations (sports club management)
- Peake Fitness 50 stations (commercial management)

Table 23.7 – Demand analysis for fitness in Leigh

	Current	Future (2013)
Adult population	44,752	47,437 ¹⁶
UK penetration rate	19.7%	20.9% ¹⁷
Number of potential members	8,816	9,914
Number of visits per week (1.5 per member)	13,224	14,871
% visits in peak time	65	65
Number of visits in peak time ¹⁸ (equivalent to no. of stations required)	220	248

Anticipated demand in Leigh in 2013 equates to 248 stations. Without taking account of JJB and LSV there will be an under-supply, equating to 58 stations. It is not clear from the information available if provision at Leigh Harriers is to be reprovided and there are limitations on its public availability. There is demand for additional provision in the Leigh area. Whether this is met by one or two providers is dependent on the level of provision made at LSV and proposed by JJB.

Summary

There is generally good provision of indoor sports facilities in Wigan. This will be significantly enhanced by the development of Leigh Sports Village. The redevelopment of Wigan International Pool will also significantly enhance provision at this site. Key issues are:

- There is no apparent need for additional sports hall provision in the Borough, but there is a need to review the access to school sites.
- There is no need for additional swimming provision and the future of Tyldesley Pool should be examined carefully when its useful life expires.
- There is no requirement for additional fitness provision in the Borough, assuming that LSV and JJB will go ahead.

¹⁵ Data taken from Active Places

¹⁶ Assumes population growth of 6% in period

¹⁷ Assumes growth of 1% year on year as part of Wigan's contribution to regional and national targets

¹⁸ Peak time – estimated at 39 hours (based on Active Places Power figures)



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PART 24: EDUCATION PROVISION

Introduction

All secondary schools were visited and facilities assessed. KKP met with either the head of PE or in some cases with either the head and or deputy head of the school. Questionnaires were distributed to all primary schools with a 55% response rate. Schools have been considered both in relation to curricular use of sports facilities and community use.

School sports partnerships (SSP)

The School Sports Partnership (SSP) programme is part of the national Physical Education (PE), School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) Strategy, led by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), to widen participation, raise standards and improve the quality of PE and school sport.

The objective of the strategy - a joint DfES/DCMS public service agreement target - is to ensure that by 2008, 85% of 5-16 year olds in England are spending a minimum of two hours each week doing high-quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum.

There are two specialist sports colleges in Wigan, located at Lowton High School and Abraham Guest High School, providing an east/west split across the Borough. Both SSPs were established at a similar time two years ago and all schools are engaged in one of the SSPs.

Capital upgrade programme

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the biggest single government investment in improving school buildings for over 50 years. Every secondary school in England will be subject to a re-build or replacement, depending on the identified need, over a 10-15 year period. BSF funding will reach Wigan in years 10 to 12 of the 15 year programme, with an estimated start date of 2012. This will have implications for sports facilities in the Borough.

Outdoor provision

The provision of outdoor sports provision, such as playing pitches and courts at schools and colleges, can make an important contribution to the overall availability of stock within a particular catchment area. It is therefore important to have accurate information about the number, type, quality and availability of such provision within the education sector in Wigan.

Legislation within the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 was introduced by the Government requiring all schools to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (Education and Skills since July 2001) for the sale of their playing fields. Section 77 of the SSFA seeks to protect school playing fields against disposal



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or change of use by requiring the prior consent of the Secretary of State before disposal or change of use may take place. The Department for Education and Skills produced guidance on section 77 of the SSFA within Circular 3/99 'The Protection of School Playing Fields' in June 1999.

Circular 3/99 has recently been replaced by guidance from the Department for Education and Skills entitled 'The Protection of School Playing Fields and Land for City Academies'. The guidance aims to strengthen the existing measures for protecting school playing fields. In particular, the guidance intends to support the development and improvement of sporting and play provision for the benefit of schools and their local communities, and to provide wider access to these facilities. Applications for disposal or change of use of playing fields will not only have to take account of existing community use but the potential use of the facilities for the local community.

Current provision

Table 24.1: Summary of pitches at school sites and availability of community use by analysis area

Analysis area	Total no. of education pitches					No. of education pitches available for community use				
	Senior football	Junior football	Mini football	Rugby	STP	Senior football	Junior football	Mini football	Rugby	STP
Ashton Bryn	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Atherton	3	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	1	-
Golborne Lowton	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hindley Abram	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leigh	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	3	-	1	2	-	3	-	-	2	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	4	-	1	3	1	4	-	-	3	1
Tyldesley Astley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wigan North	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Wigan South	4	-	-	3	1	4	-	-	3	1
WIGAN	18	6	4	13	3	16	1	-	11	3



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Table 24.2: Summary of non-pitch facilities at school sites and availability of community use by analysis area

Analysis area	Total no. of education non-pitches		No. of education pitches available for community use	
	Tennis	Netball	Tennis	Netball
Ashton Bryn	-	-	-	-
Atherton	-	5	-	1
Golborne Lowton	2	-	2	-
Hindley Abram	4	2	1	2
Leigh	-	-	-	-
Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley	-	-	-	-
Standish, Aspull, Shevington	-	-	-	-
Tyldesley Astley	-	-	-	-
Wigan North	-	2	-	2
Wigan South	-	1	-	1
WIGAN	6	10	3	6

Community use

There is no competitive community use of school tennis and netball courts. The following schools are currently available for community use, that is actually have a team playing competitively on its grass pitches:

- Abraham Guest High School.
- Bychall High School.
- Hawkley High School.
- Hesketh Fletcher CE High School.
- PEMBEC.
- Shevington High School.
- St James CE Primary School.
- John Rigby College
- St Joseph's Primary School.
- St Jude's Catholic Primary School.
- St Marie's Primary School.
- St Thomas primary School.
- Westleigh High School (off site pitches).

In addition to the above, a number of schools state that, if approached, their playing fields would be available for community use but, as such, do not advertise the availability of facilities. For those schools that do not allow community use, this tends to be due to poor quality facilities that are unable to withstand the additional wear and tear created by community use.



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Community use at school sites tends to be on an ad hoc basis and there are few formal community use agreements drawn up for the use of outdoor sports facilities. Schools tend to adopt a policy that playing fields are only to be used by those aged 18 or over and therefore only cater for junior use. In the main this is due to pitches not being able to withstand the wear and tear often created by senior use.

In the majority of instances, where pitches are available and in use, access to changing accommodation is limited or non-existent.

Playing field quality

WC has carried out an audit of all external school areas i.e. playing fields and hard surface areas. This assessment is supported by the findings of the consultation carried out for this study and highlights the need for investment in school sports facilities.

The audit shows that, out of a total of 114 education sites, 20 schools have no playing fields (almost 18%) and 30 schools report that they cannot deliver the curriculum due to either the fields being off site, the fields being badly drained and unusable for most of the year or that they are too small to have a marked out pitch. In addition to this, 38 schools indicate a less severe suitability problem where teaching methods are inhibited.

The audit also shows that 30 schools have no hard surface areas (26%) and 13 schools report that they cannot deliver the curriculum due to pitches being unusable for most of the year or they are too small to utilise. In addition to this, 57 schools indicate a less severe suitability problem where teaching methods are inhibited.

Open field policy

The Council, in 1974 adopted an Open Field Policy for its schools. The Policy requires school playing fields to be assessable during the hours of daylight for school aged children. Activities, which are dangerous such as golfing, horse riding and motorcycling, are prohibited. Schools have received assistance in the purchasing of signs, which have been positioned around schools explaining the policy.

In the event of a school believing that the operation of the Open Fields Policy would be prejudicial to the safety of their pupils, staff and or buildings and property they should seek an exemption to this policy from the Director of Children's Services. The Policy gives delegated powers to the Director of Children's Services to remove the imposition of the Policy from a school. In exercising this delegation the Director is mindful of the need to allow playing fields to be made available to the local community while at the same time being sympathetic to problems experienced by schools locally including vandalism, crime and other anti social behaviour.



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Consultation with secondary schools highlights that many schools oppose the policy and although they are able to opt out, the majority are unable to afford the appropriate fencing costs to protect the fields. As a consequence, schools report that playing fields are subject to abuse by other users. Motorcyclists are a major issue and cause significant damage to playing surfaces, for example at Fred Longworth High School, where motorbikes have significantly cut up the playing pitches inhibiting both school and community use. School playing fields are also used by dog walkers, which causes health and safety issues when dog foul is left at the site. Standish High School has recently opted out of the policy and is in the process of building a fence around the playing fields.

MUGAs

Funding gained by Wigan Education Authority in 2004 through the New Opportunities Fund contributed to the provision of 13 MUGAs at secondary school sites. It is reported that schools are not achieving their targets in terms of usage and income. Some schools suggest that this is due to a lack of demand for such facilities given the number now available. In terms of community use, the usage of MUGAs tends to be for five aside football fixtures, football, rugby and some hockey training. The main purpose of providing MUGAs was to 'free up' sports hall use by moving five aside football and training out of school sports halls, allowing for more sports development and community use by other sports. Although, this has freed up sports halls, they are not particularly being used to their full capacity by other sports and activities.



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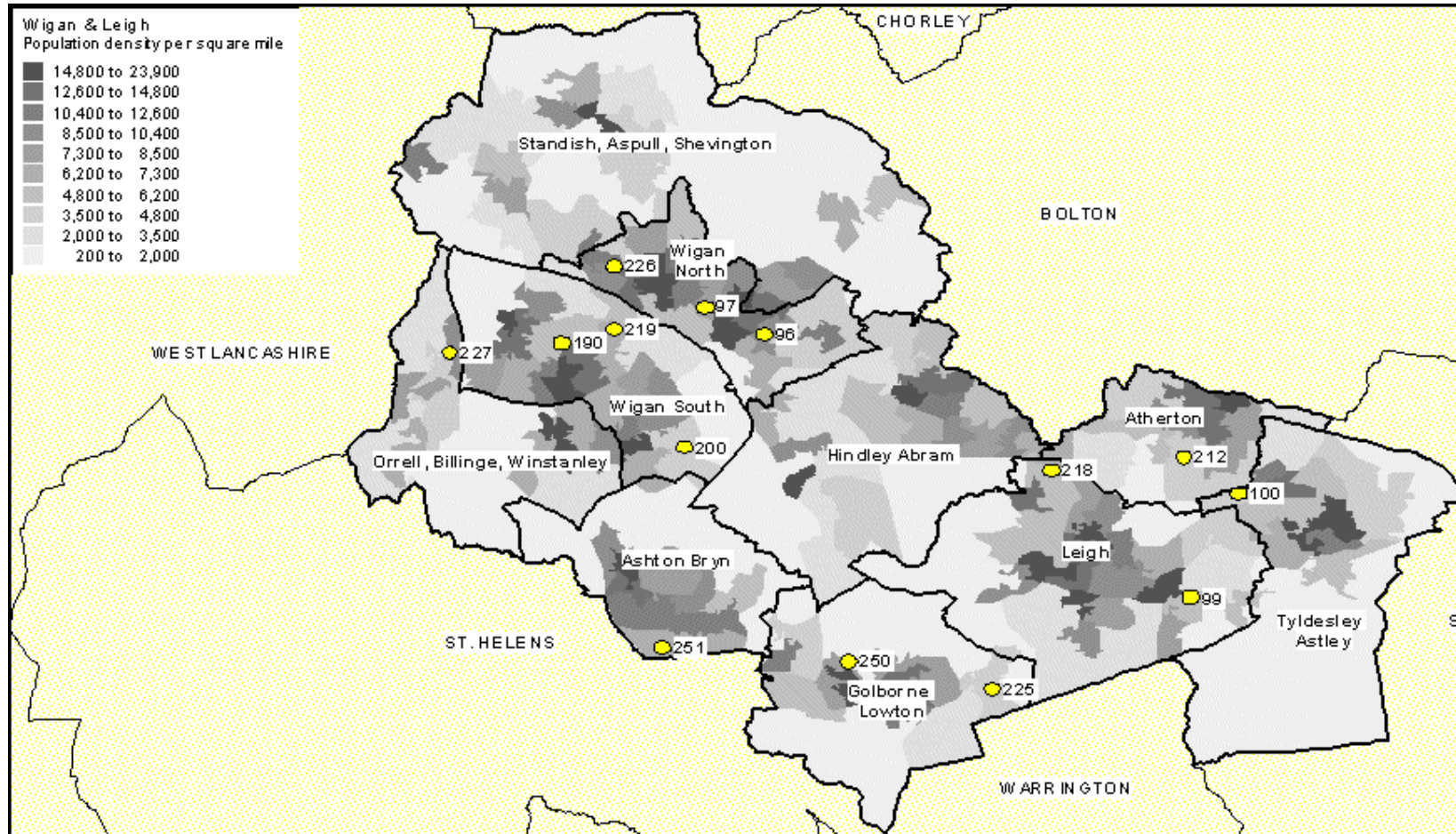


Figure 24.1: Location of school MUGs in Wigan



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Table 24.3: Key to MUGA map

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis Area
Rose Bridge High School	96	Wigan North
St Mary's RC High School	97	Wigan North
Bedford High School	99	Leigh
Tyldesley Fred Longworth High	100	Tyldesley Astley
PEMBEC	190	Wigan South
Hawkley Hall High School	200	Wigan South
Hesketh Fletcher High School	212	Atherton
Westleigh High School	218	Leigh
Robin Park	219	Wigan South
Lowton Sports College	225	Golborne Lowton
St John Fisher	226	Wigan North
St Peters Catholic High School	227	Orrell, Billinge, Winstanley
Golborne High School	250	Golborne Lowton
St Edmund Arrowsmith RC High School	251	Ashton Bryn

Indoor provision

The following schools have indoor sports facilities such as a sports hall or gymnasium:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Abraham Guest Sports College <input type="checkbox"/> Bedford High School <input type="checkbox"/> Fred Longworth High School <input type="checkbox"/> Golborne High School <input type="checkbox"/> Hawkley Hall High School <input type="checkbox"/> Hindley Community High School <input type="checkbox"/> Hope School <input type="checkbox"/> PEMBEC <input type="checkbox"/> Lowton High School <input type="checkbox"/> Oakfield High School <input type="checkbox"/> Shevington High School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High <input type="checkbox"/> St John Fisher Catholic High School <input type="checkbox"/> St John Rigby College <input type="checkbox"/> St. Mary's Catholic High School <input type="checkbox"/> St Peter's Catholic High School <input type="checkbox"/> Standish Community High School <input type="checkbox"/> The Byrchhall High School <input type="checkbox"/> The Deanery High School <input type="checkbox"/> Westleigh High School <input type="checkbox"/> Winstanley College Sports Centre |
|--|---|

A number of schools report losing access to sports halls throughout the school year, e.g. when sports halls are used to host exams. Schools, which also have poor quality pitches and are unplayable, report that PE lessons are often delivered in the classroom.



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In the past, indoor halls were predominantly used for football training. Since the introduction of MUGAs within the Borough, this has enabled other sports to use indoor sports halls. For example, Lowton High School is now able to cater for other sports such as badminton, cricket and sports development courses.

Dual use agreements

Hindley Sports Centre/Hindley Community High School is the only dual-use centre (that is, sited within the grounds of an institution such as a school but also open to the public). The school has access to the facilities during the school day (usually 8am-5pm), with the facilities opening up to community use under WLCT management from 5pm onwards and at weekends. Ashton Leisure Centre is located next to Cansfield High School and, as such, utilises the sports hall on a regular basis and occasional use of the pool for a fee.

Primary school summary

KKP received questionnaires from 58 primary schools in the Borough including schools from both SSPs.

Key issues for primary schools

- 53 schools have access to formal grass pitches either on their site or adjacent to it.
- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary (Leigh) has an agreement with Leigh East ARLFC to use its pitches for curricular use. However, Leigh East ARLFC will be moving to LSV so the School is likely to lose access to these pitches.
- Nearly half of primary schools (47%) allow the use of the outdoor sports facilities by the local community. Consultation indicates all schools can accommodate the current levels of community use.
- 31 primary schools have access to a form of hard court area.

