

WIGAN COUNCIL: PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT JUNE 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide
BCGBA	British Crown Green Bowling Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCF	Lancashire Cricket Foundation
LCT	Leigh Community Trust
LDRL	Learning Disability Rugby League
LFA	Lancashire Football Association
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
MES	Match equivalent session
MUGA	Multi use games area
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NLS	National League System
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PDRL	Physical Disability Rugby League
PP	PitchPower
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFC	Rugby Football Club
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RFL	Rugby Football League
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
U	Under
WC	Wigan Council
WNLS	Women's National League System

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned by Wigan Council to undertake a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting relevant provision within the local authority area. The PPOSS will replace the previous study, which was completed in 2017.

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

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the ensuing strategy document. Stage E references the ongoing work that will be required once the PPOSS has been approved and adopted.

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

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

1.2: Prepare and tailor the approach (Stage A)

Management arrangements

The project team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.

A wider Steering Group is also leading and driving the Strategy forward during its development whilst ensuring the delivery of its recommendations. Membership of the Steering Group is balanced and representative of the different parties and key drivers behind the Strategy. As a minimum, it will comprise of the Council (including officers from planning, greenspace, education, public health and GIS), Sport England, the relevant NGBs (e.g., the Football Foundation on behalf of the FA, Lancashire FA, ECB, Lancashire Cricket Foundation, RFU, EH, RFL, England Athletics, Lawn Tennis Association, England Netball, British Crown Green Bowling Association, Archery GB and England Golf).

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Discussions and sign off is required by the Steering Group at the following key stages:

- ◀ Initial preparation (stage A).
- ◀ Information gathering update (stage B).
- ◀ Assessment Report (stage C).
- ◀ Strategy development (stage D).
- ◀ Strategy sign off and implementation (stage E).

The Steering Group will also be involved in the following:

- ◀ Identifying who should be consulted in regard to supply and demand information.
- ◀ Helping to achieve club survey response rates.
- ◀ Establishing the approach to collecting quality data and agreeing quality ratings.
- ◀ Checking and challenging key findings within the Assessment Report.
- ◀ Defining the scenarios that need to be tested.
- ◀ Checking and challenging recommendations and actions within the Strategy.
- ◀ Where unforeseen problems occur, deciding how to progress the PPOSS.

As well as considering current supply and demand, the PPOSS will incorporate future demand to 2041, which is in line with the current expectations for the emerging Local Plan. The PPOSS will amend this accordingly if it changes during the process.

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy once it is completed. This monitoring should be led by the local authority and supported by the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. This should form an on-going role of the Steering Group.

Why the Strategy is being developed

The Council is in the process of preparing a new Local Plan to around 2040 with a need to have a current PPOSS to inform its strategic framework. It should also be noted that it is also concurrently updating its Open Space dataset as an evidence base as this is outdated having been completed in 2017. The emerging Wigan Borough Local Plan (WLP) will set out the Council's policies for the use and development of land in the Authority. It will also sit alongside the Places for Everyone Plan, subject to its adoption, as a key component of its development plan.

More broadly, the PPOSS will ensure that Wigan Borough conforms to requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of this is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with Paragraph 103 stating that “planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.”

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

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

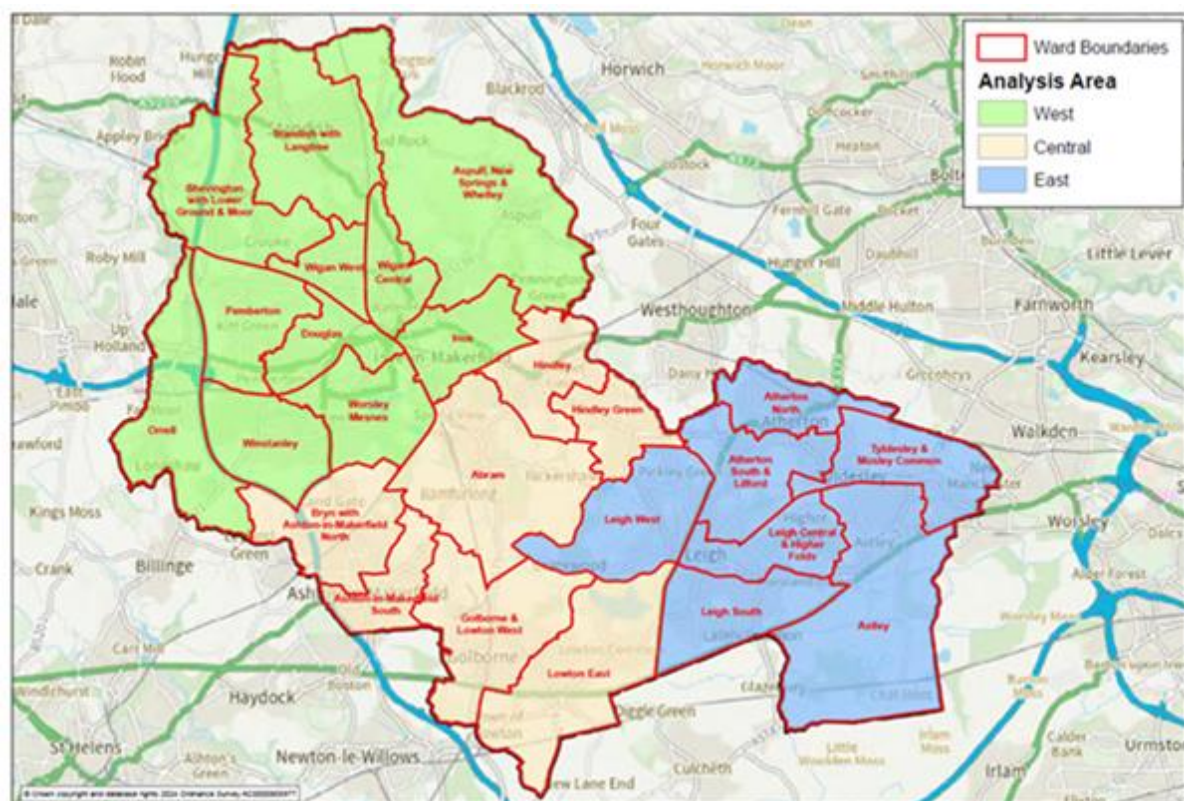
Study area

The study area comprises the Wigan Council administrative area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for the Borough as a whole.

There have been some alterations in ward boundaries since the previous study in 2017 which has led to the analysis areas changing for this document. The former analysis areas known as Wigan Town, Ashton and Leigh are now West, Central and East, respectively. The changes have been made in order for the PPOSS to align with other strategic documents such as the Open Space Report.

A map of Wigan Borough and the analysis areas can be seen in Figure 1.1 below.

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



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Cross-boundary aspects are also recognised with regard to neighbouring local authorities to understand levels of imported and exported demand into and from Wigan Borough as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines. This therefore includes consideration of authorities such as Chorley, West Lancashire, Bolton, St Helens, Warrington and Salford.

It should be noted that most sites remain within their previous respective analysis areas except for the ones listed below.

Table 1.1: Sites which have changed analysis area (AA) since the previous study in 2017

Site ID	Site name	Old AA	New AA
3	Ashton Athletic FC	Wigan Town	Central
24	Golborne High School	Leigh	Central
25	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club	Leigh	Central
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Leigh	Central
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Leigh	Central
36	Legh Street Playing Fields	Leigh	Central
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	Leigh	Central
94	The Sycamores Golf Centre	Leigh	Central
99	Brunswick Park (Hindley)	Leigh	Central
103	Gilded Hollins Community School	Leigh	Central
113	Lowton St. Marys C Of E Primary School	Leigh	Central
134	St Luke's C Of E Primary School	Leigh	Central
166	Lowton Junior And Infant School	Leigh	Central
186	Haydock Park Golf Club	Leigh	Central
187	Hindley Hall Golf Club	Wigan Town	Central
209	Brunswick Recreation and Bowling Club	Leigh	Central
210	Rear of Red Lion pub	Leigh	Central
211	Green opposite All Saints Social Centre	Leigh	Central
212	Golborne Community Bowling Club	Leigh	Central
233	Our Lady's (Ashton in Makerfield) Crown Green Bowls	Wigan Town	Central

For reference the Central Analysis Area was formerly known as the Ashton Analysis Area.

Scope

The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the project are as follows:

- ✦ Football.
- ✦ Rugby union.
- ✦ Rugby league.
- ✦ Hockey.
- ✦ Cricket.
- ✦ Tennis.
- ✦ Netball.
- ✦ Crown green bowls.
- ✦ Athletics.
- ✦ Golf.
- ✦ Archery.
- ✦ American football.

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In addition, a bespoke 3G pitch section is included within this report, mainly focusing on football activity but also taking into account other sports that can use the surface type (e.g., rugby union and rugby league).

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

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

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

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Quantity

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

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

Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order':

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

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

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

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Accessibility

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

- ✦ **Community use** – facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams/members/individuals (depending on the sport).
- ✦ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used externally; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire or particularly poor quality.
- ✦ **No community use** - facilities which are, as a matter of policy or practice, unavailable for external hire. This includes professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team of the host club.
- ✦ **Disused playing field** – any sites where outdoor sports facilities were once provided but are no longer used, yet they remain undeveloped and could therefore be brought back into use.

The lawful use of a disused playing field is still that of a playing field until such time as it is developed for a non-pitch sport use or its use is formally changed through the planning system. There is no positive obligation, under planning law, for a playing field to be actively used as such.

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

Disused sites provide the opportunity to help address deficiencies in pitch sport if brought back into use or replaced in a more sustainable location to meet need. These sites will be assessed to establish whether they are surplus to meet an identified need in the area in which they are situated within this PPOSS, should be retained and protected for future use or could be replaced in accordance with Sport England's Playing Field Policy and paragraph 104 of the NPPF.

In addition to above, there are some existing playing field sites which may be able to or have previously accommodated more pitches than are presently marked. Where known, these will be identified through the PPOSS. There may also be sites which are no longer prepared and used for formal sport but serve another function, such as a public open space or park. These sites should not be considered disused as they continue to operate as part of the green infrastructure typology and remain playing field, which could be brought back into use with marked out playing pitches and have the potential to contribute to supply.

Quality

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

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

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

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

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

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

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, the site assessments for sports played in the winter (football, rugby union and hockey) were carried out in November 2024, whilst the sports played in the summer (rugby league, tennis, bowls, cricket, netball) were carried out in July 2024.

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

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

Gather demand information and views

Current demand

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

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

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

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

Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice. This therefore includes Wigan-based demand that travels outside of the authority to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the area (imported demand). This can often be linked to capacity and/or quality issues within an authority.

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

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

Future demand

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Understanding the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions provision could accommodate. Each pitch is then said to have potential spare capacity, be at capacity, or be overplayed – as follows:

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

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

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

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Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches in match equivalent sessions

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

More detailed sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report. There is, however, no capacity guidance for 3G pitches, with availability and usage instead determined by a programme/hours-led approach.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

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

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

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

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

Identify the key findings and issues

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

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

1.5: Develop the strategy (Stage D)

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

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

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

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation responsible for the development of football in Wigan Borough is Lancashire FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees and delivering national football schemes. There are also some teams which instead affiliate to Liverpool FA with all of them being considered within this document.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation (FF), which is a charity, linked to and funded by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England). Working in partnership with Lancashire FA, they help communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding.

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

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

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

Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation artificial turf pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

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

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

Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal affiliated game. The LFFP for Wigan Borough was produced in 2019 and subsequently updated in 2025 alongside the production of the PPOSS to ensure it was based on the findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated to guide potential investment priorities. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

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

Consultation

In total there are 776 teams across 79 clubs identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Wigan Borough during the 2024/25 season.

The current response rate from football clubs equates to a team response rate of 71% (550/776 teams and 39/79 clubs).

The table below summarises the clubs which have responded to consultation to date. Continued efforts will be made to increase this with assistance provided by Lancashire FA, the Council and Football Foundation.

Table 2.2: Summary of consultation

Clubs	Responded?
Abram	No
AFC Armed Forces Hub Wigan	Yes
AFC Atherleigh	No
AFC Botanical	No
AFC Wigan	Yes
Appley Bridge	No
Ashton Athletic	No
Ashton Park J.F.C.	Yes
Ashton Town	No
Ashtonians	Yes
Aspull FC	No
Aspull Juniors	No
Astley & Tyldesley J.F.C.	Yes
Atherton Collieries	Yes
Atherton Cols Junior	Yes
Atherton Laburnum Rovers	No
Atherton Town	Yes
Bickershaw FC	Yes
Bond Street B.C. FC	No
Bryn F.C	No
Cherrybrook	Yes
East Leigh Juniors	Yes
F.C. Britannia (Wigan)	No
FC Wigan	No
FS Coaching Academy	Yes
Gidlow Athletic	No
Golborne Girls	Yes
Golborne Sports Junior	Yes
Golborne Sports Seniors	Yes
Goose Green (Sunday) FC	No
Hag Fold	Yes
Hawkley	Yes

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Clubs	Responded?
Hawkley Athletic	Yes
Highfield Grange	Yes
Hindley All Saints	Yes
Hindley Green	No
Hindley Juniors	Yes
Hindley Town	Yes
Hindsford AFC	Yes
Hindsford Juniors	No
Howe Bridge Mills	No
Ince Central	Yes
Leigh Foundry	Yes
Leigh Genesis	Yes
Leigh Genesis Adult Football Club	Yes
Leigh United	No
Pemberton FC	No
Pennington	No
Pine Villa	Yes
Platt Bridge	Yes
Robin Hood FC	No
Robin Park	No
RV Sports	No
Sevenbrooks FC	Yes
Shevington	No
Springfield (Wigan)	Yes
Springfield Park F.C	No
St. John Rigby College	Yes
Standish Panthers Juniors	Yes
Standish Park Rangers	No
Standish Sabres	No
Standish St. Wilfrid's	No
Tyldesley Football Club	No
Westhoughton Town FC	No
Westwood Park	No
Whelley scorpions FC	No
Wigan & Leigh College	Yes
Wigan Athletic FC	No
Wigan Athletic FC Community Trust	No
Wigan Athletic Ladies & Girls	No
Wigan Cosmos	No
Wigan Junior Latics	Yes
Wigan Rovers	No
Wigan Town Football Club	No
Wigan Town Juniors	No
Winkley FC	Yes
Winstanley St Aidan's	No
Winstanley Warriors	Yes

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2.2: Supply

In total, there are 227 pitches across 105 unique sites in Wigan Borough, of which 197 across 85 sites are available for community use. All pitches that are not available for community use are either located at education sites or at elite sports clubs' facilities such as The Brick Community Stadium and Christopher Park Training Ground.

Table 2.3: Summary of grass pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	16	16	11	10	8	61
East	27	7	13	9	6	62
West	24	19	12	14	5	74
Total	67	42	36	32	19	197

Community available pitches are fairly evenly distributed between the three analysis areas with the West Analysis Area having 74 pitches provided (38%) the East Analysis Area with 62 pitches (31%) and Central Analysis Area 61 pitches (31%).

There are more adult pitches (67) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which suggests high demand for adult football. However, it should be noted that youth 11v11 demand is higher, despite there being less youth 11v11 pitches. This is common nationally, with many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, although this can be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.

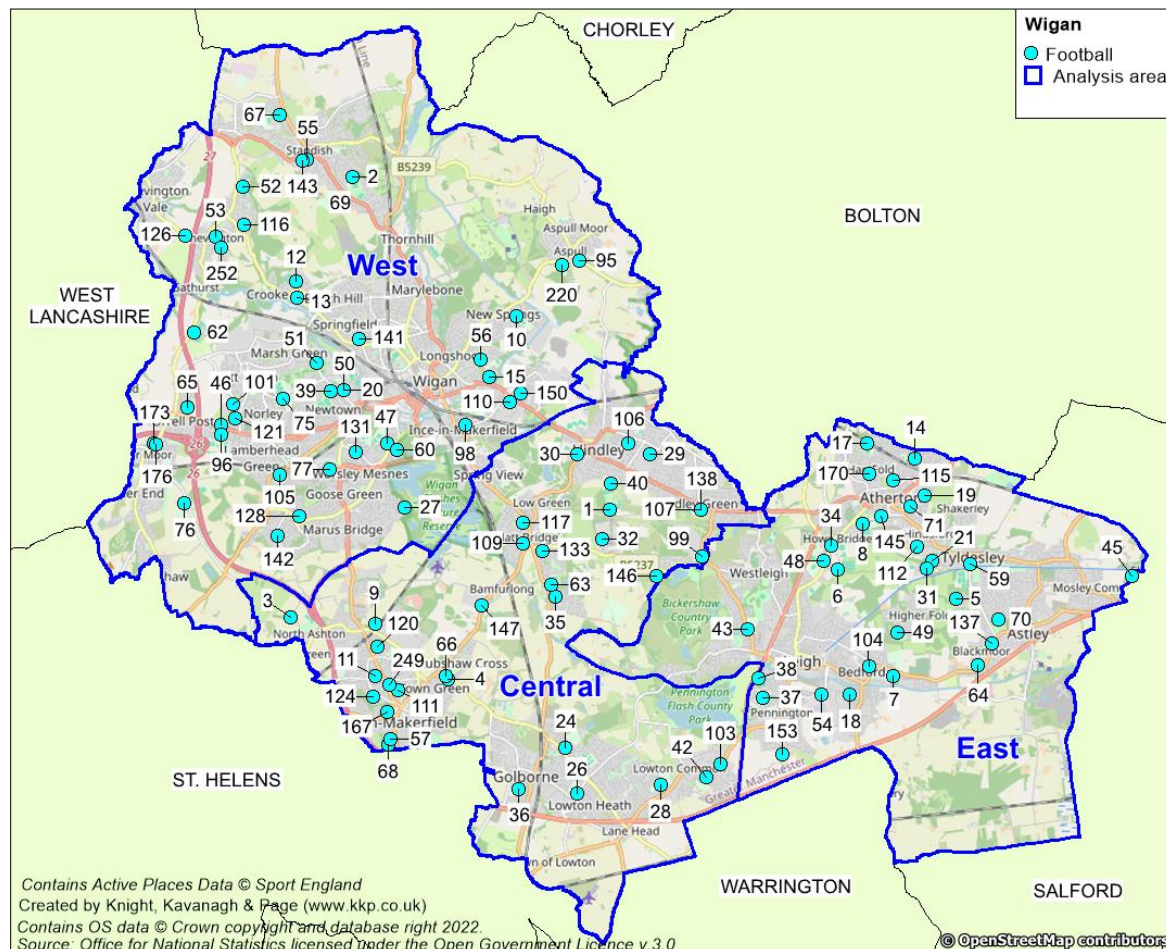
In accordance with the FA Youth Review, u17s and u18s can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult, youth and mini pitches can be seen in Table 2.1 above.

The number of community available pitches since the previous study (2017) has decreased (8%) which saw 212 grass football pitches compared to 196 identified in the 2024 audit. The section below will outline where the changes in provision have been.

Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Wigan Borough, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 2.15.

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Figure 2.1: Map of sites with football pitch provision within Wigan Borough



Disused site/provision

There are several sites which are disused in Wigan Borough, with no formal sports pitches on the site, or have previously accommodated football pitches but accommodate some other form of sports pitches. These are summarised in the table below.

Table 2.4: Summary of disused sites/provision within Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site name	APP ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Comments
16	Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field	1041448	WN2 2HP	West	The playing field previously had three rugby league pitches marked last used circa 2012. It has also had football marked on it. There are plans to reinstate this site.
41	Lodge Lane Playing Fields	6009323	WN7 2NU	East	Previously marked with four football pitches of adult, youth and mini (two) sizes. No longer in use or marked and often waterlogged. One pitch still has goalposts in place, but the site has no changing provision and car parking provision is poor.

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Site ID	Site name	APP ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Comments
					Site is retained for future cemetery expansion.
73	Watsons Field (Heath Lane)	6007437	WN7 4RL	East	Former primary school site which provided two adult pitches located off Heath Lane on land south of Watson's Field. School playing field last known to be maintained circa 2016 as one adult pitch.
127	Spa Road Recreation Ground	1040666	M46 9SP	East	Youth 9v9 pitch not presently used or marked. The site neighbours Crilly Park (Atherton Labernum Rovers FC).
144	Alexandra Park Playing Fields	1040631	WN5 9BN	West	One mini 7v7 pitch which is no longer actively marked.
148	Ellesmere Street Playing Fields	6007417	M29 7QP	East	Youth 11v11 pitch previously marked as recent as 2013. No onsite changing provision. Adjacent scout building and play area also onsite.
152	Central Park Playing Fields	1040634	M46 0AL	East	Two mini pitches previously used for either mini football or mini rugby union. Opposite Atherton Community School.

There is also one identified site located at Moseley Common Playing Fields (M28 1AD) which has previously been known to provide one adult and one youth 9v9 football pitch but had no pitches marked out during the development of the PPOSS. This site is still retained as recreational open space, and the local 'Friends of' group funded the installation of 16x7 feet goalposts for recreation play. It should be noted that this site does suffer with poor drainage.

Similar to the above Furlong Close Playing Fields (WN2 5JW - Central Analysis Area) was previously marked with an adult football pitch and goalposts remain in place, though last recorded pitch marked was youth sized 60x40 metres. Upon site assessment the pitch was not line marked despite having goalpost in situ meaning it cannot be classified as disused. As a result, it will not factor into the supply and demand analysis below however will be considered in the Strategy & Action Plan for formal reinstatement.

The previously identified site at Seaman Way (Former Sports Club), which was located in the Central Analysis Area, has been developed by Barratt Homes (Amberside Rise – WN2 2LE) with relevant mitigation secured.

Pitches at the below referenced sites no longer have football pitches marked out, however, the sites are still actively being used for another sport or alternative sporting provision.

- ▶ Bear Park (WN4 9RP – Central Analysis Area) is now just used for rugby league. Previously one adult pitch.
- ▶ Woodhouse Playing Field (WN6 7RQ – West Analysis Area) is now just used for rugby league. Previously one youth 9v9 pitch which can be reinstated if needed to alleviate demand. It is also used by St John Fisher High School as their formal playing field provision.

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- ◀ Leisure United Laithwaite Park (WN5 0UE – West Analysis Area) - Due to developments there has been a reduction of one youth 11v11, three youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch.
- ◀ Leisure United William Fosters (WN2 2BU – West Analysis Area) - Due to developments there has been a reduction of two adult pitches.

It should be identified that the reduction of grass pitch provision at Leisure United Laithwaite Park and Leisure United William Fosters is due to the sporting development of 3G pitch hub provision.

The following sites which were identified in the previous study as disused are now within the current supply with at least one pitch having been marked out and used this season.

- ◀ Bryn Gates Playing Fields (Central Analysis Area – WN2 5JZ). Last marked out in 2023.
- ◀ St John's Street Playing Fields (Central Analysis Area – WN2 5RH). Leased to Wigan Cosmos FC since 2020.
- ◀ King George V Playing Fields – Ashton (Central Analysis Area – WN4 8QX).

Potential loss of provision

There is a current planning application (A/23/96040/MAJOR) for a school rebuild located at Hawkhurst Park in Leigh which proposes the loss of one grass pitch at Hawkhurst Park. Mitigation options are currently in discussion including potential pitch improvements at Hesketh Meadow. The site has been leased to Ashton Park JFC since 2017.

Potential Future developments

Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC and Wigan Town FC are currently in conversations with the Council regarding reinstating provision at disused site Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field, known locally as Imperial Fields. The clubs have advanced into year one programme of the Home Advantage Program (FF grant funding programme). There are still logistical obligations (lease negotiations, GPMF application and feasibility study) required to be carried out, however, once overcome the site should see one senior rugby league pitch, one adult football pitch and three dual use junior/youth rugby league and football pitches re-established. The proposal also includes the creation of a catering unit.

Standish Panthers FC is currently in the process of exploring options to develop a site within the locality of Standish in order to centralise demand, increase levels of participation and provide an additional capacity for wider community clubs and groups in the locality. It aspires to creating a hub site including a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch with enough playing field land to establish up to four adult pitches with accompanying ancillary provision (clubhouse and car parking). It should be noted that the Club indicate the project would be privately funded with no intention for FF funding.

The 3G pitch would primarily be for centralising the entire clubs training demand, however, it could also provide capacity for match play demand if the grass pitches are unusable. It is also in discussions with Wigan RUFC (rugby union) and Shevington Sharks ARLFC (rugby league) to understand their aspirations for artificial training provision and is already in discussions with other football clubs in the area, such as Pine Villa FC, Old Rivingtonians Sports Club, Shevington FC and Aspull JFC, regarding usage.

The Council also reports that plans are underway to improve the drainage on the four pitches at Ashfield Park and one pitch at Southlands Avenue Playing Fields in Standish.

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Hindley Town FC plans to extend its site, of the same name, to establish more pitches. It currently accommodates four pitches and states it can potentially establish three more pitches of various sizes.

Bickershaw FC report it is trying to locate available land/facilities close to its current home venue Bickershaw Playing Fields to create additional provision to allow it to grow in teams.

East Leigh Juniors is also part of the Home Advantage Programme having progressed to Year One. It is in the final stages of securing a lease agreement at Queensway Playing Fields, has been awarded GPMF and has identified planning that is required for capital aspects of the project. The final stage of the Home Advantage Programme capital application is still to be submitted.

Hindley Juniors had a planning application approved (with conditions) in 2022 for the creation of additional pitches on the field adjoining AFC Hindley Juniors Football Club. The proposal included the reconfiguration of current pitches, erection of a spectator stand, sports lighting and formation of a new youth 11v11 and adult pitch in the land South of the playing field area. Despite approval no work on this project has begun at the time of writing.

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Wigan Borough is generally secure i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. This relates to most of the Council operated pitches, with such provision protected as part of an ongoing commitment to providing a leisure offering.

A common exception to providing security of tenure is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use, as exemplified with five educational providers not currently allowing community use in Wigan Borough of some of their pitches. The reasons for not allowing community use varies, although the most common justification is that the school want to protect their pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes due to existing quality issues. Other motives include staffing issues, health and safety issues and a perceived lack of profitability.

Sport England promotes the use of education providers sports facilities to be available for wider community use and provides guidance¹.

Most larger clubs (such as Astley & Tyldesley, Wigan Junior Latics, Winstanley Warriors FC and Atherton Town FC) have freehold/long term leases or licence agreements for their respective sites. As mentioned above, East Leigh Juniors states it is close to securing a long-term lease at Queensway Playing Fields from the Council. Most smaller clubs play on Council facilities which are classified as being secure.

Ashtonians FC, indicate it has stopped using provision at The Byrchall High School mid-season after community access has been temporary ceased due to a school rebuild. It has since relocated to the 3G pitch at St Peters Catholic High School in Orrell after attempts to access pitches at the adjacent St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School were unsuccessful. Once the work is complete the Club will be able to return to Byrchall High School.

¹ <https://www.sportengland.org/funds-and-campaigns/use-our-school>

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The Council state that Bee Fold Lane (East Analysis Area) is soon to be under a licence agreement with Botanical FC and Atherton Colliers FC. Similarly, Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club (football and rugby league) will be shortly obtaining a licence to maintain the playing field at St Catherines Playing Fields (West Analysis Area).

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Wigan Borough has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out in November 2024 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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

Conversely, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in Wigan Borough. Most pitches in Wigan Borough are assessed as poor quality, the main reasons relate more so to drainage issues, with unofficial use also exacerbating problems due to the open access nature of the provision.

Table 2.5: Summary of pitch quality (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
2017			
Adult	18	59	16
Youth 11v11	-	20	4
Youth 9v9	7	21	11
Mini 7v7	4	25	14
Mini 5v5	1	6	6
Total	30 (14%)	131 (62%)	51 (24%)
2025			
Adult	15	26	26
Youth 11v11	9	20	13
Youth 9v9	7	14	15
Mini 7v7	4	8	21
Mini 5v5	2	6	11
Total	37 (19%)	74 (37%)	86 (44%)

Hindley All Saints FC reports the poor quality pitches at Brunswick Recreation Ground are declining in quality due to draining poorly and heavy usage. Additionally, Leigh Genesis FC indicate there has been some damage to the pitches at Lowton Church or England High School due to the installation of a telephone pole.

Pine Villa FC states the pitches at Ashfield Park are poor quality due to the lack of maintenance and bad drainage. As mentioned above, it should be noted that plans to improve the drainage on these pitches are underway.

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Pitch improvement

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches nationally. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the FF's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment.

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

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

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

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

Table 2.6: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

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

In Wigan Borough, 18 sites have received a PitchPower assessment. The findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in the table below.

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

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Number of pitches	PitchPower rating (Date of visit)	PPOSS rating
1	AFC Hindley Juniors Football Club	Adult	1	Poor (07/03/24)	Poor
1	AFC Hindley Juniors Football Club	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	Poor

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Number of pitches	PitchPower rating (Date of visit)	PPOSS rating
1	AFC Hindley Juniors Football Club	Youth 9v9	1	Poor	Poor
1	AFC Hindley Juniors Football Club	Mini 7v7	2	Poor	Poor
4	Ashton Town AFC	Adult	1	Good (16/04/24)	Good
6	Atherton Town Football Club	Adult	1	Good (27/03/24)	Good
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	Adult	1	Good (19/04/24)	Good
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	Youth 11v11	1	Good	Good
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	Youth 9v9	1	Good	Good
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	Mini 7v7	1	Advanced	Good
18	Dootsons Park Playing Fields	Youth 11v11	1	Standard (04/03/24)	Standard
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	Adult	1	Poor (31/03/24)	Poor
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Adult	1	Poor (03/03/24)	Poor
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Youth 11v11	2	Good (03/03/24)	Good
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Youth 9v9	2	Poor	Poor
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Mini 7v7	1	Good	Good
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Mini 5v5	1	Good	Good
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	Adult	4	Good (12/09/24)	Good
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	Youth 11v11	1	Good	Good
48	Pennington Football Club	Adult	1	Good (31/03/24)	Good
48	Pennington Football Club	Youth 11v11	1	Good	Good
48	Pennington Football Club	Youth 9v9	1	Good	Good
49	Queensway Playing Fields	Adult	1	Good (04/03/24)	Standard
49	Queensway Playing Fields	Mini 7v7	1	Poor	Poor
53	Shevington Recreation Ground	Youth 11v11	1	Basic (08/01/24)	Standard
62	St John Rigby College	Adult	2	Basic (29/02/24)	Standard
62	St John Rigby College	Youth 9v9	1	Good	Good
62	St John Rigby College	Mini 7v7	1	Basic	Standard
63	St John's Street Playing Fields	Adult	1	Good (22/03/24)	Standard
63	St John's Street Playing Fields	Adult	1	Good	Standard
63	St John's Street Playing Fields	Youth 11v11	1	Good	Standard
64	St Marys Catholic High School	Adult	2	Good (02/03/24)	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Number of pitches	PitchPower rating (Date of visit)	PPOSS rating
64	St Marys Catholic High School	Youth 11v11	1	Advanced	Good
64	St Marys Catholic High School	Youth 9v9	1	Advanced	Good
64	St Marys Catholic High School	Youth 9v9	1	Good	Good
64	St Marys Catholic High School	Mini 7v7	1	Good	Good
77	Winstanley Warriors FC	Adult	1	Advanced (06/02/24)	Good
77	Winstanley Warriors FC	Youth 11v11	2	Advanced	Good
77	Winstanley Warriors FC	Youth 9v9	1	Advanced	Good
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club	Adult	1	Poor (22/01/24)	Standard
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Good (16/03/24)	Good
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	Youth 11v11	1	Basic	Good
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	Youth 9v9	1	Good	Good
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	Mini 7v7	1	Good	Good
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	Mini 5v5	1	Good	Good
252	Vicarage Lane	Adult	1	Basic (08/01/24)	Standard
252	Vicarage Lane	Mini 7v7	1	Basic	Standard

For reference, the PPOSS quality scores will be the ones used in the pitch capacity analysis to follow. Most of the ratings from PitchPower assessments are aligned with those from the non-technical assessments.

Where there are discrepancies, it has been agreed with the FF and Lancashire FA to use the PPOSS quality scores as these are the most up to date point assessments, however, it should be noted these scores have still been cross referenced against PitchPower reports and club consultation. The pitches located at Queensway Playing Field has a difference in quality rating, this is due to slight drainage issues that were identified during the non-technical assessments and raised through consultation.

It should be noted that the sports club managed sites which have had recent investment through LFA, via GPMF, are rated as good quality. These include Aspull Civic Recreation Ground, Winstanley Warriors FC, Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields and Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute.

Football Foundation (FF) Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund ²

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches nationally. This has resulted in the creation of the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF). As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues by the GMA via PitchPower assessment can apply to access funding to improve pitches to good quality or sustain them at good quality.

² [Link to the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund](#)

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Once a PitchPower grass pitch assessment report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the FF Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help eligible clubs/organisations enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the FF's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 12,000 quality grass pitches by 2028.

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

All applicants must have the landowner's permission (as a minimum) and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding pitches used for men's National League System play), leagues, education establishments, pro club trusts, County FAs, parish/town councils, the women's football pyramid (Tiers 1-4) and charities.

Several clubs/sites in Wigan Borough have been awarded funding from the Football Foundation to improve the quality of their pitches including Astley & Tyldesley JFC, Pennington FC, Golborne Sports Seniors, Atherton Town FC, Wigan Cosmos Football Club, Aspull Juniors FC, Hindley Juniors FC, East Leigh Juniors FC, St John Rigby RC Sixth Form College, Winstanley Warriors FC, Wigan Town FC, Shevington FC, Hindsford JFC, Wigan Junior Latics FC and Leigh Genesis FC.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for rugby clubs as they can assist with income generation.

Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women's and girls', disability and junior/mini demand. Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- ✦ Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation
- ✦ A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance
- ✦ Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision
- ✦ Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open planned changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience.

As a result of the above, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria, cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document. Additional context behind the rationale is provided below.

Please note the information does not include primary schools which generally only provide mini pitches with the relevant teams not requiring access to changing rooms as teams generally come ready to play.

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Table 2.8: Ancillary provision of the clubs that responded to consultation at community available grass pitch sites

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality ³	Comments
1	AFC Hindley Juniors Football Club	Hindley Juniors	Standard	Standard	Unknown
2	Ashfield Park	Standish Park Rangers Standish Sabres	N/A	N/A	No purpose-built ancillary provision onsite.
3	Ashton Athletic FC	Ashton Athletic FC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	Astley & Tyldesley J.F.C.	Good	Standard	Despite generally being a good quality facility, the number and quality of changing rooms need enhancing to better service levels of demand (Male/Female/Adult/Youth).
6	Atherton Town Football Club	Atherton Town FC	Standard	Standard	The Club state there is no current issues with the ancillary provision on the site, with it meeting the levels of demand.
8	Bee Fold Lane	AFC Botanical	Poor	Poor	Basic shipping container as changing rooms.
9	Bryn Recreation Ground	FS Coaching Academy	N/A	N/A	No purpose-built ancillary provision onsite.
10	Cale Lane Playing Fields	Aspull FC	N/A	N/A	No purpose-built ancillary provision onsite.
14	Crilly Park	Atherton Laburnum Rovers	Standard	Standard	Suitable provision for the demand utilising the pitches (Adult men's, adult women's and youth 11v11 boys) The Club has plans to extend its changing rooms.
17	Devonshire Road Playing Fields	Hag Fold	Standard	Standard	Suitable provision for the demand utilising the pitches (Adult men's and youth 11v11 boys).
24	Golborne High School	Golborne Sports Juniors	N/A	N/A	Changing rooms are not available to hire.
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Golborne Sports Seniors	Standard	Poor	The Club is exploring options to improve the number and quality of changing rooms to better cater for the demand on the site (hockey and football / women and girls).
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	East Leigh Juniors	Poor	Poor	Shipping containers as changing rooms - only two servicing six pitches in addition to limited onsite carparking. There are plans for a new pavilion as part of a wider exploration into a 3G project.
30	Hindley Town FC	Hindley Town	Standard	Poor	Clubhouse onsite is basic with limited with no showering facilities or independent spectator toilets or medical room. Club are looking to change the layout of the changing rooms to create more space and modernise their facilities. The Club aspires to upgrade the facility along with storage provision.
31	Hindsford AFC	Hindsford AFC	Standard	Poor	Have a separate referee room for female referees, however, with no shower. Two changing rooms for players with communal showers. The Club aspires to upgrade the facility as part of its development plan.
34	Howe Bridge New Pitches	Bolton Wanderers Girls FC Daisy Hill Junior Howe Bridge Mills	Standard	Poor	Current provision is not suitable for the levels demand on the site and is situated far away from the actual pitches. There are aspirations to improve the overall ancillary provision including enhancing changing rooms and increasing carparking. Site also suffers from vandalism and unofficial access. Stakeholders are working together to explore opportunities for the creation of a community pavilion to be shared, especially should the Leisure Centre site progress with a second 3G development.
35	Kingsdown Road Playing Field	Abram	N/A	N/A	No purpose-built ancillary provision with only a basic storage container in situ.
36	Leigh Street Playing Fields	Golborne Sports Junior	Poor	Poor	Two very old changing rooms both with communal showers. Referee room very small.
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	Hindley Green Standish Panthers Juniors Wigan & Leigh College	Good	Good	Provision is suitable for the levels of demand accessing the site both for football, rugby league and rugby union.
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	Cherrybrook Goose Green (Sunday) FC Robin Hood FC Winstanley St Aidans	Good	Good	Changing rooms are small and have self-contained toilets but communal showers within each of the six changing rooms. This facility has a state-of-the-art wet room as well as a shower section for disabled users in each changing room. Separate male and female toilets.
40	Leyland Park	-	Standard	Standard	Two buildings here, first one is currently only used for storage with two changing rooms and communal showers. The second building is newer with self-contained showers and toilets, however, could be modernised. Used by Hindley Juniors FC which has 15 teams.
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	Leigh Genesis Leigh Genesis Adult Football Club	Standard	Standard	Changing rooms are currently fit for purpose as the teams don't really use but if teams were to progress leagues and need to meet league requirements, they won't be sufficient.
43	Marsh Playing Fields	Bond Street B.C. FC Sevenbrooks FC	Poor	Poor	Buildings not currently fit for use - disused
46	Oldham's Fold	FS Coaching Academy	N/A	N/A	No purpose-built ancillary provision onsite.

³ Including changing areas, toilets and showering facilities.

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Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality ³	Comments
47	Parsons Meadow	Hawkey Athletic Westwood Park Wigan Town Juniors	Standard	Poor	Two buildings both with communal showers. Second building has separate female toilets but not separate changing. Changing rooms are far away from football pitches also. This leads teams coming ready instead of utilising the provision.
48	Pennington Football Club	Pennington FC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
49	Queensway Playing Fields	East Leigh Juniors	Poor	Poor	Basic storage containers which are used for storage and changing. Not suitable for the variety of demand on the site (male/female).
50	Robin Park Arena	Wigan Athletic FC Community Trust	Good	Good	Provision is suitable for the levels of demand accessing the site both for football and rugby union.
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	AFC Wigan Highfield Grange Springfield (Wigan) Winkley FC	Good	Good	Changing rooms are leased to the Council and are managed and maintained by Fives, meaning teams using the site do have access.
54	Siddow Park	Leigh Foundry	Standard	Poor	There is no dedicated clubhouse with changing rooms being basic with no electricity or running water.
56	St Catherines Playing Fields	Whelley scorpions FC	N/A	N/A	No purpose-built ancillary provision onsite.
59	St George's Park	AFC Atherleigh Tyldesley Football Club	Good	Good	Provision is suitable for the levels of demand accessing the site both for football and rugby union.
60	St James Park (Wigan Rovers FC)	Wigan Rovers	Poor	Poor	Basic storage containers which are used for storage and changing.
62	St John Rigby College	Bryn F.C Robin Park St. John Rigby College	Standard	Standard	Changing facilities are available and used by clubs. The facilities are standard quality with toilets and showers within the changing rooms. Suitable for the demand accessing the site.
63	St John's Street Playing Fields	Ince Central Wigan Cosmos	Poor	Poor	-
65	St Peters Catholic High School	Springfield Park F.C Wigan Junior Latics	Standard	Standard	Changing facilities are available and used by clubs. The facilities are standard quality with toilets and showers within the changing rooms. The girls' changing room has individual cubicles for showers but the showers in the boys changing room are communal with around 15 shower heads. Suitable for the demand accessing the site.
69	The Convent Playing Fields	Gidlow Athletic Standish St. Wilfrids	Poor	Poor	Recently suffered from vandalism with the Club trying to raise funds to address the situation.
71	The Skuna Stadium	Atherton Collieries	Standard	Standard	Facilities are suitable for the Clubs current levels of demand.
77	Winstanley Warriors FC	Winstanley Warriors	Standard	Poor	Ancillary facilities are outdated and in need of modernisation. The Club has aspiration to build a new clubhouse including changing facilities to better cater for demand. Car park is also too small for the site.
99	Brunswick Park (Hindley)	Hindley All Saints	Standard	Poor	General building is adequate however there are limitations on changing rooms and relevant showering facilities.
101	Dean Trust Wigan	Appley Bridge Pemberton FC Wigan Athletic Ladies & Girls	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
112	Lodge Lane Playing Fields	Hindsford Juniors FC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
117	Miners Welfare Playing Fields	Platt Bridge	N/A	N/A	No purpose-built ancillary provision onsite. Platt Bridge FC has plans to create a purpose-built ancillary building on the site and states it has a licence in place for the land.
146	Bickershaw Playing Fields	Bickershaw FC	N/A	N/A	No purpose-built ancillary provision onsite.
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	Wigan Town Football Club	Good	Good	Separate changing rooms for women and girls demand, also used for rugby league.
153	Round Ash Park	Leigh United FC	Poor	Poor	-
158	Leisure United William Fosters	Golborne Girls RV Sports Westhoughton Town FC	Good	Standard	Self-contained toilets but communal showers in each of the four changing rooms. Separate male and female toilets
161	Standish Leisure Centre	Pine Villa FC	Standard	Standard	Facilities are suitable for the Clubs current levels of demand.
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	Aspull Juniors	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	Shevington	Good	Standard	The facilities are very good and relatively still new, however, do not meet the guidance above hence the standard grading.

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2.3: Demand

In total there are 776 football teams across 80 clubs which currently play within Wigan Borough. This is made up of 115 men's, 15 women's, 185 youth 11v11 boys', 30 youth 11v11 girls', 126 youth 9v9 boys', 19 youth 9v9 girls', 162 mini 7v7 and 124 mini 5v5 teams.

It should be noted that the above figures include affiliated disability and walking football demand where it has been outlined through affiliation data. This includes teams eight teams across Cherrybrook, East Leigh Juniors, Leigh Genesis, Standish Panthers, Wigan Athletic FC Community Trust that play in either the Lancashire FA Ability Counts League or Greater Manchester Ability Counts League. Additionally, four walking football teams from Winstanley Warriors FC.

The table below compares the level of demand to the 2017 study in addition to analysing which demand is located on 3G provision, this is due to the development of the two football hub sites at Laithwaite Park and William Fosters since the previous PPS.

Table 2.9: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Wigan Borough

Age group	Number of teams playing on grass	Number of teams playing on 3G	Total	Percentage change
2017				
Senior Men's (16-45) ⁴	91	9	100	
Senior Women's (16-45)	3	3	6	
Youth Boys (10-15)	227	3	230	
Youth Girls (10-15)	25	0	25	
Mini-Soccer Mixed	139	84	223	
Total	485	99	584	
2025				
Senior Men's (16-45) ⁵	99	16	115	15%
Senior Women's (16-45)	13	2	15	150%
Youth Boys (10-15)	260	51	311	35%
Youth Girls (10-15)	35	14	49	96%
Mini-Soccer Mixed	127	159	286	28%
Total	534	242	776	32%
Percentage change	10%	144%	33%	

Growth can be seen across all age groups and demographics since the 2017 with an overall growth of 33% or 192 teams. Increases are noted within the women and girls' segments which have seen a progression of nine teams (150%) and 24 team (96%) respectively.

As anticipated since the development of Leisure United Laithwaite Park and Leisure United William Fosters there has been increased usage of teams playing their competitive matches on 3G pitches, equating to an increase of 144% or 143 teams.

⁴ For the purposes of demand U17 and U18 teams are considered to require adult pitches, though it should be noted that these age groups affiliate to their respective County FA as junior teams.

⁵ For the purposes of demand U17 and U18 teams are considered to require adult pitches, though it should be noted that these age groups affiliate to their respective County FA as junior teams.

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National League System demand

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

Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation⁶ requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from Regional Feeder League. Please refer to the FA website⁷ for the full specifications for each.

Four teams from four clubs play within the NLS, as seen in the table below. This is in addition to professional club, Wigan Athletic FC, which plays within the EFL League One.

Table 2.10: Summary of teams playing within the NLS

Team	League	Level
Ashton Athletic FC	North West Counties Football League	Step 6
Ashton Town FC	North West Counties Football League	Step 6
Atherton Collieries FC	Northern Premier League	Step 4
Atherton Laburnum Rovers FC	North West Counties Premier	Step 5

It should be noted that Astley & Tyldesley, Atherton Town, Hindsford AFC, Leigh Genesis and Pennington football clubs all have teams that play within the Regional Feeder League to Step 6 in the Manchester Football League.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System similar to the adult men's which provide structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Although women's clubs still need to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Table 2.11: Summary of teams playing within the Women's NLS

Team	League	Level
Wigan Athletic Ladies & Girls FC	Lancashire Women's County League	Tier 5

⁶ <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

⁷ <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

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As seen above both Wigan Athletic Ladies & Girls FC has a team that play within the Women's NLS. Hindley Juniors FC, until the end of the 2024/25, did have a team in Tier 6 (North West Women's Regional League), however, it has been relegated.

Walking football

Walking football⁸ is an alternate version of football which is governed by The Walking Football Association (the WFA). The sport has picked up popularity in recent years and has a typical demographic upwards of 50s for men and upwards of 40s for women. It provides a less physically demanding version of the usual game due to the rules not allowing for any contact or fast-paced movement thus providing a more inclusive game for participants.

Whilst the game is governed by The Walking Football Association, and it provides competitive structures through national cup competitions. Much of the activation work undertaken nationally for this activity type is promoted by professional football club, community organisations or by leading community grassroots football clubs.

Wigan Walkers host regular walking football sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30 to 12:00 at Wigan Athletic Academy Building (WN5 0UN). Winstanley Walkers also accommodate sessions on the small 3G pitch at Winstanley Warriors FC (WN3 6PZ) at the same time and days.

Atherton Rangers is associated with Be Well Wigan and hosts walking football sessions every Thursday at Atherton High School (M46 0AY).

Additionally, walking football sessions are offered through Be Well Wigan with spaces available across a range of sites including Standish Leisure Centre, Howe Bridge Leisure Centre and Leigh Leisure Centre.

Training

Access to affordable sports lit training facilities is a significant issue for most clubs in Wigan Borough, particularly those with many youth and mini teams. In winter months particularly, there is a need for training to take place on sports lit pitches. All weather facilities are also helpful in providing access for training during and following poor weather.

Of the 26 clubs that responded to consultation requests, 20 state a demand for additional training facilities with some of their teams struggling to train due to not being able to find a training location.

There are currently 14 11v11 3G pitches in Wigan Borough and an additional 32 small sided 3G pitches. However, some clubs indicate that they train outside of Wigan Borough to access suitable 3G pitches at the following sites:

- ❖ Co-op Academy Walkden (Bolton).
- ❖ Kearsley Academy (Bolton).

⁸ <https://thewfa.co.uk/who-plays-walking-football/>
<https://thewfa.co.uk/womens-walking-football/>

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In Wigan Borough, there are several clubs which have feeder teams. These teams consist of children under the age of seven who are not old enough to participate in formalised league matches and instead train on a regular basis. Clubs with feeder teams have aspirations to eventually progress to compete in competitive fixtures once they have reached the required age. Cherrybrook, Highfield Grange and Pine Villa Youth FC all have feeder teams which train on a regular basis. For more information regarding training see Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. The table below shows consultation findings where clubs have identified where their growth in teams is limited by a lack of suitable quantity / quality match pitches, training facilities (specifically 3G) and ancillary facilities.

Table 2.12: Identification of types of latent demand from football club consultation in Wigan Borough

Club name	Analysis area	Match pitches	Training facilities	Ancillary facilities
AFC Armed Forces	West	Yes	Yes	Yes
Atherton Colliers FC	East	-	Yes	-
Atherton Colliers JFC	East	Yes	Yes	-
Atherton Town FC	East	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ashtonians FC	West	Yes	Yes	Yes
Astley & Tyldesley FC	East	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bickershaw FC	Central	Yes	Yes	-
East Leigh JFC	Central	Yes	Yes	Yes
Golborne Sports FC	Central	Yes	Yes	-
Hawley Athletic FC	West	Yes	Yes	-
Hawkley FC	West	Yes	Yes	-
Highfield Grange FC	West	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hindley All Saints FC	Central	Yes	Yes	-
Hindley Town FC	Central	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hindsford AFC	East	Yes	-	-
Leigh Foundry FC	East	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leigh Genesis FC	Central	-	Yes	Yes
Pine Villa FC	West	Yes	Yes	Yes
Platt Bridge FC	Central	Yes	Yes	Yes
Standish Panthers JFC	West	Yes	Yes	Yes
Winstanley Warriors FC	West	-	Yes	Yes
Total	-	18 / 21	20 / 21	13 / 21

Of the clubs which responded and answer the relevant questions, most clubs indicate they would be able accommodate more teams if they had better access to more suitable training facilities such as 3G. This is closely followed by match pitches and then ancillary provision.

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Exported demand

Exported demand refers to Wigan Borough based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the Local Authority for their home fixtures, this can be due to their pitch requirements not being met (lack of supply or quality issues) or needing to access a central venue due to the league they play in.

At youth and mini age groups, several leagues operate on a central venue basis which accounts for some exported demand from Wigan Borough. However, this also applies vice versa for teams based in neighbouring authorities such as Bolton, with many playing at central venues inside of the Borough. Once progressed through the age groups, youth and mini teams at Wigan Borough-based clubs will require pitches within Wigan Borough (i.e. From U13 onwards).

According to affiliation data from 2024/25 season, there are 18 teams training in Wigan Borough but playing matches outside of the Borough these are as follows:

- ✦ Ashton Park JFC (Two teams play at Upholland High School – West Lancashire).
- ✦ Astley & Tyldesley JFC (two u7 and one u8, Bury, Bolton & District Junior Football League).
- ✦ Astley & Tyldesley JFC (six u8, Manchester Youth Super League).
- ✦ Highfield Grange (Two teams JMO Sports Park – West Lancashire).
- ✦ Pennington Football Club (two u8, Bury, Bolton & District Junior Football League).
- ✦ Standish Panthers (Four teams Burscough Primary Academy – West Lancashire).

The majority of these, apart from Ashton Park JFC and Standish Panthers, export demand to access central venue sites. These teams are additional demand from the 776 teams referenced above and will be included in the in the FA 3G training model in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G).

In addition to the above both Shevington FC and Pine Villa FC export partial amounts of demand into the authorities of West Lancashire and Chorley, respectively. This is based on the clubs' locations operating close to the boundary with Wigan Borough. Therefore, it is more convenient for them to access these sites and is not classed as fully exported.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within Wigan Borough due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

Daisy Hill Juniors currently imports match play demand for eight teams (one senior men's and seven youth boys' teams) into Wigan Borough, utilising facilities located at Howe Bridge New Pitches and Bee Fold Lane.

Additionally, both Bolton Wanderers Girls FC (one youth team) and Salford United FC (one youth boys' team) import match play demand for one team respectively into Wigan Borough, utilising Howe Bridge New Pitches and New City Road Playing Field.

These teams have been included in the capacity analysis below, however, will not be included in the FA 3G pitch training model in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) as it is anticipated they will want to train within the locality of their own local authority.

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Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

The Strategy & Action Plan will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development within Wigan Borough.

Participation growth

Of responding clubs, eight report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide within the next two seasons, totalling a predicted growth of 27 teams, as seen below.

Table 2.13: Identification of aspirational future growth from football club consultation in Wigan Borough

Club	Analysis area	Gender	Number of teams	Pitch size	MES per week ⁹
AFC Armed Forces	West	Mens	1	Adult	0.5
AFC Armed Forces	West	Boys	1	11v11	0.5
AFC Armed Forces	West	Boys	1	9v9	0.5
AFC Armed Forces	West	Women	1	Adult	0.5
AFC Armed Forces	West	Girls	1	11v11	0.5
AFC Armed Forces	West	Girls	1	9v9	0.5
AFC Armed Forces	West	Mixed	1	5v5	0.5
Ashtonians FC	West	Mens	1	Adult	0.5
Ashtonians FC	West	Boys	1	11v11	0.5
Astley & Tyldesley FC	East	Women	1	Adult	0.5
Astley & Tyldesley FC	East	Girls	1	11v11	0.5
Astley & Tyldesley FC	East	Girls	1	9v9	0.5
Bickershaw FC	Central	Mens	1	Adult	0.5
Bickershaw FC	Central	Boys	1	11v11	0.5
Bickershaw FC	Central	Boys	1	9v9	0.5
Bickershaw FC	Central	Women	1	Adult	0.5
Bickershaw FC	Central	Girls	1	11v11	0.5
Bickershaw FC	Central	Girls	1	9v9	0.5
Bickershaw FC	Central	Mixed	1	5v5	0.5
Hawkley FC	West	Boys	1	11v11	0.5
Hawkley FC	West	Mixed	1	5v5	0.5
Highfield Grange FC	West	Women	1	Adult	0.5
Hindsford AFC	East	Mens	1	Adult	0.5
Hindley Town FC	West	Mixed	4	5v5	2
-	-	Totals	27	-	13.5

Atherton Town FC, Winstanley Warriors FC, Eastleigh JFC, Cherrybrook FC, Leigh Genesis FC and Platt Bridge FC all report of ambitions to increase demand, however, do not quantify this.

The total future demand expressed by the clubs listed above amounts to 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week (as two teams equates to one match equivalent session playing on a home and away basis).

⁹ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Broken down by pitch type, four match equivalent sessions per week are identified on adult pitches, 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches, 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches and 3.5 match equivalent session per week on mini 5v5 pitches.

Astley & Tyldesley FC reports aspiration to increase the number women and girl's teams within its club, however, the current ancillary facilities are not suitable to accommodate women's and girls' demand.

It should be noted that information regarding future demand was gathered from club consultation and cross referenced with the Football Foundation and County FAs for accuracy. However, as this future growth is aspirational it will not feature within the supply and demand analysis within the Assessment Report (and for consistency with other sports). It will be identified in the Strategy & Action Plan as a bespoke scenario.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2041 (the period to which this assessment projects), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference total current population in 2025 of 329,262 will increase to 347,325 by 2041. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.14: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent sessions per week ¹⁰
Adult Men's (18-45)	1:416	6.98	7	3.5
Adult Women's (18-45)	1:3,667	0.78	1	0.5
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:53	7.66	8	4
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:279	1.37	1	0.5
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:34	6.15	6	3
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:209	0.93	1	0.5
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:48	7.85	8	4
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:62	6.05	6	3
Total	-	-	38	19

As the 38 teams expect to be generated (equating to 19 match equivalent sessions per week) are authority wide and not accredited to any analysis area, they will be added onto the overall supply and demand total for each pitch type within the 'Supply and Demand' section later.

¹⁰ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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Figures surrounding the extra demand generated for football training provision (hours per week on a 11v11 3G pitch with sports lighting) from future population will be referenced within Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).

Future demand summary

Future demand carried through to the supply and demand analysis is based on population growth, as future demand reported by clubs is considered more aspirational. However, the proceeding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the growth was realised. A separate scenario will also be run based on recent historical growth rates provided by the County FAs.

Taking the above into consideration, a total requirement for four match equivalent sessions per week is identified on adult pitches, 4.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches, 3.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches, four match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and three match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.

It should be noted that the future demand, specifically for women and girls (one women's and two girls), from population increase is minimal as it does not take into consideration the FA aspirations to increase female participation in football through the establishment and foreseen future effect of the FA Wildcats and FA Squad programmes and Inspiring Positive Change Strategy.

Compared to the previous PPOSS (2017) there has been an increase of eight additional women's teams and 24 additional girls' team. Taking this into consideration combined with the aspirations highlighted through club consultation it can be said that women and girls' participation is going to continue to grow.

This anticipated increase in female demand will be examined in greater detail within the Strategy & Action Plan using information provided by the County FAs and Football Foundation. It should be noted if demand does increase it would be imperative that sufficient facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing provision.

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

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

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Table 2.15 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

Match equivalent sessions per week

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

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the usage at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all, and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches onsite and whether there is access to an onsite AGP.

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is a little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cuttings and line marking.

For school sites which are available for community use but that currently do not have any external hirers, one match equivalent session per week, per pitch has been accredited to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to them being completely unused.

It should be noted that provision at Byrchall High School has not been included in the capacity table below as, at the time of writing, is under construction.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Wigan Borough, peak time for adult football is Saturday PM and youth 9v9 is Sunday morning, whereas it is Saturday morning for all remaining pitch types, as most teams across all age groups play at this time.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed. The table below identifies the way capacity balance is represented in Table 2.16.

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Table 2.14: Capacity balance examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	With a dash, this indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	Not highlighted by with a value, this indicates that the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.

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Table 2.15: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
1	AFC Hindley Juniors Football Club	6015038	WN2 3SB	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity.
1	AFC Hindley Juniors Football Club	6015038	WN2 3SB	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	2	0	0.5	Played to capacity.
1	AFC Hindley Juniors Football Club	6015038	WN2 3SB	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
2	Ashfield Park	6008122	WN6 0EX	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
2	Ashfield Park	6008122	WN6 0EX	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
3	Ashton Athletic FC	6015036	WN4 0NR	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	0.5	Played to capacity.
3	Ashton Athletic FC	6015036	WN4 0NR	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	2	2	0	1	Played to capacity.
4	Ashton Town AFC	6021625	WN4 8SL	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	1040934	M29 7DW	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	1040934	M29 7DW	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	2	6	4	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	1040934	M29 7DW	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	7	4	3	-	Overplayed by three match equivalent sessions.
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	1040934	M29 7DW	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
6	Atherton Town Football Club	30003276	M46 0RQ	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
7	Bedford High School	1201590	WN7 2LU	East	No	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
7	Bedford High School	1201590	WN7 2LU	East	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
8	Bee Fold Lane	30008439	M46 0BL	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	4	Poor	4.5	4	0.5	4	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
9	Bryn Recreation Ground (Whitehill Street Playing Fields)	1040664	WN4 0AA	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
9	Bryn Recreation Ground (Whitehill Street Playing Fields)	1040664	WN4 0AA	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	-	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity.
9	Bryn Recreation Ground (Whitehill Street Playing Fields)	1040664	WN4 0AA	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
10	Cale Lane Playing Fields	1040632	WN2 1HA	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity.
10	Cale Lane Playing Fields	1040632	WN2 1HA	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
11	Cansfield High School	1201714	WN4 9TP	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
11	Cansfield High School	1201714	WN4 9TP	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
12	Christopher Park Training Ground	30004846	WN6 8LB	West	No	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	4	Good	-	-	-	-	Elite club training ground.
12	Christopher Park Training Ground	30004846	WN6 8LB	West	No	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	-	-	-	-	Elite club training ground.
13	Coronation Park (Wigan)	6007388	WN6 8JP	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
14	Crilly Park	6015045	M46 9WW	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	2	2	0	0.5	Played to capacity.
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge	1002652	WN2 2HP	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge	1002652	WN2 2HP	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular activity.
17	Devonshire Road Playing Fields	6007474	M46 9QB	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
18	Dootsons Park Playing Fields	6009271	WN7 3AG	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	-	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity.
18	Dootsons Park Playing Fields	6009271	WN7 3AG	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
19	Douglas Park	6009971	M46 9DZ	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
20	The Brick Communtiy Stadium (Wigan Athletic FC And Wigan Warriors RLFC)	30003456	WN5 0UH	West	No	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	Elite club ground.
21	Fred Longworth High School	1002646	M29 8JN	East	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Not available for community use.
21	Fred Longworth High School	1002646	M29 8JN	East	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
24	Golborne High School	1203240	WA3 3EL	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	3	2	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
24	Golborne High School	1203240	WA3 3EL	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	4.5	2	2.5	-	Overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
24	Golborne High School	1203240	WA3 3EL	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	5	2	3	-	Overplayed by three match equivalent sessions.
24	Golborne High School	1203240	WA3 3EL	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	4.5	2	2.5	-	Overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	1103396	WA3 2SE	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
27	Hawkley Hall High School	1201723	WN3 5NY	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	6009284	WA3 2AH	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	2	1	1	0.5	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	6009284	WA3 2AH	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	4.5	6	1.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	6009284	WA3 2AH	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	4	6	2	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	6009284	WA3 2AH	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	3.5	8	4.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	6009284	WA3 2AH	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	4.5	2	2.5	1	Overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
29	Outwood Academy Hindley	1201702	WN2 4LG	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular activity.
30	Hindley Town FC	6015081	WN2 3HY	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
30	Hindley Town FC	6015081	WN2 3HY	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
30	Hindley Town FC	6015081	WN2 3HY	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3	4	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
30	HMP Hindley	6015081	WN2 3HY	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
31	Hindsford AFC	30003026	M29 8JH	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
34	Howe Bridge New Pitches	6019027	M46 0PJ	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	4	Standard	10	8	1.5	2.5	Overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
34	Howe Bridge New Pitches	6019027	M46 0PJ	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	4	Standard	3.5	8	4.5	2.5	Actual spare capacity.
35	Kingsdown Road Playing Field	6008022	WN2 5RS	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
36	Legh Street Playing Fields	6009329	WA3 3NY	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	1.5	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
37	Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium	1037960	WN7 4GX	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	1040939	WN7 4GY	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	6008034	WN5 0UE	West	Yes	Leisure United	Secure	Adult	-	3	Good	1.5	9	7.5	2.5	Actual spare capacity.
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	6008034	WN5 0UE	West	Yes	Leisure United	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	1.5	4	2.5	1	Actual spare capacity.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
40	Leyland Park	6009342	WN2 3RX	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	3	2	1	1	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
40	Leyland Park	6009342	WN2 3RX	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	1201597	WA3 1DU	Central	Yes	Education	Secure	Adult	-	3	Standard	7	6	1	3	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	1201597	WA3 1DU	Central	Yes	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0.5	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
43	Marsh Playing Fields	6009132	WN7 5DE	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	1.5	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
43	Marsh Playing Fields	6009132	WN7 5DE	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
45	New City Road Playing Field	6017869	M28 1XZ	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
46	Oldham's Fold	30008460	WN5 8HB	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
47	Parsons Meadow	6008058	WN3 5UB	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Standard	1	4	3	2	Actual spare capacity.
47	Parsons Meadow	6008058	WN3 5UB	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
47	Parsons Meadow	6008058	WN3 5UB	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	2	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
47	Parsons Meadow	6008058	WN3 5UB	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
48	Pennington Football Club	6014782	M46 0SE	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	2	3	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
48	Pennington Football Club	6014782	M46 0SE	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	3	4	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
48	Pennington Football Club	6014782	M46 0SE	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
49	Queensway Playing Fields	1040667	WN7 2TR	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	2	2	0	1	Played to capacity.
49	Queensway Playing Fields	1040667	WN7 2TR	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
50	Robin Park Arena	30009815	WN5 0UH	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	-	-	-	-	Dual use pitch used with Rugby League for elite clubs.
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	6007920	WN5 0PN	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	3	Poor	3.5	3	0.5	2	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	6007920	WN5 0PN	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
52	Shevington High School	1201574	WN6 8AB	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
52	Shevington High School	1201574	WN6 8AB	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular activity.
52	Shevington High School	1201574	WN6 8AB	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular activity.
53	Shevington Recreational Ground	6000342	WN6 8HB	West	Yes	Parish council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	4	2	2	0.5	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
54	Siddow Park	30003500	WN7 3ET	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	0.5	Played to capacity.
55	Southlands Avenue Playing Fields	6007419	WN6 0TH	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	-	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
56	St Catherines Playing Fields	6007896	WN1 3XJ	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Poor	2	2	0	1.5	Played to capacity.
56	St Catherines Playing Fields	6007896	WN1 3XJ	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
57	St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School	1201725	WN4 9PF	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular activity.
57	St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School	1201725	WN4 9PF	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
59	St George's Park	1040665	M29 8HG	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
59	St George's Park	1040665	M29 8HG	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
60	St James Park (Wigan Rovers FC)	6019096	WN3 5DP	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
62	St John Rigby College	1200790	WN5 0LJ	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	2	Standard	4.5	4	0.5	1	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
62	St John Rigby College	1200790	WN5 0LJ	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	2	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
62	St John Rigby College	1200790	WN5 0LJ	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
63	St John's Street Playing Fields	6009158	WN2 5RH	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	2	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
63	St John's Street Playing Fields	6009158	WN2 5RH	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	2	0	-	Played to capacity.
64	St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	6009158	M29 7EE	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	2	Good	3.5	6	2.5	1.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
64	St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	6009158	M29 7EE	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	2.5	6	3.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
64	St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	6009158	M29 7EE	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	2	3	1	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
64	St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	6009158	M29 7EE	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Good	4	8	4	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
65	St Peters Catholic High School	1201722	WN5 8NU	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2	2	0	1	Played to capacity.
66	St Wilfrids Catholic Primary School	6014422	WN4 8SJ	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	3	1	2	0.5	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
67	Standish Community High School	1201530	WN6 0NX	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular activity.
68	The Byrchall High School	1201581	WN4 9PQ	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular activity.
69	The Convent Playing Fields	6018308	WN6 0UJ	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
69	The Convent Playing Fields	6018308	WN6 0UJ	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
70	The Ley Recreation Ground	6007350	M29 7BE	East	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
71	The Skuna Stadium	30006297	M46 9DS	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	30003063	WN5 9XN	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0.5	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	30003063	WN5 9XN	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	1002655	WN5 7XF	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	7	4	3	-	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
77	Winstanley Warriors FC (Little Lane Playing Field)	6008046	WN3 6PZ	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	2	3	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
77	Winstanley Warriors FC (Little Lane Playing Field)	6008046	WN3 6PZ	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Good	4.5	8	3.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
77	Winstanley Warriors FC (Little Lane Playing Field)	6008046	WN3 6PZ	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
95	Aspull Church Primary School	6014455	WN2 1QT	West	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	30006461	WN5 8HU	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	-	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	30006461	WN5 8HU	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	4.5	4	0.5	-	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	30006461	WN5 8HU	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	2	4	2	2	Actual spare capacity.
98	Britannia Bridge Primary School	30005635	WN3 4SD	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	2	2	0	-	Played to capacity.
98	Britannia Bridge Primary School	30005635	WN3 4SD	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
99	Brunswick Park (Hindley)	30003123	WN2 4XW	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
99	Brunswick Park (Hindley)	30003123	WN2 4XW	Central	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	0	0.5	Played to capacity.
101	Dean Trust Wigan (Formerly Abraham Guest Academy)	1037812	WN5 0DQ	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
101	Dean Trust Wigan (Formerly Abraham Guest Academy)	1037812	WN5 0DQ	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	1	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
103	Gilded Hollins Community School	6014410	WN7 3PQ	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
104	Hawkhurst Park	30003369	WN7 2TA	East	Yes	Community organisation	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
104	Hawkhurst Park	30003369	WN7 2TA	East	Yes	Community organisation	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	-	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity.
105	Highfield St. Matthews Primary School	6012263	WN3 6BL	West	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	2	1	Not available for community use.
106	Hindley All Saints C Of E Primary School	6014595	WN2 3QS	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	4	2	Not available for community use.
107	Hindley Green Community Primary School Playing Field	30007074	WN2 4SS	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	2	0	1	Played to capacity.
109	Holy Family Catholic Primary School Platt Bridge	6014444	WN2 5JF	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	1	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
110	Ince C Of E Primary School	6014435	WN2 2AL	West	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	2	1	Not available for community use.
111	King George V Playing Fields (Ashton-In-Makerfield)	6007336	WN4 8QX	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
112	Lodge Lane Playing Fields (Hindsford Junior FC)	30007586	M46 9BN	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Standard	2.5	8	5.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
112	Lodge Lane Playing Fields (Hindsford Junior FC)	30007586	M46 9BN	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
112	Lodge Lane Playing Fields (Hindsford Junior FC)	30007586	M46 9BN	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
115	Meadowbank Primary School And Nursery Education Centre	6014587	M46 0HX	East	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular activity.
116	Millbrook Primary School	6014619	WN6 8DL	West	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
117	Miners Welfare Playing Fields	1040668	WN2 5AJ	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	1	Utilising spare capacity would make the pitch overplayed.
120	Nicol Mere Primary School	6014617	WN4 8DF	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Not available for community use.
120	Nicol Mere Primary School	6014617	WN4 8DF	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
121	Orrell Lamberhead Green Community Primary School	6014454	WN5 0AW	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
121	Orrell Lamberhead Green Community Primary School	6014454	WN5 0AW	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
124	R L Hughes Primary School	6014447	WN4 9QL	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
124	R L Hughes Primary School	6014447	WN4 9QL	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	3	2	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
126	Shevington Vale Primary School	6014476	WN6 8EW	West	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
128	St Aidans RC School	30003271	WN3 6EE	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
131	St James' C Of E Primary School	6014445	WN3 5XE	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	3	1	2	-	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
133	St John's Cofe Primary School, Abram	6014553	WN2 5QE	Central	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
137	St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School	6014471	M29 7DY	East	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
138	Thomas Street Recreation Ground	6009906	WN2 4SS	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
138	Thomas Street Recreation Ground	6009906	WN2 4SS	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
138	Thomas Street Recreation Ground	6009906	WN2 4SS	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
141	Wigan St Andrew's C Of E Junior And Infant School	6014607	WN6 7AU	West	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.
142	Winstanley Community Primary School	6014597	WN3 6JP	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
143	Wood Fold Primary School	6014563	WN6 0TS	West	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Not available for community use.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
145	Atherton High School	30003560	M46 0AY	East	No	Education	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular activity.
146	Bickershaw Playing Fields	30010437	WN2 4AD	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
147	Bryn Gates Playing Fields	6019055	WN2 5JZ	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	20001887	WN2 2DZ	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	8	2	6	-	Overplayed by six match equivalent sessions due to dual use with rugby league.
153	Round Ash Park	30007823	WN7 3NA	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	4	2	2	-	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions due to dual use with rugby union.
153	Round Ash Park	30007823	WN7 3NA	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	4	2	2	-	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions due to dual use with rugby union.
153	Round Ash Park	30007823	WN7 3NA	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session due to dual use with rugby union.
153	Round Ash Park	30007823	WN7 3NA	East	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	1	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions due to dual use with rugby union.
167	St Oswalds Catholic Primary School	6014575	WN4 9AZ	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
167	St Oswalds Catholic Primary School	6014575	WN4 9AZ	Central	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Played to capacity.
170	Atherton St George's C Of E Primary School	6014518	M46 0HJ	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Poor	2	4	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
170	Atherton St George's C Of E Primary School	6014518	M46 0HJ	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
170	Atherton St George's C Of E Primary School	6014518	M46 0HJ	East	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	0.5	Overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
173	Moor Road Recreation Ground	30008073	WN5 8SH	West	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.

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Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play	Carrying capacity	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
176	Orrell Holgate Primary School	6014605	WN5 8SJ	West	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	-	WN2 1PP	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1	3	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	-	WN2 1PP	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	1	6	5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	-	WN2 1PP	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	2.5	6	3.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	-	WN2 1PP	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	2	4	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	-	WN2 1PP	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	3.5	4	0.5	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
249	Jubilee Park, Wigan	-	WN4 9BH	Central	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
252	Vicarage Lane	30008371	WN6 8HP	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	3	2	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
252	Vicarage Lane	30008371	WN6 8HP	West	Yes	Sports club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3	4	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.

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Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Wigan Borough. It totals 28 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 37 pitches at 18 sites.

Table 2.16: Actual (peak time) spare capacity site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)
9	Bryn Recreation Ground (Whitehill Street Playing Fields)	Central	Adult	1	1
9	Bryn Recreation Ground (Whitehill Street Playing Fields)	Central	7v7	1	1
9	Bryn Recreation Ground (Whitehill Street Playing Fields)	Central	11v11	1	1
17	Devonshire Road Playing Fields	East	Adult	2	1.5
18	Dootsons Park Playing Fields	East	5v5	1	1
18	Dootsons Park Playing Fields	East	11v11	1	0.5
30	Hindley Town FC	Central	Adult	1	1
30	Hindley Town FC	Central	9v9	1	0.5
34	Howe Bridge New Pitches	East	9v9	4	2.5
37	Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium	East	Adult	1	0.5
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	East	Adult	1	0.5
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	West	Adult	3	2.5
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	West	11v11	1	1
47	Parsons Meadow	West	Adult	2	2
47	Parsons Meadow	West	11v11	1	1
48	Pennington Football Club	East	9v9	1	0.5
59	St George's Park	East	Adult	1	0.5
63	St John's Street Playing Fields	Central	Adult	2	1
71	The Skuna Stadium	East	Adult	1	0.5
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	7v7	1	1
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	9v9	2	2
104	Hawkhurst Park	East	9v9	1	1
104	Hawkhurst Park	East	5v5	1	1
112	Lodge Lane Playing Fields (Hindsford Junior FC)	East	5v5	2	1
112	Lodge Lane Playing Fields (Hindsford Junior FC)	East	9v9	1	0.5
138	Thomas Street Recreation Ground	Central	7v7	1	0.5
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	West	Adult	1	1
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	West	11v11	1	1
-	-	-	Total	38	29

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, actual spare capacity is identified in each of the three analysis areas with the West and East analysis areas providing the most with 11.5 match equivalent sessions per week respectively.

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Adult pitches have the most actual spare capacity of all the pitch types with 12 match equivalent sessions per week with the least being on mini 5v5 pitches with just two match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.17: Actual spare capacity summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	3	1	0.5	1.5	-	6
East	3.5	0.5	4.5	-	2	10.5
West	5.5	3	2	1	-	11.5
Wigan Borough 2025	12	4.5	7	3.5	2	28
Wigan Borough 2017	30.5	10	6.5	1.5	-	48.5
Percentage change	61%	55%	8%	133%	-	42%

There is significantly less actual spare capacity on grass pitches compared to the 2017 study. In total it has reduced from 48.5 match equivalent sessions per week to 28 match equivalent sessions.

This is due to significant growth in age formats which predominantly play on grass pitches, such as adult and youth 11v11. In comparison the growth in youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 demand has been accommodated, in part, on the increases in 3G pitches.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Wigan Borough, 42 pitches across 30 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 54.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.18: Overplay site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	East	(11v11)	1	3
8	Bee Fold Lane	East	Adult	4	0.5
24	Golborne High School	Central	(5v5)	1	1
24	Golborne High School	Central	(7v7)	1	2.5
24	Golborne High School	Central	(11v11)	2	3
24	Golborne High School	Central	(9v9)	2	2.5
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Central	Adult	1	0.5
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Central	Adult	1	1
28	Hesketh Meadow Playing Fields	Central	(9v9)	2	2.5
34	Howe Bridge New Pitches	East	Adult	4	1.5
35	Kingsdown Road Playing Field	Central	Adult	1	0.5
36	Lekh Street Playing Fields	Central	Adult	2	0.5
40	Leyland Park	Central	(11v11)	2	1
40	Leyland Park	Central	(9v9)	1	1
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	Central	Adult	3	1

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES)
42	Lowton Church Of England High School	Central	(9v9)	1	0.5
43	Marsh Playing Fields	East	Adult	2	0.5
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	West	Adult	3	0.5
53	Shevington Recreational Ground	West	(11v11)	1	2
62	St John Rigby College	West	Adult	2	0.5
66	St Wilfrids Catholic Primary School	Central	(9v9)	1	2
69	The Convent Playing Fields	West	Adult	1	0.5
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	West	(11v11)	1	0.5
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	West	(9v9)	1	0.5
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	West	(11v11)	2	3
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	(11v11)	2	0.5
98	Britannia Bridge Primary School	West	(9v9)	1	1
101	Dean Trust Wigan (Used to be Abraham Guest Academy)	West	(11v11)	1	0.5
109	Holy Family Catholic Primary School Platt Bridge	Central	(11v11)	1	0.5
111	King George V Playing Fields (Ashton-In-Makerfield)	Central	(11v11)	1	0.5
112	Lodge Lane Playing Fields (Hindsford Junior FC)	East	(11v11)	1	1
124	R L Hughes Primary School	Central	(5v5)	1	0.5
124	R L Hughes Primary School	Central	(7v7)	1	1
131	St James' C Of E Primary School	West	(9v9)	1	2
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	West	Adult	1	6
153	Round Ash Park	East	(5v5)	1	2
153	Round Ash Park	East	(7v7)	1	2
153	Round Ash Park	East	(11v11)	1	1
153	Round Ash Park	East	(9v9)	1	0.5
167	St Oswalds Catholic Primary School	Central	(5v5)	1	0.5
170	Atherton St George's C Of E Primary School	East	(9v9)	1	1.5
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	West	Adult	1	1
-	-	-	Totals	42	54.5

Pitches are generally overplayed due to high levels of demand coupled with poor pitch quality (39/42 or 93%) with only one overplayed pitch assessed as good quality located at Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare. In addition, substantial overplay can be found at sites where pitches are either overmarked for rugby league (Shevington Sharks ARLFC / Wigan St Cuthberts and Norley Hall Sports Club) or rugby union (Round Ash Park).

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Additionally overplay can be found at 12 education sites (Golborne High School, Lowton Church of England High School, St John Rigby College, St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, Winstanley College Sports Centre, Britannia Bridge Primary School, Dean Trust Wigan, Holy Family Catholic Primary School, R L Hughes Primary School, St James C of E Primary School, St Oswald's Catholic Primary School and Atherton St Georges C of E Primary School) where community, curricular and extracurricular demand all contribute to overplay.

Overplay is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, most overplay is located on youth 11v11 pitches and in the Central Analysis Area.

Table 2.19: Overplay summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Central	3.5	5	8.5	3.5	2	22.5
East	2.5	5	2	2	2	13.5
West	8.5	6.5	3.5	-	-	18
Wigan Borough 2025	14.5	16.5	14	5.5	4	54.5
Wigan Borough 2017	15	9.5	14	2	1	39
Percentage change	3%	74%	0	175%	300%	40%

As shown in levels of overplay have broadly increased in Wigan Borough since the 2017 study. This is due in part to the increase in levels of demand and the worsening overall of pitch quality.

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. As stated earlier, future demand, at this stage, is calculated based on what has been identified through population growth.

Adult pitch capacity

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	3	3.5	0.5
East	3.5	2.5	1
West	5.5	8.5	3
Wigan Borough	12	14.5	2.5

The table above shows that there is currently a shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week on adult pitches in Wigan Borough. Shortfalls can be found in all analysis areas apart from the East which has actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week.

Table 2.21: Future supply and demand position for adult pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Wigan Borough	2.5	4	6.5

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After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	1	5	4
East	0.5	5	4.5
West	3	6.5	3.5
Wigan Borough	4.5	16.5	12

The table above shows that there is currently a shortfall of 12 match equivalent session per week on youth 11v11 pitches in Wigan Borough. Shortfalls, as a result of overplay, can be found in each of the three analysis areas.

Table 2.23: Future supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Wigan Borough	12	4.5	16.5

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 16.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

Table 2.24: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	0.5	8.5	8
East	4.5	2	2.5
West	2	3.5	1.5
Wigan Borough	7	14	7

There is currently a shortfall amounting to seven match equivalent session per week on youth 9v9 pitches in Wigan Borough. Overplay can be found in the Central and West analysis areas. The East Analysis Area has actual spare capacity with the remaining analysis areas played to capacity.

Table 2.25: Future supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Wigan Borough	7	3.5	10.5

After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

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Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Table 2.26: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	1.5	3.5	2
East	1	2	1
West	1	-	1
Wigan Borough	3.5	5.5	2

There is currently a shortfall amounting to two match equivalent session per week on mini 7v7 pitches in Wigan Borough. Overplay can be found in the Central and East analysis areas. The West Analysis Area has actual spare capacity with the remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.27: Future supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Wigan Borough	2	4	6

After considering future demand, a shortfall arises of six match equivalent sessions per week.

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

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

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	-	2	2
East	2	2	0
West	-	-	0
Wigan Borough	2	4	2

There is currently a shortfall amounting to two match equivalent session per week on mini 5v5 pitches in Wigan Borough. Overplay can be found in the Central Analysis Area with the remaining areas played to capacity.

Table 2.29: Future supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Wigan Borough	2	3	5

After considering future demand, a shortfall arises of five match equivalent sessions per week.

2.6: Conclusion

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

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Table 2.30: Summary of supply and demand in match equivalent sessions per week

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	12	14.5	2.5	4	6.5
Youth 11v11	4.5	16.5	12	4.5	16.5
Youth 9v9	7	14	7	3.5	10.5
Mini 7v7	3.5	5.5	2	4	6
Mini 5v5	2	4	2	3	5

There are current shortfalls across all pitch types in Wigan Borough amounting to 25.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is largely due to high levels of demand combined with poor pitch quality across these pitch types. When considering future demand shortfall amounts to 44.5 match equivalent sessions per week with a shortfall identified across each pitch type.

In comparison to the 2017 study, overall, the supply and demand for grass football pitches have worsened. Previously adult and youth 11v11 pitches had spare capacity whereas there are now shortfalls. Deficits have also worsened marginal on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types. A direct comparison cannot be made due to the way the supply and demand summary was analysed factoring in both population and club aspirational growth.

Supply and demand summary

- There are currently shortfalls across all pitch types in Wigan Borough amounting to 25.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is largely due to high levels of demand combined with poor pitch quality across these pitch types.
- When considering future demand shortfall amounts to 44.5 match equivalent sessions per week with a shortfall identified across each pitch type.

Supply summary

- In total, there are 227 pitches across 105 unique sites in Wigan Borough, of which, 197 across 85 sites are available for community use. All pitches that are not available for community use are either located at education sites of elite sports clubs' facilities such as The Brick Community Stadium and Christopher Park Training Ground.
- Most community available pitches can be found in the West Analysis Area with 74 pitches provided (38%). This is followed by the East Analysis Area with 62 pitches (31%) respectively.
- There are 15 sites, which were not marked as formal pitches for the 2024/25 season.
- Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC and Wigan Town FC are currently in conversations with the Council regarding reinstating provision at disused site Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field, known locally as Imperial Fields.
- Standish Panthers FC is currently in the progress of exploring options to develop a site within the locality of Standish in order to centralise demand, increase levels of participation and provide an additional capacity for wider community clubs and groups in the locality.
- Hindley Town FC plans to extend its site, of the same name, to establish more pitches. It currently accommodates four pitches and states it can potentially establish three more pitches of various sizes.
- Most large clubs (such as Astley & Tyldesley, Wigan Junior Latics, Winstanley Warriors FC and Atherton Town FC) have freehold/long term leases or licence agreements for their respective sites. East Leigh Juniors states it's close to securing a long-term lease at Queensway Playing Fields from the Council.
- The quality of football pitches across Wigan Borough has been assessed via a combination of site visits carried out in November 2024, PitchPower reports, and user consultation. Most pitches are assessed as either standard or poor quality (81%), with only 19% pitches assessed as good quality.
- Eight sites are considered to have overall poor quality ancillary facilities including changing facilities.

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Demand summary

- ◀ In total there are 776 football teams across 80 clubs which currently play within Wigan Borough. This is made up of 115 men's, 15 women's, 185 youth 11v11 boys', 30 youth 11v11 girls', 126 youth 9v9 boys', 19 youth 9v9 girls', 162 mini 7v7 and 124 mini 5v5 teams.
- ◀ Growth can be seen across all age groups and demographics since the 2017 with an overall growth of 32% or 189 teams. Increases are noted within the women and girls' segments which have seen a progression of eight teams (133%) and 24 team (96%) respectively.
- ◀ Four teams from four clubs play within the NLS, as seen in the table below. This is in addition to professional club, Wigan Athletic FC, which plays within the EFL League One.
- ◀ In Wigan Borough, both Wigan Athletic Ladies & Girls FC and Hindley Juniors FC have teams that play within the Women's NLS.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, 20 indicate they could field additional teams if they had access to better training provision such as 3G, however, none of the clubs quantify a specific amount.
- ◀ According to affiliation data from 2024/25 season, there are 18 teams training in Wigan Borough but playing matches on venues outside of the Borough.
- ◀ Daisy Hill Juniors, Bolton Wanderers Girls FC and Salford United FC all currently import demand into Wigan Borough for match play demand.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, eight report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide within the next two seasons, totalling a predicted growth of 27 teams.
- ◀ In Wigan Borough, 42 pitches across 30 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 54.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

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

3.1: Introduction

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

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

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. RFL Stadium pitches require testing every two years and is slightly above the requirements for WR22/RFL Community pitches which requires retesting every three years. Community games can be played on RFL Community compliant pitches, but Tiers 1 & 2 must be played on a RFL Stadium compliant surface if they intend to play on 3G. Training demand can take place on both RFL Stadium and RFL Community pitches.

Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity. Other sports that are known to use 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse.

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

3.2: Supply

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

For rugby union, a 3G pitch must measure 106 x 68 metres for senior match play, with a 5-metre run off around the full perimeter. Smaller sized pitches can, however, be used to support training demand providing that they are installed to the correct specifications.

For rugby league, the preferred size of a 3G pitch must measure 116 x 68 metres, with a maximum size 3G pitch measuring 122 x 68 metres and for a minimum size 3G pitch it must measure 100 x 55 metres all with a standard three metre run off.

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

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPOSS for any new 11v11 3G pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions for the sports that they will be established to cater for.

Based on the above specification, there are 14 11v11 3G pitches in Wigan Borough across 10 sites. All 14 pitches are available for community use and have sports lighting. Since 2017, there has been an increase of seven 11v11 size pitches with three at Leisure United Laithwaite Park, two at Leisure United William Fosters and one each at Sutton Park and Lowton Church of England High School.

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Table 3.1: 11v11 3G pitches in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Active Places Power ID	Ownership / management	Postcode	Community use?	Sports lit?	Size ¹¹	Certification	Expiry
33	Howe Bridge Leisure Centre	East	1002649	Council	M46 0PJ	Yes	Yes	91 x 55	FA	31/05/27
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	East	1040939	Council	WN7 4GY	Yes	Yes	110 x 65	FIFA	31/05/28
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	East	1040939	Council	WN7 4GY	Yes	Yes	112 x 55	FIFA WR	31/05/28 24/08/25
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	West	6008034	Leisure United	WN5 0UE	Yes	Yes	120 x 84	FIFA	31/05/27
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	West	6008034	Leisure United	WN5 0UE	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	FIFA	31/05/27
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	West	6008034	Leisure United	WN5 0UE	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	FIFA	31/05/27
42	Lowton Church of England High School	Central	1201597	Education	WA3 1DU	Yes	Yes	91 x 55	FA	31/05/27
50	Robin Park Arena	West	30009815	Sports Club	WN5 0UH	Yes	Yes	100 x 60	FA	14/11/25
62	St John Rigby College	West	1200790	Education	WN5 0LJ	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	-	-
65	St Peters Catholic High School	West	1201722	Education	WN5 8NU	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	FA	31/05/26
101	Dean Trust Wigan (Abraham Academy)	West	1037812	Education	WN5 0DQ	Yes	Yes	94 x 57	FA	31/05/26
151	Sutton Park	East	30011208	Sports Club	WN7 2LZ	Yes	Yes	112 x 65	WR (Expired) RFL	11/01/24
158	Leisure United William Fosters	West	6008089	Leisure United	WN2 2BU	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	FIFA	31/05/27
158	Leisure United William Fosters	West	6008089	Leisure United	WN2 2BU	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	FIFA	31/05/26

¹¹ Size is in metres

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The FA certification of the pitch at Robin Park Arena may expire during the PPOSS writing process. With the site primarily being used for rugby league activity, it is unknown if retesting will be prioritised, however, this should be monitored.

Nine 11v11 3G pitches are in the West Analysis Area, four in the East Analysis Area and one in the Central Analysis Area.

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

Analysis area	No. of 11v11 pitches available for community use
2017	
Ashton	-
Leigh	3
Wigan Town	4
Total	7
2025	
Central (Formerly Ashton)	1
East (Formerly Leigh)	4
West (Formerly Wigan Town)	9
Total	14

As well as the 11v11 3G pitches, there are also 33 smaller size outdoor 3G pitches across 18 sites. Of these, 31 pitches are available to the community and are sports lit.

Since the previous study, the following sites have been converted from artificial grass pitches (AGPs), Dean Trust Rose Bridge, Fred Longworth High School, Lowton Church of England High School, St Marys Catholic High School, Atherton High School and The Westleigh School. The only other new provision since the 2017 study is located at Standish Leisure Centre (x2) and Ashton Leisure Centre. It should be noted that the small size multi use games area (MUGA) at Standish Leisure Centre is set to be converted to 3G in the summer of 2025.

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Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G provision (outdoor)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Active Places Power ID	Ownership / management	Postcode	Number of AGPs	Community use?	Sports lit?	Size ¹²	Certification	Expiry
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge (Rose Bridge High School Sports Field)	West	1002652	Education	WN1 3HD	1	No	Yes	55 x 30	FA	31/05/28
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge (Rose Bridge High School Sports Field)	West	1002652	Education	WN1 3HD	1	No	Yes	25 x 12	-	-
21	Fred Longworth High School	East	1002646	Education	M29 8JN	1	Yes	Yes	84 x 53	-	-
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	Central	1103396	Sports Club	WA3 2SE	1	Yes	Yes	32 x 30	-	-
31	Hindsford AFC	East	30003026	Sports Club	M29 8JH	1	Yes	Yes	30 x 15	-	-
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	East	1040939	Council	WN7 4GY	3	Yes	Yes	50 x 25	FA	Expired 31/05/25
42	Lowton Church of England High School	Central	1201597	Education	WA3 1DU	1	Yes	Yes	30 x 30	-	-
47	Parsons Meadow	West	6008058	Council	WN3 5UB	1	Yes	Yes	38 x 20	-	-
50	Robin Park Arena	West	30009815	Sports Club	WN5 0UH	4	Yes	Yes	33 x 17	-	-
64	St Marys Catholic High School	East	1203079	Education	M29 7EE	1	Yes	Yes	82 x 52	-	-
77	Winstanley Warriors FC	West	6008046	Sports Club	WN3 6PZ	1	Yes	Yes	60 x 40	FA	31/05/26
145	Atherton High School	East	30003560	Education	M46 0AY	1	Yes	Yes	60 x 40	-	-
155	Ashton Leisure Centre	Central	1002644	Council	WN4 9TP	1	Yes	Yes	73 x 46	-	-
157	Fives Wigan	West	1042253	Commercial	WN5 0UN	3	Yes	Yes	40 x 20	-	-

¹² Size is in metres

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Active Places Power ID	Ownership / management	Postcode	Number of AGPs	Community use?	Sports lit?	Size ¹²	Certification	Expiry
157	Fives Wigan	West	1042253	Commercial	WN5 0UN	3	Yes	Yes	40 x 30	-	-
159	Newbridge Learning Community	Central	30004760	Education	WN2 3TL	1	Yes	No	47 x 30	-	-
161	Standish Leisure Centre	West	30009082	Council	WN6 0XB	1	Yes	Yes	55 x 40	FA	31/05/26
161	Standish Leisure Centre	West	30009082	Council	WN6 0XB	1	Yes	Yes	38 x 20	FA	-
162	The Deanery C of E High School	West	1203075	Education	WN1 1HQ	1	Yes	Yes	42 x 36	-	-
163	The Westleigh School	East	1201586	Education	WN7 5NL	1	Yes	Yes	85 x 55	-	-
164	Wigan Youth Zone	West	1041966	Other	WN1 1RU	4	Yes	Yes	36 x 18	-	-

Most of the smaller size pitches are in the West Analysis Area (21 of 33 – 63%), followed by the East Analysis Area providing eight pitches (25%) and the Central Analysis Area providing the least with four (12%).

Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are on the FA 3G Pitch Register, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas.

The smaller size pitches located at Dean Trust Rose Bridge (Rose Bridge High School Sports Field), Lowton Church of England High School, Winstanley Warriors FC and the larger of the two pitches at Standish Leisure Centre are FA approved and therefore can accommodate match play. The small size pitches at Leigh Sports Village Arena were previously FA certified however the certification expired on 31/05/25. Pitches at The Deanery C of E High School and The Westleigh School were previously FA certified in 2024 but have not been retested since to regarding accreditation.

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Standish Panthers FC is currently in the progress of exploring options to develop a new playing field site within the locality of Standish to centralise demand, increase levels of participation and provide an additional capacity for wider community clubs and groups in the locality. It aspires to create a hub site including a 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch with enough playing field land to establish up to four adult pitches with accompanying ancillary provision (clubhouse and car parking). It should be noted that the Club indicate the project would be privately funded with no intention for FF funding.

The 3G pitch would primarily be for centralising the entire clubs training demand, however, it would also be built to relevant specification to become FA certified in order to accommodate match play demand. It is in discussions with Wigan RUFC (rugby union) and Shevington Sharks ARLFC (rugby league) to understand their aspirations for artificial training provision and is already in discussions with other football clubs in the area, such as Pine Villa FC, Old Rivingtonians Sports Club, Shevington FC and Aspull JFC regarding usage.

Leigh RUFC aspires to build a new clubhouse including changing facilities and a new 11v11 3G pitch located at its home ground of the same name (WN7 3NA). Additionally, the Club highlights a potential partnership with Leigh United, and it states its looking into funding options to support this development.

Aspull RFC aspires to develop a new 11v11 3G pitch located at Aspull Rugby Football Club which would also be used by schools and various sports clubs. The Club has discussed this aspiration with the Council and is currently exploring funding options. It should be noted that the development of any 3G provision on the site would be problematic due to access issues via a single lane track. Other options on surrounding playing field land also presents problems due to protected village green status and unknown ownership logistic.

Additionally, Golborne Sports & Social Club aspires to develop a 11v11 3G pitch onsite to alleviate some demand on the AGP for hockey and is currently in discussions with the Council and Football Foundation.

Winstanley Warriors FC states having a sinking fund in place for the refurbishment of its smaller size 3G pitch when required. The Club aspires to develop an 11v11 3G pitch located at its home venue Winstanley Warriors Football Club. It should be noted that this is currently just aspirational.

Standish High School currently provides a poor quality full size (92m x 55m) sand filled AGP which is used by Leigh HC and Standish Panthers FC. The school states aspirations to convert this pitch to a 3G surface, however, as outlined in greater detail below in Part 6 Hockey, the pitch is strategically required to remain as a hockey suitable surface. This is to accommodate current minimal demand and create capacity for future and exported demand.

Howe Bridge Leisure Centre has recently developed a masterplan for the site which includes an upgrade to the current 3G model (adding additional parking and changing facilities) and the creation of an additional 11v11 3G pitch. This development is currently in the planning phase with the Leisure Centre next step to source funding. Sport England reference it yet to be consulted on this proposal, with current plans indicating a potential loss of a netball court.

Eastleigh AFC aspires to develop an 11v11 3G pitch and pavilion located at Hesketh Meadow through St Thomas Mitigation Strategy and the Home Advantage Programme. This includes a new car park and new pavilion.

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A planning application (A/24/098326/MAJLA) has been submitted for the replacement of an existing macadam surface with a 3G surface located at Standish Leisure Centre. This would only be a small size pitch (approximately 36 x 22 metres)

Shevington High School aspires to develop a new 11v11 3G pitch which would also be used by schools and various sports clubs.

There is a Council led proposal for a new leisure centre development (site to be determined) within the locality of Hindley. Initial plans indicate it will be a part of a dual use site with Outwood Academy Hindley. The FF and Council are looking to include an 11v11 3G pitch as part of the project.

The FF is also aware of aspirations from Winstanley College Sports Centre to establish an 11v11 3G pitch on the site, however, no formal plans have been established.

Future demand

FA 3G Pitch Register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA 3G Pitch Register, which can be found at: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA Quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard. Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours.

To remain on the Register, pitches must be reassessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the National League System (Step 1-6).

Table 3.5: 3G pitches on The FA 3G Pitch Register

Site ID	Site name	Size (metres)	Number of AGPs	Certification	Expiry
-	-	11v11	-	-	-
33	Howe Bridge Leisure Centre	91 x 55	1	FA	31/05/27
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	110 x 65	1	FIFA	31/05/25
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	112 x 55	1	FIFA WR	31/05/25 24/08/25
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	120 x 84	1	FIFA	31/05/27
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	100 x 64	2	FIFA	31/05/27
42	Lowton Church of England High School	91 x 55	1	FA	31/05/27
50	Robin Park Arena	100 x 60	1	FA	31/05/25
65	St Peters Catholic High School	100 x 64	1	FA	31/05/26

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Site ID	Site name	Size (metres)	Number of AGPs	Certification	Expiry
101	Dean Trust Wigan (Abraham Academy)	94 x 57	1	FA	31/05/26
151	Sutton Park	112 x 65	1	WR (Expired) RFL	11/01/24
158	Leisure United William Fosters	100 x 64	1	FIFA	31/05/27
158	Leisure United William Fosters	100 x 64	1	FIFA	31/05/26
-	-	Smaller size	-	-	-
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge (Rose Bridge High School Sports Field)	55 x 30	1	FA	31/05/25
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	50 x 25	3	FA (Expired)	31/05/25
77	Winstanley Warriors FC	60 x 40	1	FA	31/05/26
161	Standish Leisure Centre	55 x 40	1	FA	31/05/26
162	The Deanery C of E High School	42 x 36	1	FA (Expired)	31/05/24
163	The Westleigh School (Westleigh High School)	85 x 55	1	FA (Expired)	31/05/24

As seen in the table above, 13 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register of which five are FA approved and seven are FIFA approved. Additionally, six smaller size 3G pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register all of which are FA approved.

The 11v11 3G pitch at Sutton Park and the smaller size 3G pitches located at Leigh Sports Village Arena, The Deanery C of E School and The Westleigh School have expired and therefore will require retesting to continue to accommodate match play.

It should be noted that the smaller size 3G pitch located at Dean Trust Rise Bridge (Rose Bridge High School Sports Field) is restricted to Saturday usage only on a weekend due to planning conditions.

World Rugby compliant pitches

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

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

In Wigan Borough, there is currently one 3G pitch which is World Rugby compliant located at Leigh Sports Village Arena (WN7 4GY, East Analysis Area).

As mentioned above both Leigh RUFC and Aspull RFC highlight aspirations to develop a 11v11 WR compliant 3G at their respective sites with both clubs looking into funding opportunities.

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Additionally, Standish Panthers FC is currently in the process of exploring options to develop a site within the locality of Standish in order to centralise demand, increase levels of participation and provide an additional capacity for wider community clubs and groups in the locality. The Club is in discussions with various clubs including Wigan RUFC to understand their aspirations for artificial training provision

RFL compliant pitches

3G pitches for rugby league are classed as either RFL Community or RFL Stadium. RFL Community is suitable for Tiers 4-6 and training. If used for competitive games they should be tested every two years, and if it only used training only then every three years. RFL Stadium pitches are considered suitable for match play use in Tiers 1-3 and should be retested annually if used for competitive games. More information can be found in Section five here [Materials Science Consultants Ltd](#).

The WR22 test complies with the RFL Community element of this, but the frequency of retest is different should the 3G be used for competitive rugby league. The RFL Stadium criteria requires an additional test.

In Wigan Borough, there is currently one 3G pitch which is RFL compliant located at Sutton Park (WN7 2LZ, East Analysis Area).

As mentioned previously, Standish Panthers FC is currently in the progress of exploring options to develop a site within the locality of Standish in order to centralise demand, increase levels of participation and provide an additional capacity for wider community clubs and groups in the locality. The Club is in discussions with various clubs including Shevington Sharks ARLFC to understand their aspirations for artificial training provision.

Availability

The following table summarises the availability within the peak period of 11v11 3G pitches in Wigan Borough. Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies a generic overall peak period for AGPs based the following hours for AGPs 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

The availability at each venue providing a 11v11 3G pitch is summarised in the Table 3.5.
Table 3.6: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Availability
33	Howe Bridge Leisure Centre	34	Available to the community from 06:00 until 22:00 on weekdays and from 08:00 until 17:00 at weekends.
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 22:00 on weekdays and from 08:00 until 18:00 at weekends.
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 21:30 on weekdays and from 08:30 until 17:30 at weekends.
42	Lowton Church of England High School	34	Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 on weekdays and from 09:00 until 17:00 at weekends.
50	Robin Park Arena	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 22:00 on weekdays and from 08:00 until 17:00 at weekends.

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Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Availability
62	St John Rigby College	31.5	Available to the community from 17:30 until 22:00 on weekdays and from 08:00 until 22:00 at weekends.
65	St Peters Catholic High School	31.5	Available to the community from 17:30 until 22:00 on weekdays and from 09:00 until 17:00 at weekends.
101	Dean Trust Wigan (Abraham Academy)	34	Available to the community from 17:00 until 22:00 on weekdays, from 08:00 until 18:00 on Saturdays and 08:00 until 20:00 on Sundays.
151	Sutton Park	Unknown	Unknown
158	Leisure United William Fosters	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 22:00 on weekdays and from 09:00 until 18:00 at weekends.

Although classified as being available for community use, the community use agreement states that Leigh Genesis is the sole user of the 11v11 3G at Lowton Church of England High School.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an 3G pitch usually lasts for approximately ten years', and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that pitch replacement funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishments beyond this period.

In Wigan Borough, there are seven 11v11 3G pitches assessed as good quality located at Leisure United Laithwaite Park, Lowton Church of England High School, Sutton Park and Leisure United William Fosters. Additionally, there are six 11v11 3G pitches assessed as standard quality and one assessed as poor quality located at St John Rigby College.

Table 3.7: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality 2017	Quality 2025
33	Howe Bridge Leisure Centre	2015	Good	Standard
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	2017	Good	Standard
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	2017	Good	Standard
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	2023	N/A	Good
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	2023	N/A	Good
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	2023	N/A	Good
42	Lowton Church of England High School	2019	N/A	Good
50	Robin Park Arena	2014	Standard	Standard
62	St John Rigby College	2006	Standard	Poor
65	St Peters Catholic High School	2010	Standard	Standard
101	Dean Trust Wigan (Abraham Academy)	2016	Good	Standard
151	Sutton Park	2022	N/A	Good
158	Leisure United William Fosters	2023	N/A	Good
158	Leisure United William Fosters	2023	N/A	Good

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The 11v11 3G pitches located at Robin Park Arena, St John Rigby College and St Peters Catholic High School are all over 10 years old and showing signs of wear and tear. It is likely that all three pitches require a replacement surface within the next three years.

Additionally, it should be noted that although the 3G pitch located at St Peters Catholic High School is assessed as standard quality, during face-to-face consultation with the school, the surface is heavily worn and has some rips in the surface particularly along the line markings.

In addition to above, there are nine good quality, seven standard quality and seven poor quality smaller size 3G pitches. The poor quality pitches are located at Parson Meadow, Robin Park Arena, Newbridge Learning Community and Wigan Youth Zone.

Table 3.8: Summary of smaller size 3G pitch quality

Site ID	Site	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge (Rose Bridge High School Sports Field)	2023	Good
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge (Rose Bridge High School Sports Field)	2023	Good
21	Fred Longworth High School	2023	Good
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	2022	Good
31	Hindsford AFC	2016	Standard
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	2017	Standard
42	Lowton Church of England High School	2019	Good
47	Parsons Meadow	2012	Poor
50	Robin Park Arena	2012	Poor
50	Robin Park Arena	2012	Poor
50	Robin Park Arena	2012	Poor
50	Robin Park Arena	2012	Poor
64	St Marys Catholic High School	2022	Good
77	Winstanley Warriors FC	2018	Standard
145	Atherton High School (Atherton Community School)	2023	Good
155	Ashton Leisure Centre	2018	Standard
157	Fives Wigan	2015	Standard
157	Fives Wigan	2015	Standard
159	Newbridge Learning Community	2012	Poor
161	Standish Leisure Centre	2020	Good
161	Standish Leisure Centre	2025	Good
162	The Deanery C of E High School	2018	Standard
163	The Westleigh School (Westleigh High School)	2020	Good
164	Wigan Youth Zone	2013	Poor

Winstanley Warriors FC states it has a pitch replacement fund in place for the resurface of its smaller size 3G pitch when required.

The smaller of the two pitches at Standish Leisure Centre was converted in the Summer of 2025 from a macadam tennis court which was overmarked with netball.

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Atherton Town report being close to capacity for both matches and training, with an additional need to access 3G pitches in winter when grass pitches are unplayable to stop games from being cancelled. It's known to have potential links with Howe Bridge Leisure Centre.

Several clubs (including Highfield Grange, East Leigh Juniors, Winstanley Warriors FC, Atherton Town and Astley & Tyldesley FC) highlight the lack of 3G pitches for training, with all clubs struggling to access training slots throughout the winter months.

3.3: Demand

The 11v11 3G pitches currently available for community use in Wigan Borough are all reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months. This is due to football teams preferring the use of 3G pitches over grass for several reasons including, sports lighting, guaranteed usages in all types of weather, greater and constant levels of usage by multiple teams and more consistent and even surfaces.

Only professional / elite teams prefer the use of grass pitches for training as it replicates match day conditions. Installing sports lighting on grass pitches for more training demand is not considered sustainable for the majority of grassroots clubs due to issues with funding and protecting the playing surface for competitive demand.

Currently, it is considered that all the community-based activity on 3G pitches is mainly football related with some rugby league and rugby union usage.

The table below summarises usage levels of the 11v11 3G provision in Wigan Borough based on booking sheets supplied by the operators. This compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM). This applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week; split between 18 hours midweek and 16 hours at the weekend (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

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Table 3.9: Current usage of 11v11 3G pitches across Wigan Borough in peak time

Site ID	Site name	Club user	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
33	Howe Bridge Leisure Centre	Atherton Town / Eastleigh / Howe Bridge / Leigh Miners American Football / Leigh RUFC / AFC Botanical / Astley & Tyldesley FC / Pennington / Ashton Athletic	18	17	16	14
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	Golborne Sports Junior / Astley & Tyldesley FC / Leigh East / Hindley Green / Wigan & Leigh College	18	16	16	11
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	Golborne Sports Junior / Astley & Tyldesley FC / Leigh East / Hindley Green / Wigan & Leigh College	18	16	16	13
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	Cherrybrook / Wigan Youth District League / Wigan Ladies / Ince Central / Highfield Grange / Golborne Sports Junior / Hawkley / Hindley Juniors / Pennington / Pine Villa / Shevington / Springfield Park FC / Standish Panthers Juniors FC	18	15.5	16	15
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	Cherrybrook / Wigan Youth District League / Wigan Ladies / Ince Central / Highfield Grange / Golborne Sports Junior / Hawkley / Hindley Juniors / Pennington / Pine Villa / Shevington / Springfield Park FC / Standish Panthers Juniors FC	18	16	16	14
39	Leisure United Laithwaite Park	Cherrybrook / Wigan Youth District League / Wigan Ladies / Ince Central / Highfield Grange / Golborne Sports Junior / Hawkley / Hindley Juniors / Pennington / Pine Villa / Shevington / Springfield Park FC / Standish Panthers Juniors FC	18	14	16	13
42	Lowton Church of England High School	Leigh Genesis	18	18	16	16
50	Robin Park Arena	Robin Park / Shevington / Springfield Park FC / Wigan Athletic FC Community Trust / Wigan Warriors	18	Unknown	16	Unknown
62	St John Rigby College	Robin Park / Bryn FC / St John Rigby College / Orrell RUFC	15.5	13.5	16	6

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Site ID	Site name	Club user	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
65	St Peters Catholic High School	Golborne Sports Junior / Robin Park / Wigan Junior Latics / Shevington FC / Apply Bridge FC / Ashton Athletic / Ashtonians AFC / Try Tag Rugby Wigan	15.5	14	16	14.5
101	Dean Trust Wigan (Abraham Academy)	Apply Bridge / Pemberton FC / Wigan Athletic Ladies & Girls / Wigan Junior Latics	18	13	16	11.5
151	Sutton Park	Leigh Miners ARLFC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
158	Leisure United William Fosters	Newton-le-Willows / FC Britannia Girls / Golborne Girls / Wigan District JFL / East Leigh Juniors / FC Britannia (Wigan) / Robin Park / RV Sport / Standish Panthers Juniors FC / Westhoughton Town FC	18	10	16	12
158	Leisure United William Fosters	Newton-le-Willows / FC Britannia Girls / Golborne Girls / Wigan District JFL / East Leigh Juniors / FC Britannia (Wigan) / Robin Park / RV Sport / Standish Panthers Juniors FC / Westhoughton Town FC	18	14	16	13
-	-	Totals	229	177	208	153

As seen, there is limited midweek and weekend availability as pitches are either at capacity or close to capacity. This data should be used to establish a baseline that can be reviewed annually to see if the position changes, taking into account any new pitches that are established and the impact these have. Further investigation is also needed to understand the midweek and weekend usage at both Robin Park Arena and Sutton Park. As no usage information could be gathered.

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3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training; however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

Training demand

To quantify the 3G shortfall for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). It also has an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based pitches to ensure the sustainability of them.

For the model, in addition to 11v11 pitches being included, some smaller size pitches can also be incorporated as nationally many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones.

The contribution each pitch makes towards the modelling is summarised in the table below. This then informs the proceeding modelling tables. Any pitch too small to accommodate training demand are discounted, as well as any pitches that are unavailable for community use.

Table 3.10: Contribution of 3G pitches in meeting training requirements

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size adult pitch equivalents
-	-	11v11	-	-
Howe Bridge Leisure Centre	East	91 x 55	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community.	1
Leigh Sports Village Arena	East	110 x 65	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community. Used for football and rugby league.	0.75
Leigh Sports Village Arena	East	112 x 55	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community. Used for football, rugby league and rugby union.	0.5
Leisure United Laithwaite Park	West	120 x 84	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community.	1
Leisure United Laithwaite Park	West	100 x 64	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community.	1
Leisure United Laithwaite Park	West	100 x 64	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community.	1
Lowton Church of England High School	Central	91 x 55	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community.	1

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Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size adult pitch equivalents
Robin Park Arena	West	100 x 60	11v11 3G pitch discounted due to primarily being used by Wigan Warriors / rugby league demand.	-
St John Rigby College	West	100 x 64	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community.	1
St Peters Catholic High School	West	100 x 64	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community.	1
Dean Trust Wigan (Abraham Academy)	West	94 x 57	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community.	1
Sutton Park	East	112 x 65	11v11 3G discounted due to only being used for rugby league activity.	-
Leisure United William Fosters	West	100 x 64	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community.	1
Leisure United William Fosters	West	100 x 64	11v11 3G pitch fully available to the community.	1
-	-	Smaller size	-	-
Dean Trust Rose Bridge (Rose Bridge High School Sports Field)	West	55 x 30	Unavailable for community use.	-
Dean Trust Rose Bridge (Rose Bridge High School Sports Field)	West	25 x 12	Unavailable for community use.	-
Fred Longworth High School	East	84 x 53	Large enough to accommodate training demand.	0.75
Golborne Sports and Social Club	Central	32 x 30	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-
Hindsford AFC	East	30 x 15	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-
Leigh Sports Village Arena	East	50 x 25	Large enough to accommodate training demand.	0.5
Leigh Sports Village Arena	East	50 x 25	Large enough to accommodate training demand.	0.5
Leigh Sports Village Arena	East	50 x 25	Large enough to accommodate training demand.	0.5
Lowton Church of England High School	Central	30 x 30	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-
Parson Meadow	West	38 x 20	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-
Robin Park Arena	West	33 x 17	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-
Robin Park Arena	West	33 x 17	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-
Robin Park Arena	West	33 x 17	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-
Robin Park Arena	West	33 x 17	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-

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Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	Full size adult pitch equivalents
St Marys Catholic High School	East	82 x 52	Large enough to accommodate training demand.	0.75
Winstanley Warriors FC	West	60 x 40	Large enough to accommodate training demand.	0.5
Atherton High School (Atherton Community School)	East	60 x 40	Large enough to accommodate training demand.	0.5
Ashton Leisure Centre	Central	73 x 46	Large enough to accommodate training demand.	0.75
Fives Wigan	West	40 x 20	Limited availability for training demand due recreational and small sided league demand.	-
Fives Wigan	West	40 x 20	Limited availability for training demand due recreational and small sided league demand.	-
Fives Wigan	West	40 x 20	Limited availability for training demand due recreational and small sided league demand.	-
Fives Wigan	West	40 x 30	Limited availability for training demand due recreational and small sided league demand.	-
Fives Wigan	West	40 x 30	Limited availability for training demand due recreational and small sided league demand.	-
Fives Wigan	West	40 x 30	Limited availability for training demand due recreational and small sided league demand.	-
Newbridge Learning Community	Central	47 x 30	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-
Standish Leisure Centre	West	55 x 40	Large enough to accommodate training demand.	0.5
Standish Leisure Centre	West	38 x 20	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-
The Deanery C of E High School	West	42 x 36	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-
The Westleigh School (Westleigh High School)	East	85 x 55	Large enough to accommodate training demand.	0.75
Wigan Youth Zone	West	36 x 18	Too small to accommodate training demand.	-
-	-	-	Total	17.25

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Given there is a total of 794 football teams which originate in Wigan Borough (including 18 exported teams), there is a theoretical need for 21 11v11 3G pitches. As there are currently 17.25 pitch equivalents provided, this means that there is a potential need for 3.75 additional 11v11 3G pitches to meet all current training demand.

Table 3.11: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Wigan Borough (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
794 ¹³	20.89 – 21	17.25	3.75

When considering future demand for an additional 38 teams (based on growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is potential demand for 22 full size pitches overall (rounded up from 21.89), which means a theoretical future shortfall of 4.75 pitches.

Table 3.12: Future demand for 11v11 3G pitches in Wigan Borough (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
832	21.89 - 22	17.25	4.75

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the potential needs exist across Wigan Borough, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

Table 3.13: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of 11v11 pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
Central	203	5.34 – 5.5	1.75	3.75
East	194	5.10 – 5	6.5	1.5
West	397	10.44 – 10.5	9	1.5

This shows an overall shortfall of 5.25 11v11 3G pitch equivalents whilst also identifying specific shortfalls in the Central and West analysis areas. The East Analysis Areas is currently well accommodated to meet demand.

Match play demand

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

In Wigan Borough, currently 212 affiliated teams across 28 clubs are registered as using 3G pitches for regular match play.

¹³ Including 18 exported teams

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

Rugby union

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

The recent RFU strategy on investment in 3G pitches both at club and community based sites is indicative of the growing acceptance of 3G pitches amongst clubs nationally. Nationally clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

There is currently one World Rugby compliant 11v11 3G pitch in Wigan which is located at Leigh Sports Village Arena. It should be noted that only one of the two 11v11 size 3G pitches is currently certified despite both of them having been in the previous study.

Additionally, the 11v11 size pitches at Robin Park Arena and Sutton Park have also previously been WR accredited however their certification has expired. It is unknown why these pitches, and the remaining pitch at Leigh Sports Village Arena, are no longer certified.

In addition, the artificial pitches at The Westleigh School, St John Rigby College, Dean Trust Rose Bridge and Newbridge Learning Community are also used to meet training demand. It is understood that none of these pitches are world rugby regulation 22 compliant and are therefore being used for non-contact training sessions.

There is a current shortfall of 17 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand. This equates to a shortfall of eight match equivalent sessions in the East Analysis Area and nine matches equivalent sessions in the West Analysis Area. It's likely that an additional 3G pitch will be required to help alleviate these shortfalls and as mentioned earlier both Aspull RFC (West Analysis Area) and Leigh RUFC (East Analysis Area) states aspiration to create a 11v11 3G pitch.

Rugby league

Nationally, rugby league clubs tend to use match pitches for training due to clubs preferring to use grass pitch provision, but also the cost of hiring 3G facilities is too high. However, this leads to overplay of pitches due to accommodating both training and matches.

Contrary to the above, two clubs use 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitches to accommodate all their training demand. Leigh East ARLFC utilises the two pitches at Leigh Sports Village Arena to accommodate all its training needs whereas Leigh Miners ARLFC use the newly built provision at Sutton Park for its demand.

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Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC and Rose Bridge Pantheresses ARLFC have access to a small indoor 3G pitch at Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club which accommodates partial amounts of training demand.

All clubs, apart from Leigh East ARLFC, which responded to consultation indicate a need for additional training provision with Hindley, Orrell St James, Wigan Spring View, Golborne Parkside, Wigan St Cuthberts, Shevington Sharks and Wigan St Jude's rugby league clubs specifically referencing a need for more affordable and accessible 3G provision.

Other sports

Currently, no other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Wigan Borough (outside of some school activity).

3.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is insufficient supply of 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand in Wigan Borough, with a potential current shortfall of 3.75 11v11 3G pitches identified and an anticipated future shortfall of 4.75 11v11 3G pitches.

Due to the significant shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches in the Central and West analysis area and the locations of shortfalls for other sports such as rugby league (West Analysis Area) and rugby union (East and West analysis area), it is presumed that new 3G pitch provision will need to be created in all analysis areas to alleviate the overall shortfall. This will be explored in greater detail in the Strategy & Action Plan.

In addition, to ensure that current supply and any future supply is maintained to a good enough standard to accommodate demand, providers are encouraged to put pitch replacement funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that pitches can remain on the FA/WR/RFL 3G registers.

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ **In Wigan Borough, there is insufficient supply of 3G pitches (11v11 size) to meet football training demand (based on the FA training model of one 11v11 pitch accommodating 38 teams) with a shortfall of 3.75 11v11 3G pitches identified currently and an anticipated future shortfall of 4.75 11v11 3G pitches for football.**

Supply summary

- ◀ There are 14 11v11 3G pitches in Wigan Borough across 10 sites. All 14 pitches are sports lit and available for community use.
- ◀ Nine 11v11 3G pitches are located in the West Analysis Area, four located in the East Analysis Area and one 11v11 3G pitch is located in the Central Analysis Area.
- ◀ As well as the 11v11 3G pitches, there are also 33 smaller size outdoor 3G pitches across 18 sites in Wigan Borough. Of these, 30 pitches are available to the community and are sports lit.
- ◀ The following sites/clubs have ambitions to create 3G provision; Standish Panthers FC, Leigh RUFC, Aspull RFC, Golborne Sports & Social Club, Winstanley Warriors FC, Standish High School, Howe Bridge Leisure Centre, Hesketh Meadow, Standish Leisure Centre, Shevington High School, Hindley Leisure Project and Winstanley College Sports Centre.
- ◀ In Wigan Borough, 13 11v11 3G pitches are on The FA 3G Pitch Register of which five are FA approved and seven are FIFA approved. Additionally, six smaller size 3G pitch are on The FA 3G Pitch Register all of which are FA approved.
- ◀ In Wigan Borough, there is currently one 3G pitch which is WR compliant located at Leigh Sports Village Arena (WN7 4GY, East Analysis Area).

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- ◀ Both Leigh RUFC and Aspull RFC highlight aspirations to develop a 11v11 WR compliant 3G at their respective sites with both clubs looking into funding opportunities.
- ◀ In Wigan Borough, there is currently one 3G pitch which is RFL compliant located at Sutton Park (WN7 2LZ, East Analysis Area).
- ◀ In Wigan Borough, there are seven 11v11 3G pitches assessed as good quality located at Leisure United Laithwaite Park, Lowton Church of England High School, Sutton Park and Leisure United William Fosters. Additionally, there are six 11v11 3G pitches assessed as standard quality and one assessed as poor quality located at St John Rigby College.
- ◀ In addition to above, there are nine good quality, seven standard quality and seven poor quality smaller size 3G pitches. The poor quality pitches are located at Parson Meadow, Robin Park Arena, Newbridge Learning Community and Wigan Youth Zone.
- ◀ All midweek and weekend availability are currently at capacity or close to capacity in Wigan Borough.

Demand summary

- ◀ Given there is a total of 794 football teams which originate in Wigan Borough (including 18 exported teams), there is a theoretical need for 21 11v11 3G pitches. As there are currently 17.25 pitch equivalents provided, this means that there is a potential need for 3.75 additional 11v11 3G pitches to meet all current training demand.
- ◀ When considering future demand for an additional 38 teams (based on growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is a theoretical future shortfall of 4.75 pitches.

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PART 4: RUGBY UNION

4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. It governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

For traditional rugby union, there are generally three playing formats, based on the age of the players involved. These are now known as age grade mixed rugby (previously mini), age grade boys/girls rugby (previously junior) and senior rugby.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are five rugby union clubs in Wigan with all but two responding to consultation requests, resulting in a 60% response rate. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 4.1: Rugby club response rate

Club name	Type of consultation	Club response
Aspull RFC	Face to face	Yes
Leigh RUFC	Face to face	Yes
Orrell RUFC	Face to face	Yes
Tyldesley RUFC	-	No
Wigan RUFC	-	No

Continued efforts will be made to obtain a response from the outstanding clubs (Tyldesley RUFC and Wigan RUFC).

The number of rugby union clubs has reduced by one since the previous study with Orrell St James (RUFC) folding (*circa* 2023). This was a single senior men's team which was connected to Orrell St James ARLFC.

4.2: Supply

There is a total of 16 rugby union pitches across six sites in Wigan Borough. All provision is available for community use and evenly split between the East and West analysis areas, with no rugby union at all in the Central Analysis Area.

Table 4.2: Supply of grass rugby union pitches available for community use in Wigan Borough

Analysis area	No. of community available rugby union pitches	No. of unavailable rugby union pitches
Central	-	-
East	8	-
West	8	-
Total	16	-

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There has been a decrease in community available rugby union pitches since the previous study amount to four pitches. Details surrounding this and other former provision can be found below in the Disused Provision section.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches that are serviced by goalposts. However, nationally, there are some additional spaces that are used, without goalposts, particularly for age grade rugby. It is also common for age grade matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones.

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

Table 4.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ¹⁴
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U15	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U16	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U17	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U18	Colts	100 x 70
Senior	Senior	100 x 70

Figure 4.1 overleaf shows the location of all rugby union pitches currently servicing Wigan Borough. For a key to the map, see Table 4.16.

Disused provision

As mentioned in the previous study, there were rugby union pitches marked out at St John's Street Playing Fields (Central Analysis Area – one senior pitch) which are now used for football, and Central Park Playing Fields (East Analysis Area – two junior pitches).

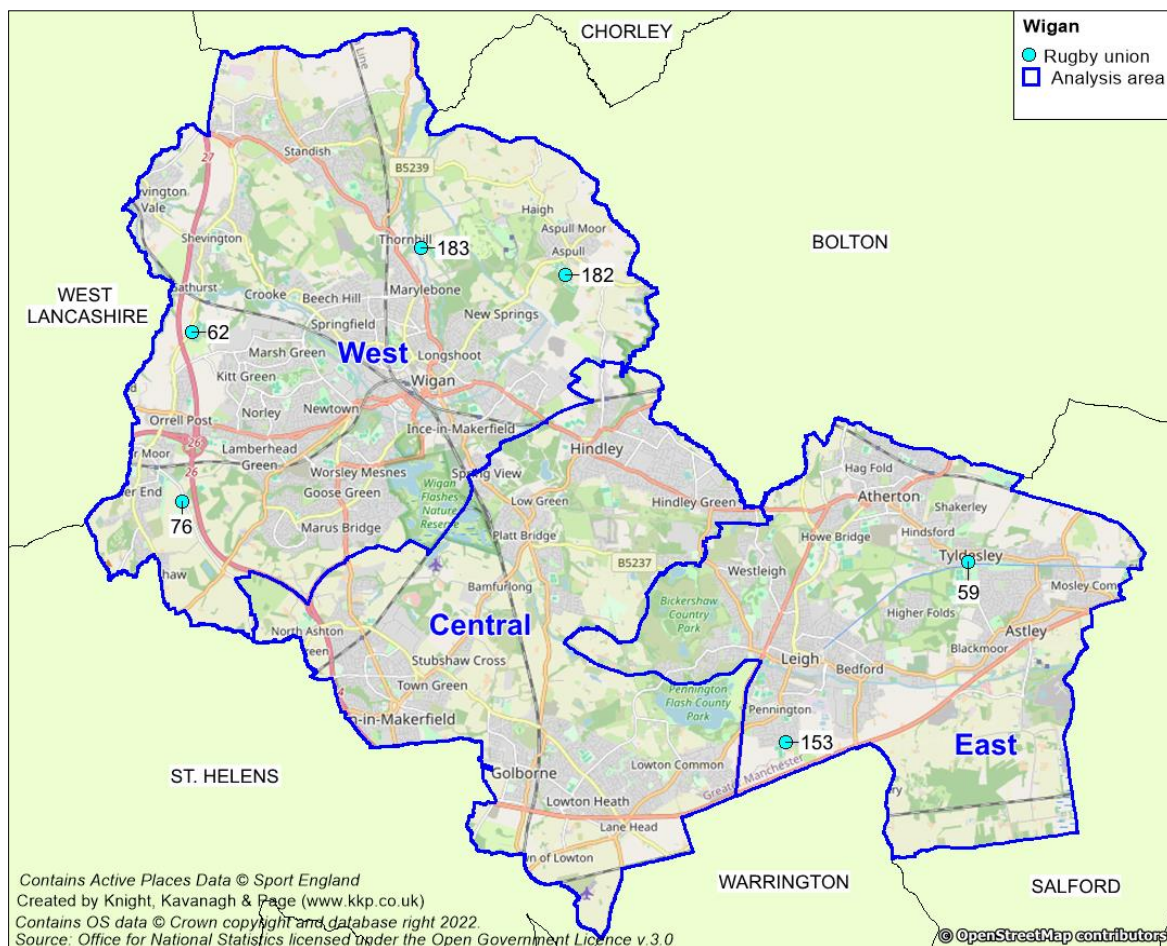
In addition to the above, a single rugby union pitch previously marked at Bankes Avenue Playing Fields (West Analysis Area) is now used for rugby league whereas the rugby union pitch at Dean Trust Wigan (Abraham Guest Academy – West Analysis Area) is no longer marked.

Four pitches were previously marked at Thames Avenue have since been developed with relevant provision provided at Round Ash Park (Leigh RUFC).

¹⁴ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

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Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Wigan Borough



Future developments

As identified in the previous 2017 study, Orrell RUFC proposed to develop a community sports centre, in partnership with Winstanley Park CC, which would accommodate two rugby union pitches and a cricket square accompanied by ancillary amenities. Due to complications following the Covid 19 Pandemic and lack of suitable fundings/grants progress was halted. The Club is still actively looking to develop a similar project within the locality, however, is yet to find a suitable location.

Leigh RUFC plans to develop Round Ash Park to better cater for its current and potential future demand. It has created an initial proposal which would see the removal of the current poor quality buildings and the creation of a purpose built ancillary provision adjacent to its most northerly senior pitch. It also aspires to convert one of its remaining pitches into a full-size sport lit World Rugby complaint 3G pitch. This will allow it to keep most of its competitive and training demand onsite and reduce its current expenditure of hiring external provision such as Leigh Sports Village Arena.

As the site is also used by Leigh United FC it indicates it would like to partner with the Club to make it a multi-sport project and provide additional capacity for the football club to grow. It is currently operating at capacity with its current pitch and ancillary provision not suitable for the level of demand it fields. The lack of capacity is also affecting its ability to increase team numbers particularly for women and girls. The plans have not yet been formally submitted as it will need to identify potential funding streams to complete the project.

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Aspull RFC aspires to improve both pitch and ancillary provision at Aspull Rugby Football Club which both suffer from qualitative issues. It has recently invested substantial monies into one of its pitches which has seen it improve in quality; however, it does not have the relevant funds to carry out the remaining enhancements required. It also references a desire to create a 3G pitch on the site, however, this currently is aspirational as access to the site, as well as ancillary provision, would need to be developed first. The Club is currently looking into plans to lease the land adjacent from the Council to develop another grass pitch.

Management and security of tenure

The table below identifies the tenure of the clubs at their home venues. As shown all clubs are considered to have secure tenure at their primary venue through either freehold or a long-term agreement such as Orrell RUFC at St John Rigby College.

Table 4.4: Summary of rugby club security of tenure in Wigan Borough

Club	Site ID	Site name	Tenure arrangement	Secure?
Aspull RFC	182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	Freehold	Secure
Leigh RUFC	153	Round Ash Park	Freehold	Secure
Orrell RUFC	62	St John Rigby College	Long term agreement	Secure
Orrell RUFC	76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	Rental	Unsecure
Tyldesley RUFC	59	St George's Park	Freehold	Secure
Wigan RUFC	183	Douglas Valley	Freehold	Secure

It should be noted that Orrell RUFC also uses provision at Winstanley College Sports Centre on an ad-hoc basis to meet its demand. The Club's tenure at this secondary site is considered unsecure as it only rents the provision on a seasonal basis.

Aspull RFC is starting the process of extending its current lease tenure at Aspull Rugby Football Club with a plan to include some additional land onsite.

Pitch quality

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

Table 4.5: Definition of maintenance categories

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

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

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Table 4.6: Definition of drainage categories

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

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

Table 4.7: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

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

Of the community available pitches in Wigan Borough, ten are assessed as standard quality and seven are assessed as poor quality. The poor quality pitches are located at Coronation Park, St John Rigby College, Round Ash Park and Aspull Rugby Football Club.

Table 4.8: Quality of senior pitches available for community use in Wigan Borough

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor
Central	-	-	-
East	-	5	3
West	-	5	3
Total	-	10	6

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

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Table 4.9: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Active Places Power ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	Management	No. of pitches	Sports lit?	Quality score	Quality rating
59	St George's Park	1040665	M29 8HG	East	Secure	Sports club	2	No	M1 / D1	Standard
59	St George's Park	1040665	M29 8HG	East	Secure	Sports club	1	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
62	St John Rigby College	1200790	WN5 0LJ	West	Secure	Education	1	No	M1 / D0	Poor
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	1002655	WN5 7XF	West	Unsecure	Education	1	No	M1 / D1	Standard
153	Round Ash Park	30007823	WN7 3NA	East	Secure	Sports club	2	No	M1 / D1	Standard
153	Round Ash Park	30007823	WN7 3NA	East	Secure	Sports club	3	No	M1 / D0	Poor
182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	30008203	WN2 1PJ	West	Secure	Sports club	2	No	M0 / D0	Poor
182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	30008203	WN2 1PJ	West	Secure	Sports club	1	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
183	Douglas Valley (Wigan RUFC)	30009247	WN1 2SJ	West	Secure	Sports club	1	Yes	M2 / D0	Standard
183	Douglas Valley (Wigan RUFC)	30009247	WN1 2SJ	West	Secure	Sports club	2	No	M2 / D0	Standard

Pitches used by Tyldesley RUFC at St George's Park have remained the same quality since 2017 still being rated as M1/D1 (Standard). In comparison, the pitches at Douglas Valley (Wigan RUFC) have reduced in quality going from M2/D1 (good quality) to M2/D0 (standard quality). Consultation with the RFU identifies that the drainage of the pitches has worsened after recent developments from the surrounding farms has led to water no longer effectively being removed from the playing surface resulting in waterlogging.

Aspull RFC report it has invested into the first team pitch at Aspull Rugby Football Club which has led it to improve in quality from M0/D0 (Poor) to M1/D1 (standard). The Club is focusing on improving the quality of one pitch rather than improving several smaller elements across all its provision. The remaining two pitches therefore remain poor quality (M0/D0) as they were in 2017. It aspires to carry out similar works to these pitches if it can obtain relevant funding assistance.

The provision used by St John Rigby College and Winstanley College Sports Centre have remained the same quality, despite their quality score slightly altering. The pitch at the former site is poor quality but has changed between M0/D0 to M1/D0 whereas the latter site is still standard quality but changing from M0/D2 to M1/D1.

Since the development of the pitches at Thames Avenue, Leigh RUFC has seen the improvement of two pitches at Round Ash Park which were created on old farming land as mitigation. These are rated as standard quality (M1/D1). The remaining pitches are still poor quality being rated as M1/D0.

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Ancillary facilities

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

Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- ✦ Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- ✦ A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- ✦ Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- ✦ Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open plan changing rooms and showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience.

As a result of the above, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria, cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality.

Table 4.10: Ancillary provision of the clubs that responded to consultation

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality ¹⁵	Comments
59	St George's Park	Tyldesley RUFC	Good	Good	No issues have been raised during consultation with relevant stakeholders.
62	St John Rigby College	Orrell RUFC	Standard	Poor	The Club hires changing rooms and a conservatory for refreshments. Basic educational changing rooms that do not meet requirements.
153	Round Ash Park	Leigh RUFC	Poor	Poor	The current provision is poor quality and not suitable from women/girls or disability access. The Club aspires to build a new clubhouse with rugby complaint changing rooms and a 3G pitch.
182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	Aspull RFC	Standard	Poor	There is a need to improve current changing rooms to be more inclusive for women/girls' demand. It aspires to improve the provision but requires access to external funding streams.

¹⁵ Including changing areas, toilets and showering facilities.

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Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality ¹⁵	Comments
183	Douglas Valley	Wigan RUFC	Standard	Poor	Changing rooms not suitable for women and girls demand.

It should be noted that both Leigh RUFC & Aspull RFC have invested, along with the RFU, to refurbish social spaces to make them more welcoming environments to everyone.

Orrell RUFC aspires to create its own dedicated ancillary provision and changing rooms at St John Rigby College.

4.3: Demand

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

Competitive demand

Across Wigan Borough there are five clubs providing a total of 72 teams which equates to 13 senior men's, two senior women's, 26 age grade boys, four age grade girls and 27 age grade mixed teams. This is split between the East Analysis Area which accommodates 34 teams and West Analysis Area with 38 teams. There is no current rugby union demand in the Central Analysis Area.

Table 4.11: Summary of number of teams (demand) by club

Club	Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed	Total
2017							
Aspull RFC	West	2	-	2	-	2	6
Leigh RUFC	East	3	1	5	-	6	15
Orrell RUFC	West	2	-	3	-	-	5
Orrell St James (RUFC)	West	1	-	-	-	-	1
Tyldesley RUFC	East	2	-	-	1	6	9
Wigan RUFC	West	3	-	5	-	6	14
-	Total	13	1	15	1	20	50
2025							
Aspull RFC	West	3	1	3	-	5	12
Leigh RUFC	East	3	1	6	4	6	20
Orrell RUFC	West	2	-	3	-	4	9
Orrell St James (RUFC)	West	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tyldesley RUFC	East	2	-	6	-	6	14
Wigan RUFC	West	3	-	8	-	6	17
-	Total	13	2	26	4	27	72
Percentage change	-		100%	73%	300%	35%	44%

Demand since the previous study (2017) has significantly increased by 44% or 22 teams, this is even considering the folding of Orrell St James (RUFC). The main areas of growth have been in the senior women's and age grade boys' and girls' demographics.

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Each of the clubs have also seen growth with Aspull RFC doubling its demand from six to 12 teams. The largest club is still Leigh RUFC with 20 teams closely followed by Wigan RUFC with 17 teams. The smallest club in Wigan Borough is Orrell RUFC with a total of nine teams.

Training demand

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

In Wigan Borough, only two out of the five clubs are training on sports lit grass pitches at their home venues, these are Tyldesley RUFC and Wigan RUFC. The remaining clubs are utilising 3G pitches to accommodate their training demand with most of this being non-contact. Aspull RFC, Leigh RUFC and Orrell RUFC report a preference for using 3G pitches to protect the quality of the grass pitches. The activity and training arrangements for each club and the level of this is highlighted in the table below.

Table 5.12: Summary of rugby union club facility use for evening training

Club	Site ID	Site	Training demand	Match equivalent sessions
Aspull RFC	15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge	Training demand accesses onsite small size 3G pitch (non-contact).	2
Aspull RFC	163	The Westleigh School	Training demand accesses onsite small size 3G pitch (non-contact).	2
Leigh RUFC	38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	Majority of training demand takes place on the WR compliant 3G pitch.	4
Leigh RUFC	159	Newbridge Learning Community	Remaining training demand accesses onsite small size 3G pitch (non-contact).	1
Orrell RUFC	62	St John Rigby College	Train on the 3G Wednesdays 18:00 – 20:30 (non-contact).	2
Tyldesley RUFC	59	St George's Park	Sports lit pitches.	2
Wigan RUFC	183	Douglas Valley	Sports lit pitches.	4

Orrell RUFC reports it can only train once a week due to limited availability midweek on 3G pitches across Wigan Borough and within its locality (St John Rigby).

Leigh RUFC indicate training is a significant issue for the Club with it struggling to gain access to 3G pitches at preferred times due to block bookings by football clubs. It also refers to the substantial amount of expenditure it requires to hire the provision which causes it to limit the hiring of facilities.

Aspull RFC struggles coordinating training demand across its two primary sites which impacts the overall quality of its sessions. It aspires to improve the quality of its grass pitches at Aspull Rugby Football Club to centralise its training demand and help reduce expenditure.

Use of artificial pitches

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

There is currently one World Rugby compliant 11v11 3G pitch in Wigan which is located at Leigh Sports Village Arena. It should be noted that only one of the two 11v11 size 3G pitches is currently certified despite both having been included the previous study.

Additionally, the 11v11 size pitches at Robin Park Arena and Sutton Park have also previously been World Rugby accredited; however, their certification has expired. It is unknown why these pitches, and the remaining pitch at Leigh Sports Village Arena, are no longer certified.

In addition, the artificial pitches at The Westleigh School, St John Rigby College, Dean Trust Rose Bridge and Newbridge Learning Community are also used to meet training demand. It is understood that none of these pitches are World Rugby Regulation 22 Compliant and are therefore being used for non-contact training sessions.

See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Exported/imported demand

Exported demand refers to Wigan Borough registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the Area for their home fixtures, conversely, imported demand are teams entering the area to access provision. There is no known exported or imported rugby union demand regarding Wigan.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Although not quantified by a specific number of teams Leigh, Aspull and Orrell rugby clubs all referenced some form of latent demand at their clubs. This primarily was linked to the quality of ancillary provision and access to training facility with each club stating that if they had access to better facilities, they would be able to accommodate more teams particularly women and girls' demand.

Future demand

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

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Participation growth

The table below identifies the aspirational growth from clubs in Wigan Borough. It should be noted that the growth for Tyldesley RUFC and Wigan RUFC has been identified by the RFU and matches with the likely growth in women and girls demand based anticipated from the 2025 World Cup and increased awareness and initiatives at establishing a legacy from the event. This is based on historical growth trends for each club provided by the RFU.

Table 5.13: Summary of rugby union club growth aspirations derived from consultation validated by the RFU

Club	Analysis area	Mens	Womens	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed	Total
Aspull RFC	West	-	-	2	1	1	4
Leigh RUFC	East	-	1	-	2	-	3
Orrell RUFC	West	1	-	2	-	2	5
Tyldesley RUFC	East	-	1	-	1	-	2
Wigan RUFC	West	-	1	-	1	-	2
	Total	1	3	4	5	3	14

In total club aspirational future demand amounts to 14 teams with five in the East Analysis Area and nine in the West Analysis Area. There are a total of four senior teams (two match equivalent sessions per week), nine age grade boys/girls' teams (4.5 match equivalent sessions per week) and three age grade mixed teams (1.5 match equivalent sessions per week).

Population growth

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

The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions. As seen, growth of one senior men's, one age grade boys and one age grade mixed team is projected.

Table 5.14: Borough-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions ¹⁶
Men (19-45yrs)	1:4,128	0.63	1	0.5
Women (19-45yrs)	1:26,559	0.10	0	-
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:12,139	1.27	1	0.5
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:11,394	0.2	0	-
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:23,958	1.32	1	0.25
Total	-	-	3	1.25

¹⁶ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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

Notwithstanding the above, team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. As such, increased future growth is still considered possible despite population projections indicating that there will only be minimal growth. A growth in women and girls' rugby is thought to be highly likely given current RFU aspirations and upcoming 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup.

Women's Rugby World Cup 2025

For the first time ever, the expanded showcase event will be hosted across eight venues and cities around England (Brighton & Hove, Bristol, Exeter, London, Manchester, Northampton, Sunderland and York) with 16 teams competing to be crowned world champions.

The countrywide format makes it the most accessible Women's Rugby World Cup ever, offering an unparalleled opportunity for fans to see, engage with and support the stars of the women's game in towns and cities around England.

Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 will represent a generational moment for global rugby that will set new standards, welcome new fans and families to the sport and inspire a new generation of players, providing an exciting catalyst to nationwide and global rugby growth.

Based on current ancillary provision the only club in the Authority that has the facilities (separate changing rooms and showering facilities) to accommodate such demand Tyldesley RUFC. The remaining rugby union sites will require investment in order to better accommodate current and anticipated future levels of women and girls' demand.

Future demand summary

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

A total of one men's, one junior and one mini team (1.25 match equivalent sessions per week) will be accredited to Wigan Borough as a whole as it cannot not be accredited to just one analysis area.

The peak period

To fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams in Wigan, it is Saturday PM, whilst it is Sunday AM for age grade rugby.

4.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please see Table 4.16 overleaf for the site-by-site capacity analysis.

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Table 4.16: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Actual spare capacity at peak time	Comments
59	St George's Park	M29 8HG	East	Secure	Yes	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	-	Pitch played to capacity at peak time.
59	St George's Park	M29 8HG	East	Secure	Yes	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2	2	2	1	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
59	St George's Park	M29 8HG	East	Secure	Yes	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2.5	-	0.5	1	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
62	St John Rigby College	WN5 0LJ	West	Secure	Yes	No	M1 / D0	Poor	1.5	2.25 ¹⁷	-	0.75	-	Overplayed by 0.75 match equivalent sessions.
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	WN5 7XF	West	Unsecure	Yes	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	3.25 ¹⁸	-	1.25	0.5	Overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions.
153	Round Ash Park	WN7 3NA	East	Secure	Yes	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1.5	-	0.5	-	Pitch played to capacity at peak time.
153	Round Ash Park	WN7 3NA	East	Secure	Yes	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	1.5	-	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted as it would make the pitch played to capacity.
153	Round Ash Park	WN7 3NA	East	Secure	Yes	No	M1 / D0	Poor	1.5	1.5	-		-	Pitch is played to capacity.
153	Round Ash Park	WN7 3NA	East	Secure	Yes	No	M1 / D0	Poor	1.5	4 ¹⁹	-	2.5	-	Overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
153	Round Ash Park	WN7 3NA	East	Secure	Yes	No	M1 / D0	Poor	1.5	4.5 ²⁰	-	3	-	Overplayed by three match equivalent sessions.
182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	WN2 1PJ	West	Secure	Yes	No	M0 / D0	Poor	0.5	2.5	-	2	-	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	WN2 1PJ	West	Secure	Yes	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	2	2.5	-	0.5	-	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	WN2 1PJ	West	Secure	Yes	No	M0 / D0	Poor	0.5	1	-	0.5	0.5	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
183	Douglas Valley (Wigan RUFC)	WN1 2SJ	West	Secure	Yes	Yes	M2 / D0	Standard	2	2	4	4	1	Overplayed by four match equivalent sessions.
183	Douglas Valley (Wigan RUFC)	WN1 2SJ	West	Secure	Yes	No	M2 / D0	Standard	2	3	-	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
183	Douglas Valley (Wigan RUFC)	WN1 2SJ	West	Secure	Yes	No	M2 / D0	Standard	2	2	-		1	Pitch is played to capacity.

¹⁷ One match equivalent session added to account for curricular and extracurricular demand.

¹⁸ One match equivalent session added to account for curricular and extracurricular demand.

¹⁹ Two match equivalent sessions added to account for football demand.

²⁰ 2.5 match equivalent sessions added to account for football demand.

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Actual spare capacity

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

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

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

For age grade rugby, ascertaining actual spare capacity can be unclear with regards to the programming of matches as it can vary from week to week. This is because junior and mini sections tend to enter cup competitions or play organised friendly fixtures, with clubs arranging for several of their age groups to play those from another club all at once, either at home or away. Then when fixtures are not scheduled, clubs will generally hold training sessions, which means that clubs may require use of home pitches for consecutive weeks, or not at all for the same time period.

Given the above, it is generally assumed that no pitches used by age grade teams have significant actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. However, it is acknowledged that some capacity does exist during weekends when the pitches are not in use.

Across Wigan Borough there is no actual spare capacity at peak time on senior or mini pitches.

Overplay

The table below examines the level of overplay of rugby union pitches across Wigan Borough. In total there is 17 match equivalent sessions of overplay per week with nine being located in the West Analysis Area and eight within the East Analysis Area.

Table 4.17: Summary of overplay in match equivalent sessions

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of overplayed pitches	Overplay (MES)
59	St George's Park	East	2	2.5
62	St John Rigby College	West	1	0.75
76	Winstanley College Sports Centre	West	1	1.25
153	Round Ash Park	East	2	5.5
182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	West	1	1 ²¹
182	Aspull Rugby Football Club	West	2	1

²¹ Overplay of two match equivalent sessions on mini pitch equating to senior pitches.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of overplayed pitches	Overplay (MES)
183	Douglas Valley (Wigan RUFC)	West	2	5
-	-	-	Total	17

In Wigan Borough, overplay is a result of substantial levels of demand accessing often poor quality, pitch stock of which five pitches are poor quality (45%). This is further worsened when the provision is also used for training or is overmarked for the like of football, such as Round Ash Park.

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in each of the analysis areas as well as across the Wigan Borough as a whole for rugby union based on match equivalent sessions. It should be noted that future demand is based upon future growth from population increases rather than club aspirations.

Table 4.18: Supply and demand balance of rugby pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
2017					
Central	-	-		-	
East	-	1	1	1.5	2.5
West	-	4.5	4.5	1.5	6
Total	-	5.5	5.5	3	8.5
2025					
Central	-	-		-	
East	-	8	8	-	8
West	-	9	9	-	9
Total	-	17	17	1.25 ²²	18.25

As seen, there is a current shortfall of 17 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand. This equates to a shortfall of eight match equivalent sessions per week in the East Analysis Area and nine matches equivalent sessions per week in the West Analysis Area. There is no rugby union supply or demand in Central Analysis Area. When factoring in future demand, the overall shortfall increases to 18.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

As shown the shortfall has worsened since the 2017 study which is in part due to pitches reducing in quality but mainly based on the significant increase in demand utilising the same/similar number of pitches.

As there is minimal future demand anticipated from population growth, a separate scenario will be run in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document to understand the impact of other potential future growth opportunities such as reported club aspirational demand.

²² Future demand has been accredited to Wigan Borough as it dissipates when analysing it on an Analysis Area basis. It is also based on senior equivalents with mini demand representing 0.25 match equivalent sessions.

4.6: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of rugby union capacity in both East and West analysis areas in Wigan Borough. This therefore needs to be overcome, with possible solutions including the provision of new pitches, quality improvements to the existing stock, increasing the presence of sports lighting and enabling access to World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. These will be further explored in the proceeding strategy document.

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- ❖ Overall, there is a current shortfall of 17 match equivalent sessions per week to meet current demand. This equates to a shortfall of eight match equivalent sessions in the East Analysis Area and nine matches equivalent sessions in the West Analysis Area. The Central Analysis Area is played to capacity.
- ❖ When factoring in future demand from population increases, the overall shortfall increases to 18.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

Rugby union – supply summary

- ❖ There is a total of 16 rugby union pitches across six sites in Wigan Borough. All provision is available for community use and evenly split between the East and West analysis areas, with no rugby union at all in the Central Analysis Area.
- ❖ All clubs are considered to have secure tenure at their primary venue through either freehold or a long-term agreement such as Orrell RUFC at St John Rigby College.
- ❖ Of the community available pitches in Wigan Borough, ten are assessed as standard quality and seven are assessed as poor quality. The poor quality pitches are located at Coronation Park, St John Rigby College, Round Ash Park and Aspull Rugby Football Club.
- ❖ Four sites have poor quality changing rooms: St John Rigby College, Round Ash Park, Aspull Rugby Football Club and Douglas Valley.
- ❖ Both Leigh RUFC & Aspull RFC have invested, along with the RFU, to refurbish social spaces to make them more welcoming environments to everyone.
- ❖ Orrell RUFC aspires to create its own dedicated ancillary provision and changing rooms at St John Rigby College.

Rugby union – demand summary

- ❖ Across Wigan Borough there are five clubs providing a total of 72 teams which equates to 13 senior men's, two senior women's, 26 age grade boys, four age grade girls and 27 age grade mixed teams.
- ❖ This is split between the East Analysis Area which accommodates 34 teams and West Analysis Area with 38 teams. There is no current rugby union demand in the Central Analysis Area.
- ❖ In Wigan Borough, only two out of the five clubs are training on sports lit grass pitches at their home venues, these are Tyldesley RUFC and Wigan RUFC. The remaining clubs are utilising 3G pitches to meet their training demand with most of this being non-contact.
- ❖ Although not quantified by a specific number of teams, Leigh, Aspull and Orrell rugby clubs all reference latent demand at their clubs. This is linked to the quality of ancillary provision and access to training facility with each club stating that if they had access to better facilities, they would be able to accommodate more teams, particularly women and girls' demand.
- ❖ In total, club aspirational future demand amounts to 14 teams with five in the East Analysis Area and nine in the West Analysis Area.
- ❖ In total there is 17 match equivalent sessions per week of overplay with nine being located in the West Analysis Area and eight within the East Analysis Area.

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PART 5: RUGBY LEAGUE

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in Britain and Ireland. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League, and the Championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game structure in the UK. The RFL also administers the amateur and junior game across the country in association with the British Amateur Rugby League Association (BARLA).

Most community club rugby league is played throughout the summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is considered a winter season sport within schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training can also be required throughout the winter months.

Senior rugby league is played on a pitch measuring 100 x 68 metres. The preferred pitch size for U7s, U8s and U9s is 60 x 40 metres, whereas for U10s and U11s it is 80 x 30 metres, with U12s and above generally playing on senior pitches. Teams from U7s to U11s are known as primary teams, whilst teams from U12s to U18s known as junior teams.

Consultation

There are 15 community rugby league clubs located in Wigan Borough, of which 14 responded to consultation requests resulting in an 93% response rate. It should be noted that there are also two professional clubs namely, Wigan Warriors and Leigh Leopards, which are included and referenced as required, however, do not feature with the response rate due to their elite nature.

Table 5.1: Summary of consultation

Clubs	Responded?
Ashton Bears ARLFC	Yes
Golborne Parkside ARLFC	Yes
Hindley ARLFC	Yes
Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC	Yes
Leigh East ARLFC	Yes
Leigh Miners ARLFC	Yes
Orrell St James ARLFC	Yes
Rose Bridge Pantheresses ARLFC	Yes
Shevington Sharks ARLFC	Yes
Springview ARLFC	No
Wigan Bulldogs ARLFC	Yes
Wigan Spring View ARLFC	Yes
Wigan St Cuthberts ARLFC	Yes
Wigan St Judes ARLFC	Yes
Wigan St Patricks ARLFC	Yes

Since the previous study in 2017, Aspull New Spring Lions ARLFC and Atherton Dragons ARLFC have folded. In addition, Leigh Miners is now recognised as one club rather than separate senior and junior sections as well as Leigh Centurions changing its name to Leigh Leopards.

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There has also been the creation of two new clubs since the previous study which are Rose Bridge Pantheresses ARLFC (the women and girls' section of Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC) and Springview ARLFC.

5.2: Supply

There are 64 rugby league pitches identified in Wigan Borough across 32 sites. Of these, 60 pitches across 28 sites are available for community use, with the pitches at Golborne High School, Westleigh High School Playing Fields, The Brick Community Stadium and Leigh Leopards (stadium pitch) unavailable for community use.

It should be noted that the pitches used by Wigan Warriors and Leigh Leopards (professional clubs) have not been included within the community available provision and will be discounted from the overall supply and demand analysis due to being retained for Super League matches.

Table 5.2: Summary of grass rugby league pitches available to the community

Analysis area	No. of available pitches	No. of unavailable pitches
2017		
Ashton	15	2
Leigh	30	1
Wigan Town	35	5
Total	80	8
2024		
Central	15	1
East	15	2
West	30	1
Total	60	4

From a club perspective, one of the most significant additions has been the creation of two senior pitches at Bankes Avenue Playing Field (Orrell St James ARLFC).

The number of unavailable pitches has reduced, in part, due to mini pitches which were previously marked at primary schools including Marcus Bridge Primary School, Shevington Community Primary School, Westleigh St Paul's C of E Primary School and Wood Fold Primary School which are now either used for football or left as general playing field areas.

There are also several sites that are no longer actively marked out, these are outlined in greater detail in the disused/unused provision section below.

Third generation turf pitches (3G)

Unlike many local authorities, there is a significant level of rugby league demand taking place on 3G pitches mainly at Leigh Sports Village Arena (Leigh Leopards / Leigh East ARLFC) and Sutton Park (Leigh Miners ARLFC). More information surrounding the quality, accessibility and demand is found in Part 3: Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPS).

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Disused provision

There are three disused sites within Wigan Borough as noted in the table below.

Table 5.3: Disused rugby league sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Comments
16	Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field (Formally known as Rose Bridge High School Sports Field)	West	WN2 2HP	The playing field previously had three rugby league pitches marked last used circa 2012. It has also had football marked on it. There are plans to reinstate this site.
260	Leigh Road Playing Field	East	WN7 1SN	Last actively marked circa 2021 with one senior rugby league pitch. There are also two single sets of football goalposts on the site.
262	Hemsfield Road (former Belle Green Primary School)	West	WN2 2EY	Playing field land retained following the closure of the former Belle Green Primary School which was demolished and developed for housing.

The other sites which were previously classified as disused are now categorised as unused provision with the section below as they are used by other sports or as general open spaces.

Unused provision

Although not classed as disused, as the sites are still actively used as public open spaces or used for other sports, there a number of sites which no longer accommodate rugby league pitches. This is based on evidence provided in the 2017 PPS. Details surrounding these sites are outlined in detail in the table below.

Table 5.4: Summary of unused Rugby league sites in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Comments
43	Marsh Playing Fields	East	WN7 5DE	Formally one senior rugby league pitch now just used for football.
107	Hindley Green Community Primary School Playing Field	Central	WN2 4SS	Formally three primary rugby league pitch now just used for football.
108	Holy Family Catholic Primary School	East	M28 1AG	Formally one primary rugby league pitch now just used for football.
124	R L Hughes Primary School	Central	WN4 9QL	Formally one primary rugby league pitch now just used for football.
134	St Luke's C of E Primary School	Central	WA3 2PW	Formally one primary rugby league pitch now just used for football.
158	Leisure United William Fosters	West	WN2 2BU	Formally one senior pitch which has since been developed for as a football hub.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Comments
165	St Judes Catholic Primary School	West	WN3 5AN	Formally one primary rugby league pitch now just used for football.

There is an area at Bankes Avenue Playing Fields for a mini pitch, however, this was not marked when site assessments took place. It is known this has formally been used as a pitch in the past.

Future developments

Ashton Bears ARLFC is in the process of creating an additional senior pitch at Bear Park, which currently accommodates one senior and junior pitch. The pitch will be located to the top of the site with an additional training space next to the new pitch.

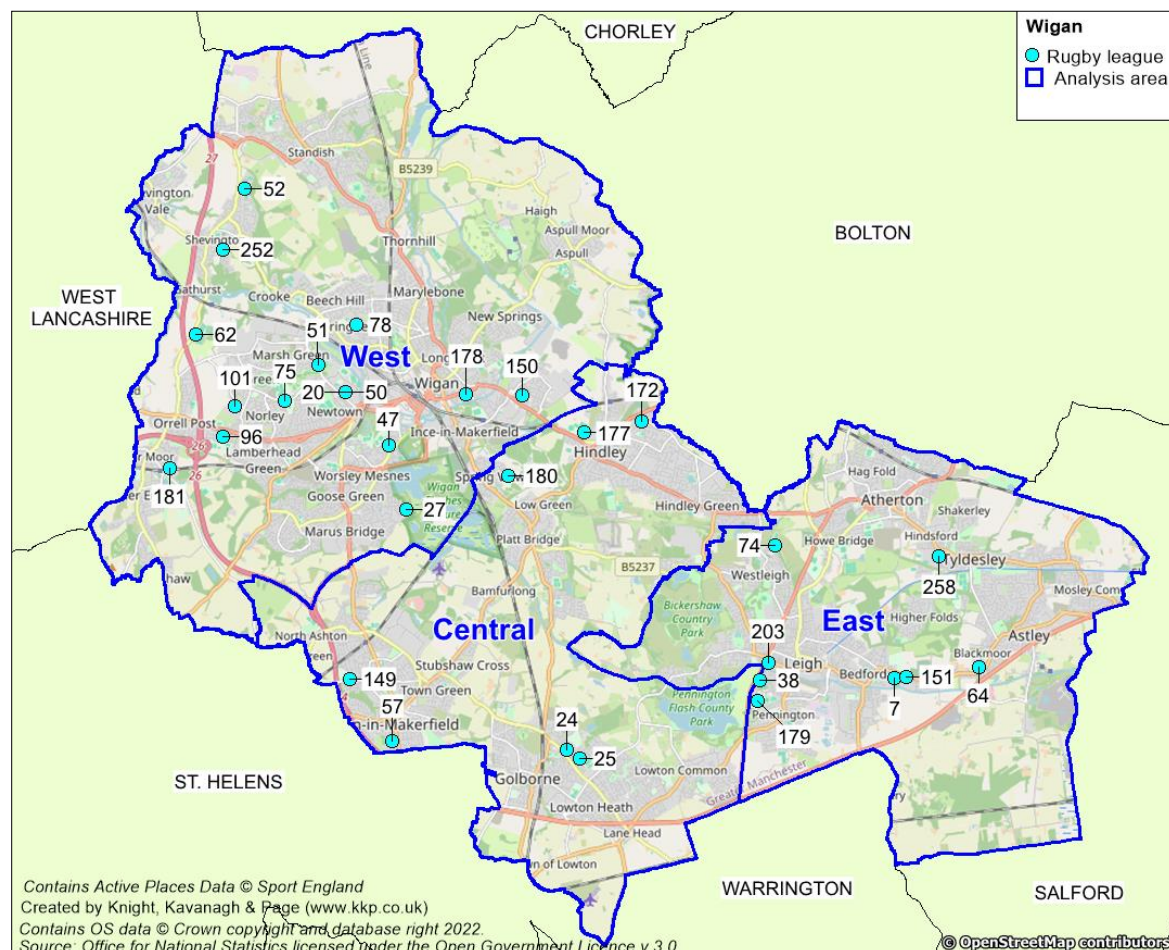
Wigan St Patricks ARLFC (Clarington Grove Playing Fields) aspires to convert a current unused area of hardstanding into a dedicated grass pitch to provide additional capacity, however, it indicates current costs to accomplish this is too prohibitive. Therefore, it would require external funding to complete this development.

Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC and Wigan Town FC are currently in conversations with the Council regarding reinstating provision at disused site Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field, known locally as Imperial Fields. The clubs have advanced into year one programme of the Home Advantage Program (FF grant funding programme). There are still logistical obligations (lease negotiations, GPMF application and feasibility study) required to be carried out, however, once overcome the site should see one senior rugby league pitch, one adult football pitch and three dual use junior/youth rugby league and football pitches re-established. The proposal also includes the creation of catering unit.

Figure 5.1 highlights all rugby league pitches currently within Wigan Borough, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 5.16.

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Figure 5.1: Location of rugby league pitches within Wigan Borough



Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Wigan Borough is generally secure i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years, with most sites ensuring community use is available.

Table 5.5: Summary of tenure for community rugby league club in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Clubs playing at pitches	Notes of ownership/ management
25	Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club	Central	Golborne Parkside ARLFC	A 10-year lease from the Council.
38	Leigh Sports Village	East	Leigh East ARLFC	Leigh East ARLFC lease the clubhouse and rent the use of the 3G provision.
47	Parsons Meadow	West	Wigan St Judes ARLFC	Rent from the Council. Long term lease from the Council for pavilion and gym.
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	West	Wigan Bulldogs ARLFC	Rent from the Council.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Clubs playing at pitches	Notes of ownership/ management
75	Wigan St Cuthberts and Norley Hall Sports Club	West	Wigan St Cuthberts ARLFC	Leased from the Council. Four years remaining on a 21-year lease.
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Orrell St James ARLFC	Lease from WBC. 30-year lease signed until 2045.
149	Bear Park	Central	Ashton Bears ARLFC	A 25-year lease from the Council.
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club	West	Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC Rose Bridge Pantheresses ARLFC	Long term lease from the Council.
151	Sutton Park	East	Leigh Miners ARLFC	Approximately 22 years remaining on a lease from the Council and CISWO.
177	Cardinel Newman Playing Fields	Central	Hindley ARLFC	Long term lease from the Council expiring in 2034.
178	Clarrington Grove Playing Fields	West	Wigan St Patricks ARLFC	A 25-year lease from the Council expiring 2037.
180	Spring View Community Sports Association	Central	Springview ARLFC Wigan Spring View ARLFC	Leased from the Council until 2032 to Wigan Spring View ARLFC.
203	Leigh Miners Welfare Institute	East	Leigh Miners ARLFC	Long term lease ending in 2122.
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	West	Shevington Sharks ARLFC	A 30-year lease from Shevington Parish Council.

Pitch quality

The quality of rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough has been assessed via a combination of PitchPower reports, club consultation and site visits, carrying out non-technical assessments as determined by the RFL (undertaken in July 2024), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good.
- ◀ Standard.
- ◀ Poor.

Pitch quality influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain high levels of use. It is likely that pitches that receive little or no ongoing repair or off-season remedial work will be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games able to take place each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches which are tended to regularly are likely to be a higher standard and capable of taking several matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) can often offer better quality facilities than Council and school playing pitches as such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches regularly during the week. Also, private sites are often secured by fencing which prevents unofficial use whilst council pitches are generally located within parks and open spaces, regularly used by the public.

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PitchPower Assessment

PitchPower (a technical assessment of quality) for rugby league began to be used in 2024 with the initial reports being produced towards the end of the season. More information surrounding PitchPower, and its functionality is available in Part 2: Football. The main difference for the analysis of cricket is that both the outfield and square are assessed for quality.

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

Table 5.6: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPOSS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

In Wigan Borough, 10 rugby league sites have received a PitchPower assessment. The findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in the table below.

Table 5.7: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Club users	PitchPower rating	PPOSS Non tech rating
25	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club (Main Pitch)	Golborne Parkside ARLFC	Good	Standard
25	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club	Golborne Parkside ARLFC	Basic	Standard
47	Parsons Meadow	Wigan St Judes ARLFC	Basic	Poor
47	Parsons Meadow	Wigan St Judes ARLFC	Good	Poor
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	Wigan St Cuthberts ARLFC	Good	Standard
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	Orrell St James ARLFC	Basic	Standard
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	Orrell St James ARLFC	Good	Good
149	Bear Park	Ashton Bears ARLFC	Good	Good
151	Sutton Park	Leigh Miners ARLFC	Good	Good
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Hindley ARLFC	Basic	Standard
178	Clarrington Grove Playing Fields	Wigan St Patricks ARLFC	Basic	Standard
178	Clarrington Grove Playing Fields	Wigan St Patricks ARLFC	Advanced	Standard
203	Leigh Miners Welfare Institute	Leigh Miners ARLFC	Basic	Standard
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	Shevington Sharks ARLFC	Advanced	Good

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For reference the PitchPower quality scores, in the most part, will be the ones used in the pitch capacity analysis to follow. The only exception to this is Parsons Meadow. The Club reports the pitches to be poor quality (which corresponds with non-technical assessments) whereas the PitchPower report indicates they are good quality. As this was completed in October 2022 the more recent data from non-technical assessments and club consultation will be used for the supply and demand analysis.

Using the information above, as well as club feedback and non-technical site assessments, a breakdown of each pitch quality for every site used by a community club can be seen in the table below.

Table 5.8: Site quality ratings of pitches used by community clubs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Sports lit?	Overall quality rating
25	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club	Central	Junior	3	No	Standard
25	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club	Central	Senior	1	No	Standard
25	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club	Central	Senior	1	No	Good
47	Parsons Meadow	West	Junior	2	No	Poor
47	Parsons Meadow	West	Senior	1	Yes	Poor
47	Parsons Meadow	West	Senior	2	No	Poor
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	West	Senior	1	No	Poor
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	West	Senior	3	No	Good
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	Yes	Good
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	No	Good
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	Yes	Standard
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	No	Standard
149	Bear Park	Central	Junior	1	No	Good
149	Bear Park	Central	Senior	1	No	Good
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	West	Mini	1	Yes	Poor
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	West	Senior	1	Yes	Standard
151	Sutton Park	East	Senior	1	Yes	Good
151	Sutton Park	East	Senior	2	No	Good
151	Sutton Park	East	Primary	5	No	Good
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Central	Primary	1	No	Standard
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Central	Junior	1	No	Standard
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Central	Senior	1	Yes	Standard
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Central	Senior	1	No	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Sports lit?	Overall quality rating
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	Yes	Good
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	Yes	Standard
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	West	Mini	1	No	Standard
180	Spring View Community Sports Association	Central	Senior	1	Yes	Standard
180	Spring View Community Sports Association	Central	Junior	1	No	Standard
203	Leigh Miners Welfare Institute	East	Senior	1	Yes	Standard
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	West	Senior	1	No	Good
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	West	Junior	1	No	Good

Of responding clubs, the following raised issues relating the quality of pitches.

The senior and junior pitch at Bear Park has recently (2024) had purpose-built drainage installed (pipe and slit) with the Ashton Bears ARLFC indicating this has improved the overall quality. The Club also carries out dedicated levels of maintenance including fertilising, aeration and weed killing.

Wigan St Cuthberts ARLFC has been granted PitchPower funding for maintenance equipment to help it sustain the quality of its pitches, especially as they are overmarked for football during the winter.

Orrell St James ARLFC indicates plans for both a clubhouse redevelopment and improvements to drainage on two of its pitches at Bankes Avenue Playing Fields. This is in addition to continued pitch maintenance through the grass pitch maintenance fund.

Regular issues with dog fouling, littering, occasional lack of line markings and vandalism on the pitches through bike riders means provision at Scot Lane Playing Field is poor quality. Wigan Bulldogs ARLFC reports it must address these issues before training and matches.

Golborne Parkside ARLFC is in the process of investing into drainage solutions on two of its two poor quality pitches at Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club. The Club is part way through the project and is attempting to raise additional funds to complete the works. It states multiple matches and training sessions are postponed throughout the season due this issue. Furthermore, the site is subject to unofficial usage causing damage to the playing surface and dog fouling which can also postpone matches. It should be noted that the Club allows Leigh Leopards to use its facilities.

Wigan Spring View ARLFC reports the senior pitch at Spring View Community Sports Association retains water in periods of bad weather which can lead to match cancellations. It has plans to develop the playing fields, however, it does not go into specifics.

Wigan St Patricks ARLFC indicates the pitches at Clarington Grove Playing Fields have improved in quality within the last three years as it has worked hard to try and maintain the provision all year round. However, due to the substantial level of training and match play demand on the site, the provision is overused which is adversely affecting the quality.

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To try and alleviate this issue the Club aspires to create additional pitch provision on the site. It wants to convert an unused area of macadam into a grass pitch; however, it would require external funding to complete this project.

Pitches at Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club have improved in quality within the previous three years due to the Club (Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC) receiving resources from the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund. The pitches are also used by Wigan Town FC during the winter season.

It should be noted that the pitch at Edge Hall Road Community Stadium (West Analysis Area – WN5 8TL) is currently being redeveloped as a hub for women and girls' sports for both rugby league and football in partnership with Wigan Warriors and Wigan Athletic.

Hindley ARLFC indicate it has applied for pitch improvement funding for Cardinal Newman Playing Fields from the RFL and anticipates it will be able to start to enhance quality over the next few years.

Wigan St Jude's has raised enough funds to install a perimeter fence around five rugby pitches located at Parsons Meadow, following damage from off road vehicles.

Pitch quality Wigan Borough overview

Overall, based on a percentage analysis, the quality of grass rugby league pitches has improved with a higher percentage of good quality pitches in 2024 and fewer number of poorer quality pitches when compared to the 2017 study.

Table 5.9: Comparison of pitch quality ratings for all rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor	Total
2017				
Ashton	2	8	6	16
Leigh	11	8	12	31
Wigan Town	5	16	19	40
Total	18 (21%)	32 (37%)	37 (42%)	87
2024				
Central	3	10	3	16
East	11	1	5	17
West	10	5	16	31
Total	24 (38%)	16 (24%)	24 (38%)	64

This in part is due to the reduction in poor quality pitches which are now not actively marked, as outlined above. However, broadly speaking enhancements have been made especially to those pitches used by community clubs such as Cardinal Newman Playing Fields and Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club. In addition, good provision at Sutton Park and Bear Park have been sustained. These improvements, in part, are due to the introduction of the grass pitch maintenance fund.

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Grass pitch maintenance fund²³

Community Clubs and Foundations can now take advantage of the revolutionary Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund which is being delivered in partnership with the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation.

Over the next three years, £5 million of Sport England National Lottery funding will be made available via the Foundation to support the improvement of grass pitches in rugby league's community clubs.

Upon submitting a PitchPower assessment, clubs will receive a bespoke maintenance plan from the Grounds Management Association (GMA) enabling them to access a six-year tapered grant, providing up to £3,600 for every 'match equivalent' pitch in the first two years and tapered down over the remaining period. This funding can be used to employ contractors and purchase materials to improve pitches over a 10-year period.

Ancillary facilities

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

Although the size and configuration of ancillary provision may alter based on the sports using the provision, and the number of pitches it services, generally the same principles are recommended to allow for varied use from all demographics:

- ◆ Accessible changing areas which can be separated, or are private/self-contained, to allow for separate male/female/all gender or senior/junior separation.
- ◆ A private accessible changing room (with relevant changing and showering provision) for someone who requires assistance.
- ◆ Separate female / male / all gender toilet provision.
- ◆ Suitably designed and specified showering cubicles to all users to maintain dignity and privacy whilst showering.

Open planned changing, toilets and particularly showering facilities can provide a significant barrier to many people resulting in them either not taking part or having a poorer sporting experience.

As a result of the above, those ancillary facilities that do not meet the above criteria, cannot be rated anything higher than standard quality for the purposes of this document. Additional context behind the rationale is provided below.

²³ [Grass Pitch Fund \(rugby-league.com\)](https://www.rugby-league.com/grass-pitch-fund)

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Table 5.10: Rugby league ancillary facilities quality

Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality ²⁴	Comments on changing rooms/clubhouses
25	Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club	Golborne Parkside ARLFC	Good	Standard	Separate changing rooms for male/female but not for senior/junior. Site has suffered from vandalism within the last year including dug outs smashed and littering.
38	Leigh Sports Village	Leigh East ARLFC	Good	Good	The club lease the building which includes the clubhouse facilities, kitchen and kit room. It includes two main changing rooms and four more which are assessed as good quality. These facilities are compliant for women's & girls. Issues with the size of the car park.
47	Parsons Meadow	Wigan St Judes ARLFC	Standard	Poor	Changing rooms are in need of modernisation. There is a need for additional changing provision particularly for women and girls' demand. The Club has now raised enough funds to install perimeter fencing around five rugby pitches to stop vandalism and unauthorised access.
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	Wigan Bulldogs ARLFC	N/A	N/A	N/A
75	Wigan St Cuthberts and Norley Hall Sports Club	Wigan St Cuthberts ARLFC	Standard	Poor	No dedicated changing rooms for women and girls or senior/junior demand. The Club does have current female demand.
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	Orrell St James ARLFC	Good	Standard	No dedicated changing rooms for women and girls or senior/junior demand.
149	Bear Park	Ashton Bears ARLFC	Good	Standard	The clubhouse is good quality; however, the Club is looking to add additional changing rooms to better accommodate women and girls' demand. The car park has recently been resurfaced. It also has aspirations to fence off the site to stop unauthorised access.
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club	Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC Rose Bridge Pantheresses ARLFC	Good	Good	Separate changing rooms for women and girls demand, also used for football.

²⁴ Including changing areas, toilets and showering facilities.

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Site ID	Site name	Users	Overall building quality	Changing room quality ²⁴	Comments on changing rooms/clubhouses
151	Sutton Park	Leigh Miners ARLFC	Standard	Poor	There is a need for more dedicated female changing facilities. There has been vandalism on the site (dugouts).
177	Cardinel Newman Playing Fields	Hindley ARLFC	Standard	Poor	No dedicated changing rooms for women and girls or senior/junior demand. The Club does have current female demand. Site has suffered from vandalism.
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	Wigan St Patricks ARLFC	Good	Standard	Site does not have separate changing for senior/junior nor male/female. Site has suffered from vandalism within the last year including fly tipping and attempted break ins.
180	Spring View Community Sports Association	Springview ARLFC Wigan Spring View ARLFC	Standard	Standard	Site does not have separate changing for senior/junior nor male/female, however, it is only currently senior teams which are accessing the provision. There would be a need to improve the changing rooms to allow for growth.
203	Leigh Miners Welfare Institute	Leigh Miners ARLFC	Good	Good	N/A
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	Shevington Sharks ARLFC	Good	Standard	No separate changing rooms for women and girls' demand. There is a need for additional car parking on the site.

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A key issue at several of the community club sites in Wigan Borough is unauthorised access, dog fouling and acts of vandalism which is affecting ancillary and pitch quality. Cardinel Newman Playing Fields, Sutton Park, Clarington Grove Playing Field, Bear Park, Parsons Meadow, Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club have all suffered from these issues with the relevant clubs exploring avenues to reduce the problem.

Additionally, most sites have no dedicated women and girls changing rooms. Given there is currently eight senior women's and 25 junior girls' teams alongside the rising popularity of the sport within this demographic, there is a potential need to upgrade facilities to better accommodate demand given participation is increasing across the Country.

5.3: Demand

Demand for rugby league in Wigan Borough tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training. As the majority of rugby league play takes place during the summer period, when the nights are lighter, a significant amount of training takes place on pitches in addition to the competitive match play.

Competitive play

A total of 190 teams are identified as playing competitive rugby league in Wigan Borough. This consists of 24 senior men's, eight senior women's, 55 junior boys' teams, 25 junior girls' team and 78 primary teams. The table below shows that the West Analysis Area is where the most teams have their competitive pitch located (93 teams), whilst the East Analysis Area accommodates the least number of teams (43).

Table 5.11: Comparison of rugby league community club demand

Analysis area	Senior	Junior	Primary	Total
2017				
Ashton	5	8	11	24
Leigh	10	12	25	47
Wigan Town	20	28	39	86
Total	35	48	75	157
2024				
Central	10	22	22	54
East	6	17	20	43
West	16	41	36	93
Total	32	80	78	190
Percentage change	9%	67%	4%	21%

As seen overall there has been an increase in demand since the 2017 PPS with an increase in senior women's, junior boys, junior girls and primary teams, despite a minor decrease in senior men's teams.

The table below breaks down the levels of demand by team and by demographic. This does not include demand from Wigan Warriors or Leigh Leopards which is discussed latter in the section.

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Table 5.12: Club by club summary of teams

Club	Senior men (inc. masters)	Senior women (inc. masters)	Junior boys (U13–U18)	Junior girls (U13– U18)	Primary (mixed) U7s–U12s	Total
Ashton Bears ARLFC	2	1	5	3	6	17
Golborne Parkside ARLFC	2	1	4	2	8	17
Hindley ARLFC	1	-	4	4	8	17
Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC	1	-	4	-	7	12
Leigh East ARLFC	2	-	5	-	6	13
Leigh Miners ARLFC	3	1	8	4	14	30
Orrell St James ARLFC	2	1	5	3	7	18
Rose Bridge Pantheresses ARLFC	-	-	-	3	-	3
Shevington Sharks ARLFC	1	1	5	1	6	14
Springview ARLFC	1	-	-	-	-	1
Wigan Bulldogs ARLFC	1	-	4	-	-	5
Wigan Spring View ARLFC	2	-	-	-	-	2
Wigan St Cuthberts ARLFC	1	-	2	1	4	8
Wigan St Judes ARLFC	2	2	6	-	6	16
Wigan St Patricks ARLFC	3	1	3	4	6	17
Total	24	8	55	25	78	190

It should be noted that Leigh Miners ARLFC, Wigan St Cuthberts ARLFC, Golborne Parkside ARLFC have dedicated teams included within their primary age group sections.

Wigan Warriors

Wigan Warriors has a men's, women's and wheelchair teams which play in the Super League which is the top tier of rugby league. The men's team has recently won back-to-back titles (2023/2024), the women's team won the Challenge Cup in June 2025, and the wheelchair team were champions in 2023. The Club, including its community foundation, reserves and academies, is based at Robin Park Arena (Brick Community Stadium).

The Wigan Warriors Community Foundation provides a variety of on and offsite programmes to enable thousands of people to take part in sport, health, educational and wellbeing initiatives including:

- ♦ New initiatives to develop rugby league, including women and girls' pathway, physical and learning disability rugby league, Touch rugby league and wheelchair rugby league.
- ♦ Health & wellbeing delivery for the local community.
- ♦ Rugby memories garden that supports older adults, school groups and clients with physical and learning disabilities.

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- ✦ The creation of an education centre that supports young people and adults.
- ✦ Inclusive sport delivery.
- ✦ Inclusive training sessions.
- ✦ Fundraising events.
- ✦ Children's physical activity camps.
- ✦ Significant developments in the participation of junior athletics provision.
- ✦ Community and fan events such as firework displays, past player interviews and open access training sessions.

Leigh Leopards

Formally known as Leigh Centurions in the previous PPS (2017), Leigh Leopards is a professional club based at Leigh Sports Village Stadium which fields a senior men's and senior women's team both playing in Super League. The former winning the Challenge Cup in 2024.

The Club has seen significant developments within the previous three years with the creation of a dedicated player pathway in 2023. It has also partnered with Leigh Community Trust (LCT) in 2022 to work in areas of challenging behaviour, mental and physical wellbeing, special needs. This saw the creation of physical and learning disability rugby league teams.

Women and girls' rugby league

Both Wigan Warriors and Leigh Leopards have dedicated women's teams with both now playing within the Women's Super League. Wigan Warriors currently use The Brick Community Stadium (WN5 0UH) as its home ground with Leigh Leopards located at Leigh Miners Welfare Institute (WN7 4EF).

As previously mentioned, the pitch Edge Hall Road Community Stadium (West Analysis Area – WN5 8TL) is currently being redeveloped as hub for women and girls sports for both rugby league and football in partnership with Wigan Warriors and Wigan Athletic.

Further to this the following community clubs also have dedicated women's or girls' teams within their structure: Ashton Bears ARLFC, Golborne Parkside ARLFC, Hindley ARLFC, Leigh Miners ARLFC, Orrell St James ARLFC, Rose Bridge Pantheresses ARLFC, Shevington Sharks ARLFC, Wigan St Cuthberts ARLFC, Wigan St Jude's ARLFC and Wigan St Patricks ARLFC.

Wheelchair rugby league²⁵

Wheelchair rugby league is played on an indoor court surface with the dimensions being 20 metres x 46 metres long, although this can be adjusted accordingly to accommodate differing numbers of players. Teams consist of no more than five players with a maximum of two non-disabled players allowed.

The object of the game is to ground the ball in the opponents in goal to score a try and to kick (a 'kick' is completed with the arm) the ball over the opponent's cross bar to score goals. A match is normally 80 minutes with a five-minute half time.

Wigan Warriors currently has a wheelchair rugby league team which plays in Super League.

²⁵ <https://www.rugby-league.com/uploads/docs/Rules%20Doc.pdf>

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Physical disability rugby league (PDRL)

PDRL is a full contact version of the game designed for participants with physical disabilities. It is played in its own league with each club hosting their own festivals where a number of fixtures take place with contribute to league standings.

Domestically, PDRL is played on a 50 metre x 100 metre pitch and is a nine a side version of rugby league. Teams include seven physically disabled players and two non-disabled players which act as facilitators during the game. Each half is 25 minutes in length.

Wigan Warriors and Leigh Leopards both have active PDRL sections which utilise provision at Robin Park Arena.

Learning Disability Rugby League (LDRL)

LDRL is a variant of the game developed to ensure that people with learning disabilities can access and enjoy the sport of Rugby League. It is an accessible offer open to any individual who has a learning disability or associated condition.

The sport is played on a quarter of a pitch with a seven a side team with games non-contact and generally following tag rugby league rules. Teams are allowed two non-disabled players who act as facilitators to ensure the match is free flowing and balanced. Each game lasts 40 minutes (2 x 20 minute halves) on a 35 metre x 50 metre pitch.

Both Wigan Warriors and Leigh Leopards have LDRL teams using Robin Park Arena and Leigh Sports Village Stadium.

Training

Nationally, rugby league clubs tend to use match pitches for training due to clubs preferring to use grass pitch provision, but also the cost of hiring 3G facilities is too high. However, this leads to overplay of pitches due to accommodating both training and matches.

Contrary to the above, two clubs use 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitches to accommodate all their training demand. Leigh East ARLFC utilises the two pitches at Leigh Sports Village Arena to accommodate all its training needs whereas Leigh Miners ARLFC use the newly built provision at Sutton Park for its demand.

Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC and Rose Bridge Pantheresses ARLFC have access to a small indoor 3G pitch at Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club which accommodates partial amounts of training demand.

All remaining clubs indicate they train on their grass match pitches which causes overuse and overplay. The exact amount of training demand located on pitches is shown in detail in Table 5.17 later in the section.

All clubs, apart from Leigh East ARLFC, which responded to consultation indicate a need for additional training provision with Hindley, Orrell St James, Wigan Spring View, Golborne Parkside, Wigan St Cuthberts, Shevington Sharks and Wigan St Jude's rugby league clubs specifically referencing a need for more affordable and accessible 3G provision. The remaining clubs mention a need for additional grass provision at their home sites.

Imported/exported demand

Exported demand refers to Wigan Borough based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities.

Shevington Sharks ARLFC is the only club known to export demand outside of Wigan Borough. Approximately two of its mini teams a week play their matches at Parbold Playing Fields (WN8 7HZ – West Lancashire) which is situated approximately 4.2 miles or 11 minutes from its home ground. Although the Club would prefer to accommodate this demand more locally it does not indicate its current arrangement to be too problematic.

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. There is no known club based imported demand into Wigan Borough.

Unmet/latent demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision.

Wigan St Patricks ARLFC reports that if it had access to more pitch provision and better ancillary provision (dedicated female changing) at its home site, Clarington Grove Playing Fields, it would be able to field additional teams. It indicates that it could accommodate an U7s, U9s, U18s and U13s girls' team.

Wigan St Cuthberts ARLFC and Leigh Miners ALFC also both indicate it they had more dedicated separate changing rooms for women and girls they would be able to increase levels of participation, however, neither quantify this with a specific number of teams.

Wigan Bulldogs ARLFC indicate that is if it had access to more pitches and some form of ancillary provision it would be able to increase the number of teams it fields, however, it does not quantify this with a specific number.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby league arising from housing developments within Wigan Borough.

Population increase

Based on population projections to 2041 for Wigan Borough (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth.

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Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

Table 5.13: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions ²⁶
Men (19-45yrs)	1:1,987	1.32	1	0.5
Women (19-45yrs)	1:6,639	0.39	0	-
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:279	2.49	2	1
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:556	1.17	1	0.5
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:248	3.90	4	2

As seen in the table above, eight teams expect to be generated (equating to four match equivalent sessions per week) are authority wide and not accredited to any analysis area, they will be added onto the overall supply and demand total for each pitch type within the 'Supply and Demand' section later.

Participation increase

Of responding clubs, 12 clubs highlight plans to increase membership amounting to 46 teams in total. The amount to which each club want to increase is listed in the table below.

Table 5.14: Future demand from club aspirations

Club	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls	Primary	Total
Ashton Bears ARLFC	-	1	-	1	1	3
Golborne Parkside ARLFC	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hindley ARLFC	-	1	-	1	-	2
Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC	1	-	1	-	1	3
Leigh East ARLFC	-	-	-	4	4	8
Leigh Miners ARLFC	-	-	2	2	4	10
Orrell St James ARLFC	-	-	-	3	-	-
Rose Bridge Pantheresses ARLFC	-	1	-	3	-	4
Shevington Sharks ARLFC	-	-	-	1	1	2
Wigan Spring View ARLFC	1	1	1	1	-	4
Wigan St Judes ARLFC	-	-	-	2	-	2
Wigan St Patricks ARLFC	-	1	1	1	1	4
Total	2	5	5	19	13	46

The impact of this potential growth will be run as a scenario in the Strategy and Action Plan to follow.

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

5.4: Capacity analysis

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

The carrying capacity of a pitch is dependent upon the quality of a pitch which is outlined below:

Category	Capacity
Good	3 matches per week
Standard	2 matches per week
Poor	1 match per week

The next step is to ascertain whether any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for several regular friendly matches and activities that takes place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis. Where actual spare capacity exists, it is highlighted in Table 5.16.

The peak period

To fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. As the majority of competitive rugby league takes place on senior rugby league pitches the peak period is Saturday PM, Saturday AM for junior rugby and Sunday AM for mini rugby demand.

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is deemed that usage should be adjusted and increased by one match equivalent session per week, per pitch. The only time this does not apply is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is that made by the community.

The table below identifies the way capacity and overplay is represented in Table 5.16.

Table 5.15: Spare capacity examples

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

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Table 5.16: Rugby league capacity table (match equivalent sessions per week)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Active Places Power ID	Post code	Available for com use?	Type of Tenure	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Sports lit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions of play	Training demand	Site capacity	Capacity rating	Capacity at peak time	Comments
7	Bedford High School	East	1201590	WN7 2LU	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	2	No	Poor	2	-	2		2	Considered played to capacity with curricular and extracurricular demand. Available but unused by the community.
20	The Brick Community Stadium (Wigan Athletic FC And Wigan Warriors RLFC)	West	30003456	WN5 0UH	No	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Good	-	-	-	-	-	Professional club site used by Wigan Athletic FC and Wigan Warriors.
24	Golborne High School	Central	1203240	WA3 3EL	No	Unsecure	Senior	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Considered played to capacity with curricular and extracurricular demand. Not available for community use.
25	Golborne Parkside Sport And Community Club	Central	20000589	WA3 3HG	Yes	Secure	Junior	3	No	Standard	2.5	-	6	3.5	-	Pitch has spare capacity however is played to capacity at peak time.
25	Golborne Parkside Sport And Community Club	Central	20000589	WA3 3HG	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Standard	1	1	2		1	Pitch played to capacity.
25	Golborne Parkside Sport And Community Club	Central	20000589	WA3 3HG	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Good	1	3	3	1	-	Pitch overplayed by rugby league training and match play demand.
27	Hawkey Hall High School	West	1201723	WN3 5NY	Yes	Unsecure	Junior	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Considered played to capacity with curricular and extracurricular demand. Available but unused by the community.
38	Leigh Sports Village Arena	East	1040939	WN7 4GY	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Good	-	-	-		-	Considered played to capacity through rugby league (Leigh Leopards) and football demand.
47	Parsons Meadow	West	6008058	WN3 5UB	Yes	Secure	Junior	2	No	Poor	3	-	2	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
47	Parsons Meadow	West	6008058	WN3 5UB	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Poor	1	4	1	4	-	Overplayed by four match equivalent sessions.
47	Parsons Meadow	West	6008058	WN3 5UB	Yes	Secure	Senior	2	No	Poor	2.5	-	2	0.5	1.5	Overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
50	Robin Park Arena	West	30009815	WN5 0UH	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Good	-	-	-	-	-	Professional club site used by Wigan Warriors and its community foundation.
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	West	6007920	WN5 0PN	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Poor	1.5	1	1	1.5	0.5	Overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
52	Shevington High School	West	1201574	WN6 8AB	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Considered played to capacity with curricular and extracurricular demand. Available but unused by the community.
57	St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School	Central	1201725	WN4 9PF	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Considered played to capacity with curricular and extracurricular demand. Available but unused by the community.
62	St John Rigby College	West	1200790	WN5 0LJ	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Considered played to capacity with curricular and extracurricular demand. Available but unused by the community.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Active Places Power ID	Post code	Available for com use?	Type of Tenure	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Sports lit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions of play	Training demand	Site capacity	Capacity rating	Capacity at peak time	Comments
64	St Marys Catholic High School (Astley)	East	1203079	M29 7EE	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Considered played to capacity with curricular and extracurricular demand. Available but unused by the community.
65	St Peters Catholic High School	West	1201722	WN5 8NU	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	2	No	Poor	2	-	2		2	Considered played to capacity with curricular and extracurricular demand. Available but unused by the community.
74	Westleigh High School Playing Fields	East	1042499	WN7 5HZ	No	Unsecure	Senior	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Considered played to capacity with curricular and extracurricular demand. Not available for community use.
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	West	30003063	WN5 9XN	Yes	Secure	Senior	3	No	Good	5 ²⁷	5	9	1	2	Pitches are overplayed by one match equivalent session.
78	Woodhouse Playing Field	West	6017854	WN6 7RQ	Yes	Secure	Junior	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Pitch is considered played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular demand from St John Fisher Catholic High School.
78	Woodhouse Playing Field	West	6017854	WN6 7RQ	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Pitch is considered played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular demand from St John Fisher Catholic High School.
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	30006461	WN5 8HU	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Good	1	4	3	2	-	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	30006461	WN5 8HU	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Good	3	2	3	2	1	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	30006461	WN5 8HU	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Standard	1.25	4	2	3.25	1	Overplayed by 3.25 match equivalent sessions.
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	30006461	WN5 8HU	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Standard	2	2	2	2	1	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
101	Dean Trust Wigan (Abraham Guest Academy)	West	1037812	WN5 0DQ	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Considered played to capacity with curricular and extracurricular demand. Available but unused by the community.
149	Bear Park	Central	30010573	WN4 9RP	Yes	Secure	Junior	1	No	Good	4.5	1	3	2.5	-	Overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
149	Bear Park	Central	30010573	WN4 9RP	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Good	4	3	3	4	-	Overplayed by four match equivalent sessions.
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	West	20001887	WN2 2DZ	Yes	Secure	Mini	1	Yes	Poor	3.5	-	1	2.5	-	Overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports And Community Club	West	20001887	WN2 2DZ	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Standard	4	4	2	6	0.5	Overplayed by six match equivalent sessions.
151	Sutton Park	East	30011208	WN7 2LZ	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Good	1.5	-	3	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
151	Sutton Park	East	30011208	WN7 2LZ	Yes	Secure	Senior	2	No	Good	4	-	6	2	2	Actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions.
151	Sutton Park	East	30011208	WN7 2LZ	Yes	Secure	Primary	5	No	Good	6	-	15	9	-	No actual spare capacity at peak time.

²⁷ One match equivalent session added to accommodate football demand.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Active Places Power ID	Post code	Available for com use?	Type of Tenure	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Sports lit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions of play	Training demand	Site capacity	Capacity rating	Capacity at peak time	Comments
172	Castle Hill St Philips C Of E Primary School	Central	6014549	WN2 4DH	Yes	Unsecure	Primary	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Considered played to capacity with curricular and extracurricular demand. Available but unused by the community.
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Central	1040633	WN2 3AU	Yes	Secure	Primary	1	No	Standard	4	-	2	2	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Central	1040633	WN2 3AU	Yes	Secure	Junior	1	No	Standard	3	-	2	1	-	No spare capacity at peak time.
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Central	1040633	WN2 3AU	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	2	2.5	0.5	Overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Central	1040633	WN2 3AU	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Standard	1	-	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	West	20001585	WN1 3BN	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Good	1.5	5	3	3.5	-	Overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions.
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	West	20001585	WN1 3BN	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Standard	4	-	2	2	0.5	Overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	West	20001585	WN1 3BN	Yes	Secure	Mini	1	No	Standard	3	-	2	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
179	Leigh Leopards (Stadium pitch)	East	30007541	WN7 4JY	No	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Good	-	-	-	-	-	Considered played to capacity through rugby league (Leigh Leopards) and football demand.
179	Leigh Leopards (adjacent to athletics track)	East	30007541	WN7 4JY	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Good	-	-	-	-	-	Considered played to capacity through rugby league (Leigh Leopards) demand.
180	Spring View Community Sports Association	Central	30003585	WN3 4PH	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Standard	2 ²⁸	1	2	1	-	Pitch overplayed by one match equivalent session due to rugby league training and match play in addition to football demand.
180	Spring View Community Sports Association	Central	30003585	WN3 4PH	Yes	Secure	Junior	1	No	Standard	2 ²⁹	-	2		1	Pitch considered played to capacity through rugby league and football demand.
181	Wigan Warriors (Edge Hall Road Community Stadium)	West	30008072	WN5 8TL	Yes	-	Senior	1	Yes	Poor	-	-	-	-	-	Pitch is currently unused as drainage has collapsed.
203	Leigh Miners Welfare Institute	East	-	WN7 4EF	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	Yes	Standard	2	-	2		-	No actual spare capacity at peak time.
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	West	30008371	WN6 8HP	Yes	Secure	Junior	1	No	Good	4	-	3	1	-	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	West	30008371	WN6 8HP	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Good	2	2	3	1	0.5	Overplayed by one match equivalent session.
258	Hope Park	East	-	M29 8JN	Yes	Secure	Senior	1	No	Poor	1	-	1		1	Pitch is considered played to capacity through curricular / extracurricular demand from Fred Longworth High School.

²⁸ 1.5 match equivalent sessions added for football usage.

²⁹ One match equivalent session added for football usage.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Actual spare capacity

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

Table 5.17: Actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Spare capacity (MES)	MES available in the peak period	Comments
151	Sutton Park	East	Senior	1	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
151	Sutton Park	East	Senior	2	2	2	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Central	Senior	1	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

Despite eight sites indicating they have potential spare capacity at peak time only three have actual spare capacity at peak time. This totals four match equivalent sessions across two sites and four pitches with three being in the East Analysis Area and one in the Central Analysis Area.

This is marginally lower than the 2017 study which showed a total of 4.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week. In both studies most spare capacity is identified at Sutton Park (East Analysis Area).

Overlay

The total amount of overlay amounts to 45.25 match equivalent sessions per week which is a reduction from the 2017 study which had shortfalls amounting to 56.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Pitches which are identified as being overplayed is largely due to high levels of demand for both matches and training combined with poor pitch quality.

Table 5.18: Overlay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
25	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club	Central	Senior	1	1
47	Parsons Meadow	West	Junior	2	1
47	Parsons Meadow	West	Senior	1	4
47	Parsons Meadow	West	Senior	2	0.5
51	Scot Lane Playing Field	West	Senior	1	1.5
75	Wigan St Cuthberts And Norley Hall Sports Club	West	Senior	3	1

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	2
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	2
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	3.25
96	Bankes Avenue Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	2
149	Bear Park	Central	Junior	1	2.5
149	Bear Park	Central	Senior	1	4
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club	West	Mini	1	2.5
150	Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Community Club	West	Senior	1	6
177	Cardinal Newman Playing Fields	Central	Senior	1	2.5
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	3.5
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	West	Senior	1	2
178	Clarington Grove Playing Fields	West	Mini	1	1
180	Spring View Community Sports Association	Central	Senior	1	1
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	West	Junior	1	1
252	Shevington Sharks ARLFC (Vicarage Lane)	West	Senior	1	1
-	-	-	Total	25	45.25

For a clearer understanding of the deficit, overplay has been outlined below by analysis area and by pitch type.

- Central Analysis Area – 2.5 match equivalent sessions on junior pitches / 8.5 match equivalent sessions on senior pitches.
- West Analysis Area – 3.5 match equivalent sessions on mini pitches / two match equivalent sessions on junior pitches / 28.75 match equivalent sessions on senior pitches.

As detailed the majority of overplay is on senior pitches in the West Analysis Area which correlates with this are accommodating the greatest number of pitches and highest amount of demand.

5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in each of the analysis areas for all rugby league grass pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week. It should be noted that future demand referenced is solely from population increases and does not include club aspirational growth. The latter will be run as a scenario within the Strategy & Action Plan.

Senior pitches balance

The table below identifies the current levels of spare capacity at peak time against the current levels of overplay on senior pitches to understand the present capacity balance.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 5.19: Supply and demand balance of senior rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	1	7.5	6.5
East	3	1	2
West	-	28.75	28.75
Total	4	37.25	33.25

There is a current a significant overall shortfall of 33.25 match equivalent sessions per week despite there being minimal levels of spare capacity in the East Analysis Area.

Table 5.20: Future supply and demand balance of senior rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Wigan Borough	33.25	0.5	33.75

After considering future demand from population growth, existing shortfalls are expected to increase marginally to 33.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

Junior pitches balance

In regard to junior pitches there is no evident spare capacity at peak time, due to the rise in both junior boy's and girls' teams, meaning there is a minimal amount of overplay amounting to 4.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 5.21: Supply and demand balance of junior rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	-	2.5	2.5
East	-	-	
West	-	2	2
Total	-	4.5	4.5

When accounting for future demand from population increases the shortfall increases from 4.5 to six match equivalent sessions a week.

Table 5.22: Future supply and demand balance of junior rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Wigan Borough	4.5	1.5	6

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Mini pitches balance

Similar to junior pitches, there is no spare capacity meaning there is a current deficit of 3.5 match equivalent sessions a week.

Table 5.23: Supply and demand balance of mini rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Central	-	-	0
East	-	-	0
West	-	3.5	3.5
Total	-	3.5	3.5

After considering future demand from population growth, existing shortfalls are expected to be exacerbated to 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 5.24: Future supply and demand balance of mini rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Wigan Borough	3.5	2	5.5

5.6: Conclusion

Overall, there are shortfalls across all pitch types in Wigan Borough, particularly on senior pitches. This remains consistent with the previous study with the current and future overplay on senior and mini pitches being similar. The main difference has been the decrease in the shortfall on junior pitches. This can be explained in part, due to pitch improvements, more training demand on senior pitches and pitch reconfiguration from junior to senior pitches.

It should be noted that due to a change in approach in calculating future demand (only using future population growth) the current future deficit is not as significant when compared to 2017. In the previous study both future population growth and club aspirational demand was used to calculate future demand.

Table 5.25: Overall supply and demand for grass rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
2017					
Senior pitches	7.25	35	27.75	3.75	32
Junior pitches	1	14.5	13.5	7.5	21
Mini pitches	1.5	3.5	2	1.25	3.25
2024					
Senior pitches	4	37.25	33.25	0.5	33.75
Junior pitches	-	4.5	4.5	1.5	6
Mini pitches	-	3.5	3.5	2	5.5

The shortages in provision are due to substantial amounts of competitive and training demand utilising a limited number of pitches, of which some are poor quality. Methods on how best to alleviate these shortfalls will be explored in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

It should be noted that once winter consultation has been completed the overall supply and demand may worsen due to the consideration of football demand on dual use pitches.

Future demand analysis

As the anticipated future growth from population increases are deemed minimal, especially considering the popularity of rugby league in Wigan Borough, an alternative supply and demand table is provided below to give a more representative analysis.

The table identifies future demand from population increases compared to a potential growth of 21% from the identified 2024 demand figures. This is based on evidence provided above in the Demand section of historical average growth for each of the demographics (Senior/junior/mini) since the 2017 study.

It also assumes that the projected future growth would be based on the relevant pitch types, for example growth for senior teams on senior pitches, growth for junior teams on junior pitches and mini teams on mini pitches.

A growth of 21% for senior teams amounts an additional seven teams (3.5 match equivalent sessions), 17 junior teams (8.5 match equivalent sessions) and 16 mini teams (eight match equivalent sessions). It should be noted that this doesn't specify whether the demand is male or female and is just an overall growth figure.

Table 5.26: Overall supply and demand for grass rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough with projected future demand comparison

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
2024				TGRs	
Senior pitches	4	37.25	33.25	0.5	33.75
Junior pitches	-	4.5	4.5	1.5	6
Mini pitches	-	3.5	3.5	2	5.5
2024				21% increase	
Senior pitches	4	37.25	33.25	3.5	36.75
Junior pitches	-	4.5	4.5	8.5	13
Mini pitches	-	3.5	3.5	8	11.5

As anticipated, the future shortfall across all pitch types would worsen when using an average increase (21%) when compared to the minimal amounts of growth anticipated from just population increases alone. It believed that this provides a more accurate representation of future supply and demand balance as the perceived growth sits between population increase and club aspirational future demand referenced in Table 5.14.

Supply and demand summary

- There is insufficient supply of senior, junior and mini rugby league pitches in Wigan Borough to meet demand which is further worsened when accounting for future demand from population increases.

Supply summary

- There are 64 rugby league pitches identified in Wigan Borough across 32 sites. Of these, 62 pitches across 30 sites are available for community use, with the pitches at Golborne High School and Westleigh High School Playing Fields unavailable.
- There are three disused sites namely Dean Trust Rose Bridge Sports Field, Hemsfield Road and Leigh Road Playing Field. There are plans to bring the former site back into use from Ince Rose Bridge ARLFC.
- Ashton Bears ARLFC is in the process of creating an additional senior pitch at Bear Park, which currently accommodates one senior and junior pitch.
- Orrell St James ARLFC indicates plans for both a clubhouse redevelopment and improvements to drainage on two of its pitches at Bankes Avenue Playing Fields, in addition to continues pitch maintenance through the grass pitch maintenance fund.
- Tenure of sites in Wigan Borough is generally secure i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years, with most sites ensuring community use is available.
- In Wigan Borough, 10 rugby league sites have received a PitchPower assessment.
- Overall, based on a percentage analysis, the quality of grass rugby league pitches has improved with a higher percentage of good quality pitches in 2024 and fewer number of poorer quality pitches.
- A key issue at several of the community club sites in Wigan Borough is unauthorised access, dog fouling and acts of vandalism which is affecting ancillary and pitch quality. Sutton Park, Clarington Grove Playing Field, Bear Park, Parsons Meadow, Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club have all suffered from these issues with the relevant clubs exploring avenues to reduce the problem

Demand summary

- A total of 190 teams are identified as playing competitive rugby league in Wigan Borough. This consists of 24 senior men's, eight senior women's, 55 junior boys' teams, 25 junior girls' team and 78 primary teams.
- There are also two professional clubs in Wigan Borough namely Wigan Warriors and Leigh Leopards.
- There has been an increase in demand since the 2017 PPS with an increase in senior women's, junior boys, junior girls and primary teams, despite a minor decrease in senior men's teams.
- Shevington Sharks ARLFC is the only club known to export demand outside of Wigan Borough. Approximately two of its mini teams a week play their matches at Parbold Playing Fields (WN8 7HZ – West Lancashire).
- There are significant levels of latent demand expressed from clubs surrounding both pitch and ancillary provision.
- Eight teams expect to be generated (equating to four match equivalent sessions per week) are authority wide and not accredited to any analysis area.
- Of responding clubs, 11 clubs highlight plans to increase membership amounting to 44 teams in total.
- Despite eight sites indicating they have potential spare capacity at peak time only three have actual spare capacity at peak time.
- The total amount of overplay amounts to 45.25 match equivalent sessions which is a reduction from the 2017 study which had shortfalls amounts to 56.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Both Wigan Warriors and Leigh Leopards have PDRL and LDRL teams using Robin Park Arena and Leigh Sports Village Stadium.

PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

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

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

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

Category	Surface	Essential Playing Level	Desirable Playing Level
1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	International hockey (training and matches).	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (performance centres and upwards).
2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Domestic National Premier League competition; Higher levels of player pathway (academy centres and upwards).	All adult and junior league hockey; Intermediate or advanced school hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools.
3	Sand filled surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	All adult and junior club training and league hockey; EH competitions for clubs and schools; Intermediate or advanced school hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level).
4	All 3G surfaces	No hockey.	Lower level hockey (introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2³⁰, is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it is a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad.

The concept is designed to provide facilities, including at schools, with a dynamic carpet which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

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

³⁰ <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek for senior activity and requires access to a pitch and sports lights, whereas many junior teams train on a Sunday as well as during midweek.

Consultation

There are three hockey clubs in Wigan Borough with two responding to consultation requests resulting in a 66% response rate. Continued efforts are being made to chase a response from the outstanding club, Leigh HC.

Table 6.2: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Golborne & Prescott HC (Formerly Golborne HC)	Yes
Leigh HC	No
Wigan HC	Yes

Having previously played in Wigan Borough; Manchester HC did not affiliate for the 2024/25 season and there is no evidence it is actively playing matches. Therefore, it has not been included within the response rate.

6.2: Supply

The number of full size AGPs in Wigan Borough has not changed since the previous PPS (2017) with there still being three: one in the Central Analysis Area (Golborne Sports and Social Club) and two in the West Analysis Area (one each at Standish Community High School and The Deanery C of E High School).

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 6.3: Full size hockey suitable pitches in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site	Active Places Power ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Sports lit?	Surface	Dimensions (metres)	Users
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	1103396	WA3 2SE	Central	Yes	Sand dressed	92 x 55	Golborne & Prescott HC
67	Standish Community High School	1201530	WN6 0NX	West	Yes	Sand filled	92 x 55	Leigh HC
162	The Deanery C of E High School	1203075	WN1 1HQ	West	Yes	Sand filled	92 x 58	Wigan HC

In comparison, the quantity of small size pitches has reduced significantly with a total of seven having been converted to 3G since the previous study in 2017. This results in six small size AGPs all being located at educational sites summarised in the table below.

Table 6.4: Smaller size AGPs in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site	Active Places Power ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Number of AGPs	Community use?	Sports lit?	Surface	Dimensions (metres)
7	Bedford High School	1201590	WN7 2LU	East	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	82 x 42
24	Golborne High School	1203240	WA3 3EL	Central	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	60 x 40
27	Hawley Hall High School	1201723	WN3 5NY	West	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	70 x 40
57	St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School	1201725	WN4 9PF	Central	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	80 x 52
61	St John Fisher Catholic High School ³¹	1201703	WN6 7RN	West	1	No	Yes	Sand filled	56 x 35
176	Orrell Holgate Primary School	6014605	WN5 8SJ	West	1	No	Yes	Sand dressed	35 x 34

Nationally, most smaller size pitches are considered too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, although some larger ones are utilised for training demand and junior play. However, in Wigan Borough, none of the smaller size pitches are considered suitable as they are either too small, unavailable for community use, or without sports lighting.

Based on this, the stock is discounted from this point forward as the pitches are not relevant from a hockey perspective. Notwithstanding the above, it is recognised that the smaller size pitches can be valuable assets for accommodating curricular and extra-curricular hockey demand as well as recreational community activity where availability is offered.

³¹ Not available for community use whilst the school is being rebuilt

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

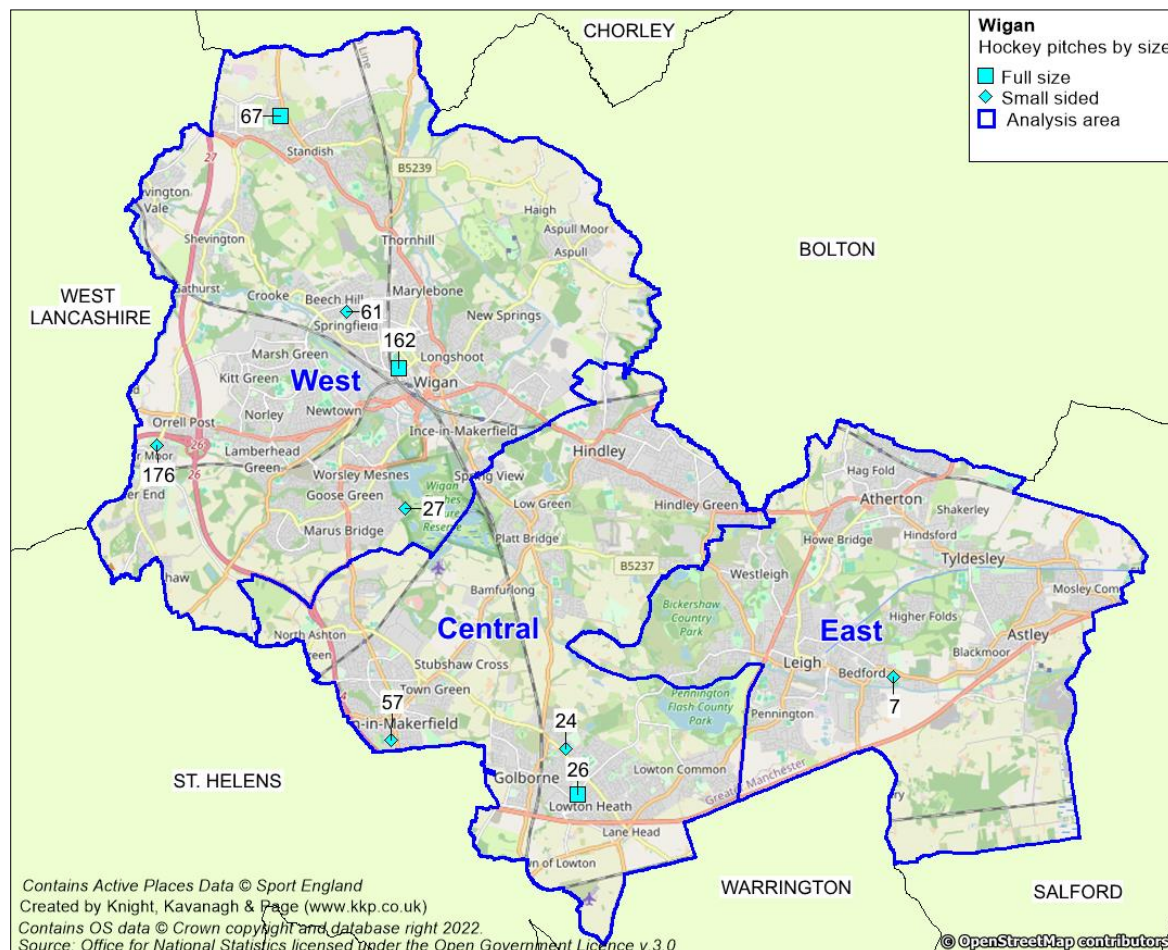
The table below identifies the pitches that have been converted to 3G since the collation of the data for the 2017 study.

Table 6.5: Summary of small size AGPs which have been converted to 3G since 2017

Site ID	Site	Active Places Power ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Number of AGPs	Community use?	Sports lit?	Previous surface	Dimensions (metres)	Year converted to 3G
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge	1002652	WN1 3HD	West	1	No	Yes	Sand filled	65 x 45	2023
15	Dean Trust Rose Bridge	1002652	WN1 3HD	West	1	No	Yes	Sand filled	25 x 12	2023
21	Fred Longworth High School	1002646	M29 8JN	East	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	82 x 52	2023
42	Lowton Church of England High School	1201597	WA3 1DU	Central	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	80 x 52	2019
64	St Marys Catholic High School	1203079	M29 7EE	Leigh	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	82 x 52	2022
145	Atherton High School	30003560	M46 0AY	East	1	Yes	Yes	Sand dressed	60 x 40	2022/23
163	The Westleigh School	1201586	WN7 5NL	East	1	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	81 x 52	2020

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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



Future developments

The pitch at Standish Community High School is poor quality with it being approximately 20 years old, however, the accompanying sports lighting is good quality having recently been upgraded to LED. The school indicate it has spent substantial amounts of money on fixing issues with the pitch to ensure it can be used this season with it close to being condemned.

Although the pitch is currently being used by Leigh HC, the school states the Club has only recently started using the pitch having historically been located at The Westleigh School before the surface was converted to 3G. As most users are either rugby league or football teams, it aspires to convert the surface to 3G with relevant provision to make it suitable for rugby usage (shock pad). However, no funding is in place for this.

As referenced within the previous study (2017), there are still aspirations to convert one of the grass football pitches to a 11v11 size 3G pitch at Golborne Sports & Social Club. If established, this would allow for football demand to transfer off the hockey suitable AGP, which would in turn create additional capacity for hockey growth, particularly midweek.

Wigan HC has an aspiration to refurbish the pitch at The Deanery C of E High School within the next five years as the playing surface is reaching the end of its recommended lifespan.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Management and security of tenure

Tenure of hockey sites in Wigan Borough is generally secure with all, but one club considered to have security of tenure. A site is thought to provide security of tenure if there is a long-term lease agreement in place or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years.

To attract external funding, clubs and sites generally need long-term security of tenure. The table below summarises the pitches and whether security of tenure is provided to the clubs that use them.

Table 6.6: Summary of venues used by hockey clubs and relevant tenure

Site ID	Club	Users	Comments	Tenure
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	Golborne & Prescott HC	Freehold.	Secure
67	Standish Community High School	Leigh HC	Rental from the school monthly.	Unsecure
162	The Deanery C of E High School	Wigan HC	Joint ownership with the school.	Secure

Both Wigan and Golborne & Prescott hockey clubs have security of tenure through freehold whereas Leigh HC is classed as being unsecure at Standish Community High School as it only rents the provision as required. It should be reiterated that the pitch at The Deanery C of E High School is under joint ownership with the Club.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). In Wigan, all of the full-size pitches are fully available at peak time. Using the peak time modelling, the availability at each site providing a full-size pitch in Wigan Borough is summarised in the table overleaf. However, please note that this only refers to overall availability and opening hours, rather than considering current capacity, which is instead accounted for within the demand part of this section. A pitch may theoretically have good availability but may currently be operating at capacity, especially during peak times, based on existing usage levels.

Table 6.7: Availability of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Hockey club users	Availability	Midweek availability in the peak period	Weekend availability in the peak period
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	Golborne & Prescott HC	Available all day throughout the week	18/18	16/16
67	Standish Community High School	Leigh HC	Midweek 17:00 – 21:00 Weekend 09:00 – 21:00	18/18	16/16
162	The Deanery C of E High School	Wigan HC	Midweek 17:00 – 21:00 Weekend 09:00 – 21:00	18/18	16/16

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Pitches across Wigan Borough are considered fully available across the peak periods, however, it should be noted that access to the pitch at Standish Community High School may stop if the surface quality reduces to such an extent, it becomes unusable.

Quality

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

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

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

Table 6.8: Age and quality of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Year installed/ resurfaced	2017 quality	2025 quality
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	Central	1	1997 (2015)	Good	Standard
67	Standish Community High School	West	1	2005	Poor	Poor
162	The Deanery C of E High School	West	1	1999 (2018)	Poor	Standard

Wigan HC has a plan to resurface the pitch, when required, as it is getting towards the end of its ten-year lifespan. It more urgently needs to upgrade its sports lighting which is poor quality and to lower running costs. Due to the pitch being used by the school during the week it degrades the quality rapidly with users wearing incorrect footwear which damages the surface.

It should be noted that the pitch was refurbished in 2018 and has therefore improved in quality since the original PPS, despite still needing a refurbishment within the next three to five years.

Standish Community High School indicate the pitch is extremely poor quality with it close to becoming unusable. It is used by Leigh HC (one team); however, primary external usage is by football and rugby league clubs which damage the playing surface with their footwear. As mentioned, the school has ambitions to replace the surface with a 3G in order to better accommodate the majority of its community users.

Comparatively the pitch at Golborne Sports & Social Club has reduced in quality simply due to its increase in age. The Club indicate that the playing surface is still in decent condition with anticipated lifespan of another seven to ten years due to dedicated levels of maintenance. However, there are issues with the sports lighting which needs to be upgraded.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Ancillary provision

Wigan HC report the changing rooms it utilises at the Deanery C of E High School are standard quality with no immediate issues. In comparison, Golborne & Prescott HC indicate changing rooms at Golborne Sports & Social Club are poor quality as they are not suitable for the amount of demand on the site or to meet the requirements for women and girls. The Club state improving the provision requires substantial work and it needs to obtain relevant funding to complete the project.

6.3: Demand

Across Wigan Borough there is a total of 34 dedicated hockey teams across the three community clubs with the most prominent being senior men's teams with 10, followed by senior women's and six each for junior boys, junior girls and four dedicated mini teams. The senior team numbers include veteran and U21 teams.

Table 6.9: Summary of number of hockey teams within Wigan Borough

Name of club	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini	Total
2017						
Golborne HC	3	3	-	-	-	6
Leigh HC	1	-	-	-	-	1
Manchester HC	1	-	-	-	-	1
Wigan HC	2	2	1	-	-	5
Total	7	5	1	-	-	13
2025						
Golborne & Prescott HC	5	4	1	1	2	13
Leigh HC	1	-	-	-	-	1
Manchester HC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wigan HC	4	4	5	5	2	20
Total	10	8	6	6	4	34
Percentage difference	43%	60%	400%	500%	400%	162%

There has been a significant level of growth in hockey demand across Wigan Borough since the 2017 study. This is mainly due to the merger of Golborne and Prescott hockey clubs to create Golborne & Prescott HC, which has led the newly formed club to have a total of 13 teams compared to six in the original PPS.

Additionally, better affiliation data has better captured junior and mini teams in the Authority meaning Wigan HC has now been accredited with dedicated teams rather than just participation data.

This growth is despite Manchester HC not playing/affiliating during the 2024/25 season. The Club previously accommodated one men's team.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 6.10: Summary of club demand within Wigan Borough

Name of club	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior boys (14-16)	Junior girls (14-16)	Junior boys (11-13)	Junior girls (11-13)	Mini mixed (5-10)	Total
Golborne & Prescott HC	82	54	4	6	15	15	16	192
Leigh HC	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Wigan HC	43	63	20	25	10	20	30	211
Total	150	117	24	31	25	35	46	428

Away from club-based match play and training demand, there are also several initiatives supported by EH that operate across the Country, including:

- ✦ Back to Hockey.
- ✦ Flyerz Hockey.
- ✦ Hockey Heroes.
- ✦ Quicksticks.
- ✦ Rush Hockey.
- ✦ In2 Hockey.
- ✦ Walking Hockey.

Where undertaken, these initiatives add to the hockey demand at sites. Each is summarised below.

Back to Hockey

Back to Hockey sessions are fun, social, and informal and are aimed at people who either have not played for a number of years or that are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver the programme.

Benefits of clubs being involved in Back to Hockey include:

- ✦ More members.
- ✦ More casual players.
- ✦ Additional income.
- ✦ Extra publicity.
- ✦ New volunteers.

Both Golborne & Prescott HC and Wigan HC run Back to Hockey sessions at their respective home venues.

Flyerz Hockey

Flyerz is the name widely associated with grassroots disability hockey in Great Britain. There are now more than 50 Flyerz sections across England, Wales, and Scotland, providing inclusive hockey for disabled people.

In Wigan Borough, Wigan HC is the only club to run Flyerz Hockey sessions.

Hockey Heroes

Hockey Heroes is a six-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance, and respect.

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There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in Wigan Borough.

In2Hockey

In2Hockey is England Hockey's adapted game format aimed at players 10-14 years old and is played as a 6-a-side game without goalkeepers, or as a 7-a-side game with goalkeepers.

No In2Hockey activity is identified in Wigan Borough.

Quicksticks

Quicksticks is designed to introduce young people (aged 7-11) to the game of hockey. It is 4-a-side, can be played on any surface, and uses a larger, lighter and safer ball. It is a fun, fast, safe and exciting game that has been designed so that anyone can deliver the game, regardless of previous hockey experience.

Currently no clubs in Wigan Borough offer dedicated Quicksticks delivery.

Rush hockey

Rush hockey is a new way to play hockey, designed as a small-sided hockey game for adults. It can be played by men and women in mixed or single gender teams, indoors or outdoors and on pitches of varying sizes. Teams are four or five aside and it is played with a standard hockey stick but with unique goals and balls.

No Rush hockey activity is identified in Wigan Borough.

Walking hockey

Increasing in popularity, walking hockey is perfect for players looking for a less physically demanding version of the game but still enjoy showing their skills and being involved in the team and social aspect.

There is currently no walking hockey operating in Wigan Borough.

Imported/exported demand

Since the merger of Prescott HC (St Helens) with Golborne HC, to form Golborne & Prescott HC, there is some level of imported demand from St Helens with the Club based at Golborne Sports & Social Club.

Golborne & Prescott HC currently exports demand (one senior team) to the hockey suitable AGP at Sutton Leisure Centre (St Helens) as on an overspill venue, however, it primarily uses the provision at Golborne Sports & Social Club.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategy (Creating A Future for Our Game Together 2024 – 2028). EH is currently working on an updated facilities strategy, due to be completed in early 2025.

Neither Wigan HC nor Golborne & Prescott HC indicate dedicated plans to increase teams, with their main goal to sustain current levels of demand.

Latent demand

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

Golborne & Prescott HC is the only club in Wigan Borough to report of latent demand. The Club report that if it had access to more time on its pitch, particularly for training. It also indicates that if it had better quantity/quality of changing rooms it would be able to accommodate more teams specifically mentioned women and girls' demand.

Peak time demand

For matches, most senior hockey activity in Wigan Borough takes place on a Saturday, whereas most junior activity occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is midweek evenings, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays due to clubs wanting to avoid training near to weekend matches.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

When assessing the capacity of hockey pitches, all usage needs to be considered. This is because, in addition to hockey activity, there is often heavy football usage of the provision and occasionally other sporting use which can take capacity away from hockey-based demand.

The table below details the usage at all sites providing full size hockey suitable pitches in Wigan. It compares availability during peak time against hockey use and other activity as well as taking into consideration any remaining spare capacity.

Spare capacity is considered to exist for matches if there are currently less than eight teams assigned to a pitch on a Saturday or Sunday (and if the remaining capacity is not being utilised for other purposes). It exists for training if at least a section of a pitch is available for at least an hour during midweek evenings (Tuesday-Thursday).

Table 6.11: Usage of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Availability in the peak period (hours)	% of hockey usage	% of other usage (e.g., football/rugby league)	Spare capacity	Hockey club users	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)	Capacity summary
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	1	34	53%	41%	6%	Golborne & Prescott HC	Accommodates training demand for Golborne & Prescott HC on Tuesday evenings, extensively used for football training as well throughout the week.	Used Saturday 11:00 – 18:00 and all-day Sunday.	Limited spare capacity at unfavorable times. Pitch is used primarily by the hockey club, however, there is also extensive usage by football teams. This limits the hockey club's training access.
67	Standish Community High School	1	34	6%	29%	65%	Leigh HC (one men's team)	Monday – 18:00 to 20:00 Standish Panthers JFC Tuesday – 18:00 to 20:00 Shevington Shark ARLFC 20:00 to 21:00 Imported rugby league Wednesday – 18:00 to 19:00 Standish Panthers JFC 20:00 to 21:00 Wigan Junior Latics FC Thursday – 18:00 to 20:00 Shevington Sharks ARLFC 20:00 to 21:00 Pine Villa FC	Used for match play by Leigh HC (one team). Spare capacity exists on both Saturdays and Sundays.	The pitch has a significant level of spare capacity due to its poor quality. As a result, the spare capacity represented is not considered truly accessible for community clubs. It is also used primarily for rugby league and football training midweek.
162	The Deanery C of E High School	1	34	53%	Unknown	Unknown	Wigan HC	Wigan HC Wednesday 19:00 – 21:00	All day Saturday and Sunday 10:00 – 17:00	Unknown

The pitch at Golborne Sports and Social Club is well used with little spare capacity. Golborne & Prescott HC use the pitch at the weekend to meet its competitive demand, however, it has a limited amount of access midweek for training with most evenings being prioritised for football training. Comparatively, due to its poor quality there are levels of spare capacity at Standish Community High School. However, as mentioned, it is not considered truly accessible as it is not recommended that any further demand takes on the surface as it is close to being condemned. Leigh HC only use the site for competitive demand (one team) and not training with it mostly used by football and rugby league teams for training.

As usage information was not provided by The Deanery C of E High School only the amount of hockey access can be identified. The amount of spare capacity and other usage is therefore not known.

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Match play analysis

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

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there are currently three full size hockey suitable pitches in Wigan Borough, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 24 senior teams at peak time across the Authority. However, the provision at Standish Community High School is discounted resulting in an actual capacity of just 16 teams. The pitch is extremely poor quality with some fixtures postponed particularly in periods of bad weather.

The table below therefore further explores the level of capacity provided, for senior hockey (i.e. On a Saturday).

Table 6.12: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for peak time match play (Saturday)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Potential capacity in teams	Actual capacity in teams	Number of hockey teams using the provision at peak time	Capacity balance
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	Central	1	8	8	8 ³²	
67	Standish Community High School	West	1	8	-	1	1
162	The Deanery C of E High School	West	1	8	8	4	4
-	-	Total	3	24	16	13	3

Overall, it is determined that current provision can accommodate 13 senior teams on a Saturday, even with the pitch at Standish Community High School discounted due to poor quality.

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is generally less than it is for senior hockey. This is because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time) and because there are fewer junior teams in Wigan Borough than there are senior teams. As such, provision adequate to accommodate senior demand is also likely to be adequate to accommodate junior demand, although the same capacity pressures are likely to apply where existing usage is significant.

Future demand

Although there is some capacity at The Deanery C of E High School for additional demand this is limited, especially if Leigh HC is relocated to the site due to the condition of its current pitch (Standish Community High School).

³² It should be noted that the Club has nine senior teams and currently exports demand (one senior team) Sutton Leisure Centre (St Helens) to accommodate its overspill demand.

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The pitch at Golborne Sports and Social Club is also played to capacity at peak time with the Club needing to export some demand to Sutton Leisure Centre (St Helens) as an overspill venue. Therefore, consideration needs to be given to having access to a third good quality hockey suitable AGP to provide additional and future capacity for hockey in Wigan Borough. Notwithstanding the poor current quality and aspirations to convert Standish Community High School to 3G, given there is existing hockey use on the pitch this should also be considered to be retained for hockey, and quality improved.

Training analysis

In terms of capacity for training, Golborne & Prescott HC indicate an issue accessing provision with its home pitch at Golborne Sports & Social Club offering limited training slots due to extensive usage for football training.

6.5: Conclusion

There is currently a sufficient supply of full-size hockey suitable AGPs in Wigan Borough to cater for demand. However, it should be noted that Golborne & Prescott HC currently exports demand (one senior team) to Sutton Leisure Centre (St Helens) as an overspill venue. In addition, Standish Community High School is poor quality and has recently been used by Leigh HC (one team) for matches.

The pitches at The Deanery C of E High School and Golborne Sports & Social Club are well used for hockey and as such are priority sites for long term protection as hockey suitable surfaces. These should be accompanied by good quality ancillary provision (sports lights and changing rooms) and improved as required.

Additionally, albeit minimal, there is hockey use on the pitch at Standish Community High School which is currently poor quality. Therefore, there is a need to assess the options to resurface the pitch, so it is able to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand.

When considering future demand there may be a need for greater hockey use of the pitch at Standish Community High School as there is limited capacity available at the other two sites. The future need for this pitch, along with other scenarios, will be explored in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- Overall, it is determined that current provision can accommodate 13 senior teams on a Saturday, even with the pitch at Standish Community High School discounted due to poor quality. The pitches at The Deanery C of E High School and Golborne Sports & Social Club therefore need protecting long term as hockey suitable surfaces.
- When considering future demand there may be a need to utilise the pitch at Standish Community High School as there is limited capacity available at the other two sites.

Hockey – supply summary

- The number of full-size AGPs has not changed since 2017 with there still being three with one in the Central Analysis Area (Golborne Sports and Social Club) and two in the West Analysis Area, with one each at Standish Community High School and The Deanery C of E High School.
- The quantity of small size pitches has reduced significantly with a total of seven having been converted to 3G since the previous study in 2017. This results in six small size AGPs all being located at educational sites.
- Standish Community High School currently provides a poor quality AGP with the School stating aspiration to convert the surface to 3G with relevant provision to make suitable for rugby usage (shock pad). It should be noted this pitch is currently used by Leigh HC.

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- ◀ Referenced within the previous study (2017), there are still aspirations to convert one of the grass football pitches to a 11v11 size 3G pitch at Golborne Sports & Social Club. Additionally, Wigan HC has an aspiration to refurbish the pitch at The Deanery C of E High School within the next five years as the playing surface is reaching the end of its recommended lifespan.
- ◀ Tenure of sites in Wigan Borough is generally secure with all, but Leigh HC (Standish Community High School) considered to have security of tenure.
- ◀ Of the full-size hockey suitable pitches in Wigan Borough, two are assessed as standard quality and one as poor quality located at Standish Community High School.
- ◀ Wigan HC report the changing rooms it utilises at the Deanery C of E High School are standard quality with no immediate issues.
- ◀ Golborne & Prescott HC indicate changing rooms at Golborne Sports & Social Club are poor quality as they are not suitable for demand on the site or to meet the requirements for women and girls. The Club state improving the provision requires substantial work and it needs to obtain relevant funding to complete the project.

Hockey – demand summary

- ◀ Across Wigan Borough there is a total of 34 dedicated hockey teams across the three community clubs with the most prominent being senior men's teams with 10, followed by senior women's and six each for junior boys, junior girls and four dedicated mini teams. The senior team numbers include veteran and U21 teams.
- ◀ There has been a significant level of growth in hockey demand across Wigan Borough since the 2017 study. This is mainly due to the merger of Golborne and Prescott hockey clubs to create Golborne & Prescott HC, which has led the newly formed club to have a total of 13 teams compared to six in the original PPS.
- ◀ Neither Wigan HC nor Golborne & Prescott HC indicate dedicated plans to increase teams, with their main goal to sustain current levels of demand.
- ◀ Golborne & Prescott HC currently exports demand (one senior team) to the hockey suitable AGP at Sutton Leisure Centre (St Helens) as on an overspill venue, however, it primarily uses the provision at Golborne Sports & Social Club.
- ◀ Golborne & Prescott HC is the only club in Wigan Borough to report of latent demand. The Club report that if it had access to more time on its pitch, particularly for training.

PART 7: CRICKET

7.1: Introduction

Lancashire Cricket Foundation (LCF) is the main governing and representative body for cricket for Wigan Borough. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within each authority. It is also currently working with the ECB on delivering and laying the foundations for its Strategy, Inspiring Generations, with an updated mission to inspire a generation to say “cricket is a game for me.” The Strategy has recently been refreshed with its 2028 Vision to:

- ◀ Become the most inclusive team sport.
- ◀ Unite and grow the game.
- ◀ Lead the game through global transformation

For adult cricket in Wigan there are three main offerings; Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket. The youth league structure tends to be club based matches which are played mid-week.

County Facilities Strategy (CFS)

In 2022, to build upon the ECB’s Inspiring Generations Strategy, the ECB has started the process of producing County Facilities Strategies (CFS). A CFS will be produced by each individual county cricket board and will be unique to its geographical area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The CFS will be a ‘long-term’ plan with county boards ensuring the Strategy provides a ten-year view of facility needs. Like a PPS (or PPOSS in this instance), the county cricket boards will establish key stakeholders (clubs, leagues, county sports partnerships and county pitch advisors etc) within its locality to consult during the development of the Strategy.

Each county cricket board will utilise up to date PPS within its locality to support the development of the CFS, utilising the PPS findings as a ‘high-quality’ evidence base. The CFS will look at a range of facilities which support cricket across its region, with the ECB setting out guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered throughout the development of the CFS:

Types of facility

- ◀ “Traditional” outdoor facilities:
 - ◀ Pitches and Outfields.
 - ◀ Pavilions.
 - ◀ Practice.
- ◀ “Non-traditional” facilities:
 - ◀ Multi Use Games Areas.
 - ◀ Tapeball/softball spaces.
 - ◀ Courts or cages.
- ◀ Indoor facilities:
 - ◀ Practice (multi use halls).
 - ◀ Performance (cricket specific).
 - ◀ Matchplay (6 or 8 a side).

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Each CFS will be used to shape investment decisions and priorities, particularly how each county cricket board will use the devolved budget within the County Grants Fund and prioritise larger scale strategic projects.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the CFS is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS (or PPOSS in this instance) and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

Consultation

In total, 14 affiliated cricket clubs are identified as playing within Wigan Borough, with all of them responding to consultation requests resulting in a response rate of 100% with support provided from Lancashire Cricket Foundation and the Council.

Table 7.1: Cricket club response rate

Clubs	Responded?
Astley & Tyldesley CC	Yes
Atherton CC	Yes
Golborne CC	Yes
Goose Green CC	Yes
Highfield CC	Yes
Hindley St. Peters CC	Yes
Leigh CC	Yes
Norley Hall CC	Yes
Orrell Red Triangle CC	Yes
Spring View CC	Yes
Standish CC	Yes
Westleigh CC	Yes
Wigan CC	Yes
Winstanley Park CC	Yes

The number of Wigan Borough based clubs has decreased since the 2017 study by one with Westleigh Methodists CC folding circa 2018.

7.2: Supply

In total, there are 14 grass wicket cricket squares in Wigan Borough, provided across 14 sites, all of which are available for community use. Exactly half of the provision is located in the West Analysis Area (seven square or 50%), followed by the East Analysis Area with four squares (29%) and the Central Analysis Area with only 21% or three squares.

Table 7.2: Summary of grass wicket squares and community availability

Analysis area	No. of community available squares	No. of unavailable squares
Central	3	-
East	4	-
West	7	-
Total	14	-

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Since the previous study there has been a decrease of one community available grass cricket square within the East Analysis Area. The former square at Westleigh Methodists Cricket Club (WN7 5RP) is now considered disused.

Disused sites

As mentioned above, the site known Westleigh Methodists Cricket Club, which previously accommodated a 14-wicket grass square, is considered disused. The site was classified as unused in the 2017 study due to quality issues with the square. Anecdotal evidence indicates the square has not been brought back into use since the previous study with the users, Westleigh Methodists CC, folding shortly afterwards.

Non-turf pitches

A total of 10 non-turf pitches (NTPs) are identified in Wigan Borough. Of these, five support existing grass wicket squares, with all others being standalone NTPs. Seven are available to the community.

Table 7.3: Summary of non-turf pitch locations

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Analysis area	Position
7	Bedford High School	No	East	Standalone
21	Fred Longworth High School	No	East	Standalone
64	St Mary's Catholic High School	No	East	Standalone
70	The Ley Recreation Ground	Yes	East	Standalone
80	Higham Park	Yes	East	Square
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	Yes	West	Square
87	Standish Cricket Club	Yes	West	Square
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	Yes	East	Square
91	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	Yes	West	Square
248	Leyland Park	Yes	Central	Standalone

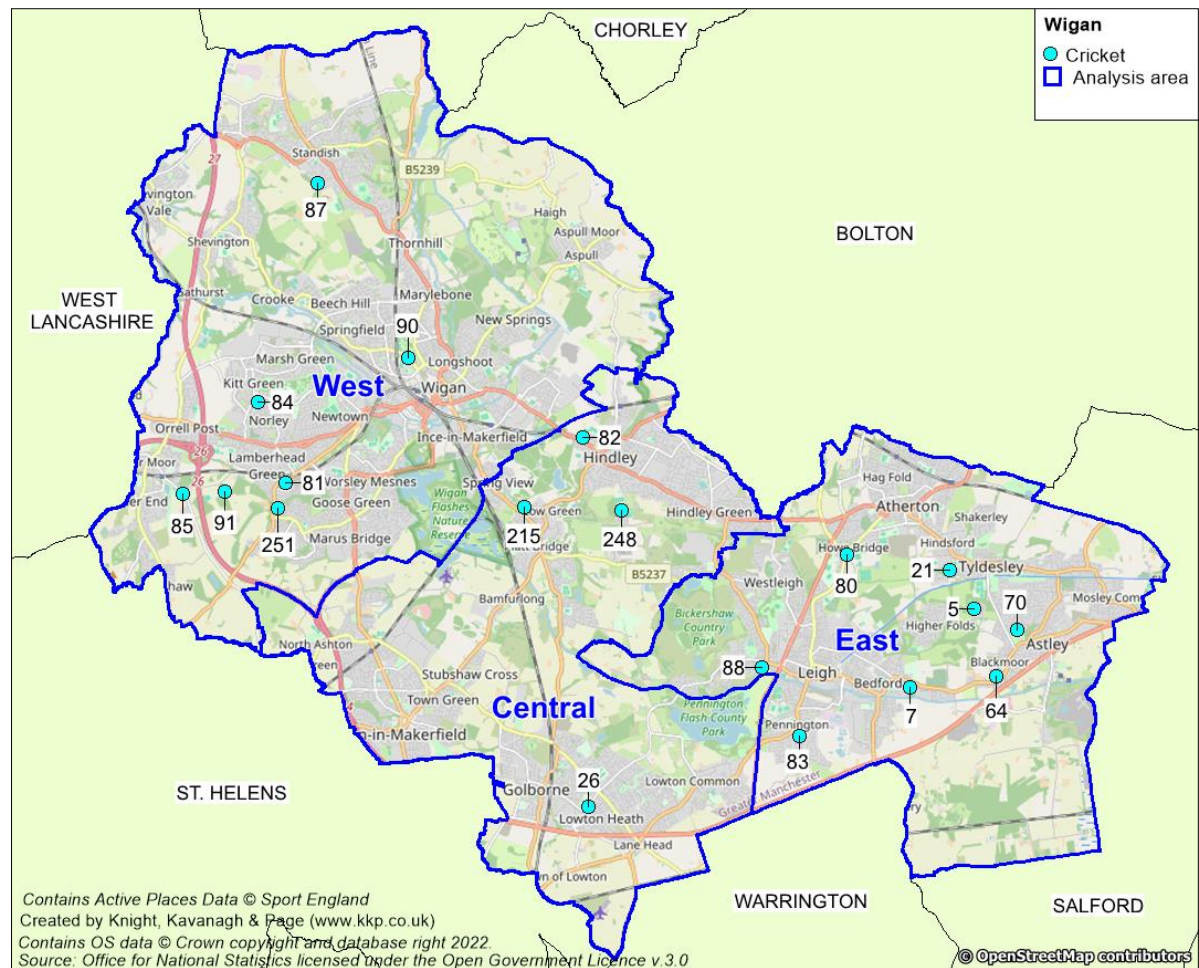
The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs are also frequently used for junior matches, which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets.

Since the 2017 study there has been two new NTPs established with one each at The Ley Recreation Ground and Leyland Park. There NTP which was located at HMP Hindley has since been removed.

The maps below show the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Wigan Borough. For a key to the map see Table 7.4

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Figure 7.1: Location of cricket pitches in Wigan Borough



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Table 7.4: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Active Places Power ID	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of senior grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	M29 7DW	1040934	East	Yes	10	-
7	Bedford High School	WN7 2LU	1201590	East	No	-	1
21	Fred Longworth High School	M29 8JN	1002646	East	No	-	1
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	WA3 2SE	1103396	Central	Yes	12	-
64	St Mary's Catholic High School	M29 7EE	1203079	East	No	-	1
70	The Ley Recreation Ground	M29 7BE	6007350	East	Yes	-	1
80	Higham Park	M46 0PJ	1208474	East	Yes	14	1
81	Highfield Cricket Club	WN3 6BL	1208477	West	Yes	17	-
82	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	WN2 3DN	1208480	Central	Yes	12	-
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	WN7 3LH	1208482	East	Yes	15	-
84	Norley Hall Cricket Club	WN5 9XH	1208484	West	Yes	13	-
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	WN5 7XE	1208472	West	Yes	15	1
87	Standish Cricket Club	WN6 0TX	1040927	West	Yes	13	1
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	WN7 4RZ	1208507	East	Yes	8	1
90	Wigan Sports Club	WN1 1RU	1036262	West	Yes	12	-
91	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	WN3 6BG	1040926	West	Yes	12	1
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	WN2 3TQ	1040899	Central	Yes	12	-
248	Leyland Park	WN2 3SB	6009342	Central	Yes	-	1
251	Goose Green Cricket Club	WN3 6FA	-	West	Yes	6	-

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Management and security of tenure

Within Wigan Borough all but one club, Winstanley Park CC, is considered to have security of tenure. The Club, despite negotiating a new lease, is considered to have unsecure tenure as there is a break clause in situ which allows the landowner to remove usage from the site with only two years notice.

Table 7.5: Summary of security of tenure for clubs

Site ID	Home ground	Club	Agreement	Tenure
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	Astley & Tyldesley CC	Lease from Wigan Council (25 years)	Secure
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Golborne CC	Freehold	Secure
80	Higham Park	Atherton CC	Long term lease from the Council which expires in 2033.	Secure
81	Highfield Cricket Club	Highfield CC	Six years remaining on a lease from the Council. The Club wants to extend this agreement.	Secure
82	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	Hindley St Peters CC	Long term lease from the Diocese.	Secure
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	Leigh CC	Freehold	Secure
84	Norley Hall Cricket Club	Norley Hall CC	Freehold	Secure
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	Orrell Red Triangle CC	Lease	Secure
87	Standish Cricket Club	Standish CC	Freehold	Secure
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	Westleigh CC	Freehold	Secure
90	Wigan Sports Club	Wigan CC	Freehold	Secure
91	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	Winstanley Park CC	Currently negotiating a 20-year lease but with a two-year break clause	Unsecure
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	Spring View CC	Freehold	Secure
251	Goose Green Cricket Club	Goose Green CC	Lease from Wigan Council (approximately 10 years remaining)	Secure

Astley & Tyldesley CC is in the process of renewing its lease with the Council.

Atherton CC wants to extend its current lease agreement with the Council at Higham Park and is in conversation with the Council regarding this. It aspires to rebuild its clubhouse, however, needs an extended tenure arrangement in order to access relevant funding streams.

Additionally, Goose Green CC is in the process of speaking with the Council regarding extension of its current lease agreement at Goose Green Cricket Club.

The overall security of tenure position has not altered since the 2017 study with Winstanley Park CC still being the only club with unsecure tenure.

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Pitch quality

The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits undertaken in 2024 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB), PitchPower reports (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%).

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

Table 7.6: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS Rating	PPOSS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to nearby players.

The audit of grass wicket cricket squares in Wigan Borough found nine (64%) to be good quality and five (36%) to be of standard quality. There are no poor quality squares within the Borough.

Table 7.7: Overall quality ratings for grass wicket squares and outfield (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Square quality (PP rating)	Outfield quality (PP rating)
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	East	Standard (Basic)	Standard (Basic)
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Central	Standard	Standard
80	Higham Park	East	Standard (Basic)	Standard (Basic)
81	Highfield Cricket Club	West	Good	Good
82	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	Central	Good	Good
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	Good	Good
84	Norley Hall Cricket Club	West	Good	Good
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	West	Good (Advanced)	Standard (Basic)
87	Standish Cricket Club	West	Standard (Basic)	Standard (Basic)
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	East	Good	Good

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Square quality (PP rating)	Outfield quality (PP rating)
90	Wigan Sports Club	West	Good (Good)	Good (Advanced)
91	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	West	Good	Good
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	Central	Standard	Standard
251	Goose Green Cricket Club	West	Good	Standard

It should be noted that PitchPower ratings supersede the non-technical assessments as they are more in-depth in their analysis, as long as they are current.

Although capacity solely derives from square quality, as outlined later in the section, the ratings for outfields have also been included. This is due to the fact that their quality can affect the accessibility of the square in addition to them also been used for cricket initiatives for junior (All Stars/Dynamos) and women's cricket (softball).

Orrel Red Triangle CC indicates that its square is good quality, however, its outfield is standard due to it being uneven. This matches both the non-technical and PitchPower assessments.

Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club suffers from outfield drainage issues which it is currently working with the Council to alleviate. Standish CC also reports of drainage problems with its outfield in specific areas near the extremities of the ground.

Goose Green CC reports the quality of its square has increased due to having a new roller, so the maintenance has increased.

Highfield CC has spent a substantial amount of money on drainage within the last three years and is looking to complete the remaining works in the upcoming seasons.

The square used Astley & Tyldesley CC at Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute is too small with a requirement for additional wickets to increase demand. The Club also indicates that its square has become slightly poorer due to issues with equipment reliability.

Winstanley Park CC denotes its square quality has become much better due to a new grounds person which has provided additional hours of maintenance in addition to more finances becoming available which it has invested into better ground equipment.

Following alignments of quality scores comparisons have also been made to the 2017 study to understand if squares have either improved or reduced in quality.

Table 7.8: Comparison of square quality on a site by site basis

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Square quality (2017)	Square quality (2024)
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	East	Good	Standard
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Central	Standard	Standard
80	Higham Park	East	Good	Standard
81	Highfield Cricket Club	West	Standard	Standard
82	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	Central	Good	Good
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	Good	Good

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Square quality (2017)	Square quality (2024)
84	Norley Hall Cricket Club	West	Standard	Good
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	West	Standard	Good
87	Standish Cricket Club	West	Standard	Standard
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	East	Standard	Good
89	Westleigh Methodists Cricket Club	East	Poor	Disused
90	Wigan Sports Club	West	Poor	Good
91	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	West	Standard	Good
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	Central	Standard	Standard
251	Goose Green Cricket Club	West	Standard	Good

Further to the grass square quality NTPs at The Ley Recreation Ground and Leyland Park are considered good quality having been installed since the 2017 study. In comparison provision at Higham Park, Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club, Winstanley Park Cricket Club, Standish Cricket Club and Westleigh Cricket Club are rated as standard quality. Bedford High School, Fred Longworth High School and St Mary's Catholic High School all are considered to have poor quality NTPs with them rarely used in addition to receiving limited amounts of maintenance.

Grass Pitch Improvement Fund³³

To coincide with the utilisation of PitchPower (PP) for cricket the ECB in partnership with Sport England and National Lottery has released the Grass Pitch Improvement Fund (GPIF). The GPIF aims to tackle inequalities by providing improved access to good quality, safe playing facilities for targeted groups. The Sport England Lottery Fund will provide funding for projects in England with projects in Wales supported by the England and Wales Cricket Trust.

Priority will be given to applications which support cricket for the following groups:

- ◀ Women's and girls' cricket.
- ◀ Cricket in diverse communities.
- ◀ Disability cricket.
- ◀ Low socio-economic groups (LSEG).

Investment will be targeted into three main areas:

- ◀ Improving the quality of squares and outfielders (for grass pitches rated 'unsuitable' or 'basic' to improve to at least 'good').
- ◀ Creating sustainable management of sites (through irrigation and machinery improvements).
- ◀ Installing hybrid pitches to increase playing capacity.

The fund will run until March 2027, or whenever the funding is full allocated, whichever is sooner.

³³<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/07/23/a754a60b-a11a-4dee-aa7e-06fbdc040297/GPIF-guidance-notes.pdf>

Ancillary facilities

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

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

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

The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in Wigan Borough determines that eight squares (57%) are accompanied by good quality provision, four squares (29%) are accompanied by standard quality provision and two squares (14%) have poor quality supporting ancillary provision located at Standish Cricket Club and Higham Park.

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Table 7.9: Changing room quality (at community available sites with natural turf squares)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Quality	Provision on site	Comments on changing rooms/clubhouses
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	East	Good	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club does not have a dedicated clubhouse and uses the onsite Miners Welfare facilities. The site does not have suitable changing for female players. The parking and surrounding road network causes major issues with local residents. There has also been evidence of vandalism and theft of boundary rope, cover sheet and mower. The Council has just provided the Club with £5,000 in order to erect new ball strike netting.
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Central	Standard	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club does not have suitable changing rooms for female players. The site has suffered from vandalism within the last year (roll on covers and scoreboard). It reports that the toilets and changing rooms are of poor quality and need renovating.
80	Higham Park	East	Poor	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	Pavilion is no longer fit for purpose with issues with the roof leaking. The current layout causes safeguarding issues. It is in the process of trying to create a solution by obtaining a shipping container. It obtained planning permission two years ago for a new pavilion build but does not have the relevant funds to complete the project.
81	Highfield Cricket Club	West	Good	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club does not have suitable changing rooms for female players. It is looking to increase the number of changing rooms for women and girls; however, this is early days.
82	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	Central	Good	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square and hot/cold water.	The Club does not have suitable changing rooms for female players.
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	Standard	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club indicates facilities are acceptable however need maintenance. There are no dedicated female changing provision and the Club states there is not an immediate demand to address this. It also has a piece of land it proposes to sell for development in order to raise funds but there is no specific timeframe for this.
84	Norley Hall Cricket Club	West	Good	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club does not have suitable changing rooms for female players. The site has suffered from vandalism within the last year (broken windows).
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	West	Standard	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club does not have suitable changing rooms for female players. Linked to this it has aspirations to extend its clubhouse facilities in order to better accommodate all types of demand.
87	Standish Cricket Club	West	Poor	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, hot/cold water and access for disabled.	The Club does not have access to a dedicated pavilion which means it is not meeting current league requirements/stipulations. It has been operating without provision for a few seasons now and is trying various avenues to secure a new facility. Its lack of suitable facilities is affecting its ability to increase participation figures. A planning application (A/23/95435) was approved in September 2024 for a single storey side extension and external terrace to clubhouse together with a three lane cricket net, following a partial demolition of its existing clubhouse.
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	East	Good	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, access for disabled and hot/cold water.	The Club does not have suitable changing rooms for female players.
90	Wigan Sports Club	West	Good	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club does have suitable changing rooms for female players. Additional security fencing has been placed on top of existing fencing due to unauthorised access and caused damaged to cricket club benches.
91	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	West	Good	Access to changing rooms, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers portable covers for square and hot/cold water.	The Club has suitable changing rooms for female players.
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	Central	Good	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, access for disabled, hot/cold water and heating.	The Club has suitable changing rooms for female players.
251	Goose Green Cricket Club	West	Standard	Access to changing rooms, toilets, sight screens, kitchen, tearoom, mowers/rollers, score box, portable covers for square, hot/cold water and heating.	There are suitable changing areas for female players. Site has suffered from some vandalism.

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As seen in the table above, only four clubs (Wigan CC, Winstanley Park CC, Spring View CC and Goose Green CC) have access to dedicated female changing facilities. Additionally, both Atherton CC and Standish CC currently have no access to suitable changing provision with the latter recently having a planning application approved (September 2024) for a single storey side extension and external terrace to clubhouse following a partial demolition of its existing clubhouse.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences. During the cricket season, outdoor training provision supplies most of the use. The below table identifies current training provision at each site, its quality and any additional comments made by the clubs.

Table 7.10: Summary of training facilities

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Training facility	Quality	Comments
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	East	3 x fixed bays	Standard	Desires for grass wickets and a mobile net cage.
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Central	3 x fixed bays	Good	Aspire for a mobile cage.
80	Higham Park	East	4 x fixed bays	Poor	Facility needs refurbishing but need to raise funds.
81	Highfield Cricket Club	West	3 x fixed bays	Good	Nets have recently been refurbished.
82	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	Central	N/A	N/A	-
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	3 x fixed bays	Good	-
84	Norley Hall Cricket Club	West	2 x fixed bays	Standard	-
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	West	3 x fixed bays	Standard	-
87	Standish Cricket Club	West	Mobile nets	Standard	Aspire for fixed bay NTP nets.
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	East	2 x fixed bays	Standard	Mobile cage for NTP on the square.
90	Wigan Sports Club	West	2 x fixed bays	Standard	More NTP nets.
90	Wigan Sports Club	West	2 x fixed bays	Disused	Refurbishment.
91	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	West	Mobile nets	Standard	-
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	Central	2 x fixed bays	Standard	-
251	Goose Green Cricket Club	West	1 x fixed bay	Standard	Desires for an additional net.

The audit of training facilities in Wigan Borough one to be poor quality, nine to be standard quality and three to be of good quality.

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As mentioned above, planning has been approved (September 2024) to create a three lane fixed bay at Standish Cricket Club in addition to wider ancillary facilities improvements.

Wigan Sports Club has plans to move the practice nets opposite the pavilion and replace the area with padel courts, which could be indoor or outdoor. Although no formal plans have been submitted if they are achieved, there could be a potential issue with ball strike if the nets are relocated. Due to the size of the site, and potential options of relocation, they could potentially impact the cricket square, hockey suitable AGP or surrounding carparking/housing.

The clubs which responded to consultation indicate they use The Deanery C of E High School, Newbridge School, St John Rigby College and Golborne High School for indoor training with the main issues being gaining access to the facilities at preferred times.

7.3: Demand

In Wigan Borough, there are 14 clubs generating a total of 106 teams broken down as 41 senior men's, five senior women's, 57 junior boys' and three junior girls' teams. The table below presents this on a club-by-club basis as well as a comparison to the 2017 study.

Table 7.11: Summary of teams by club

Club	Analysis area	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams
2017					
Astley & Tyldesley CC	Leigh	5	-	5	-
Atherton CC	Leigh	4	-	5	-
Golborne CC	Leigh	3	-	3	-
Goose Green CC	Wigan Town	3	-	-	-
Highfield CC	Wigan Town	5	-	5	-
Hindley St. Peters CC	Ashton	3	-	2	-
Leigh CC	Leigh	6	1	7	1
Norley Hall CC	Wigan Town	3	-	3	-
Orrell Red Triangle CC	Wigan Town	5	-	9	1
Spring View CC	Ashton	4	-	4	-
Standish CC	Wigan Town	4	-	4	-
Westleigh CC	Leigh	3	-	3	-
Westleigh Methodists CC	Leigh	-	-	-	-
Wigan CC	Wigan Town	5	-	5	-
Winstanley Park CC	Wigan Town	2	-	5	-
	Total	55	1	60	2
2024					
Astley & Tyldesley CC	East	3	-	4	-
Atherton CC	East	3	-	5	1
Golborne CC	Central	3	-	4	-
Goose Green CC	West	2	-	-	-
Highfield CC	West	3	-	6	-
Hindley St. Peters CC	Central	2	-	-	-
Leigh CC	East	3	2	5	-
Norley Hall CC	West	2	-	2	-

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Club	Analysis area	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams
Orrell Red Triangle CC	West	5	-	6	-
Spring View CC	Central	3	1	4	-
Standish CC	West	3	1	5	-
Westleigh CC	East	2	-	4	-
Westleigh Methodists CC	East	-	-	-	-
Wigan CC	West	4	-	6	1
Winstanley Park CC	West	3	1	6	1
	Total	41	5	57	3
-	Percentage change	25%	400%	5%	50%

Overall, there has been a 10% decrease from 2017 to 2024 equating to 12 teams. This decrease is within the senior men's and junior boy's demographics. Comparatively there has been a significant growth in both women and girls' demand.

Most demand (57 teams or 53%) is in the West Analysis Area, followed by the East Analysis Area (32 teams or 31%). The least amount of demand is in the Central Analysis Area with just 17 teams (16%) from the three clubs of Hindley St Peters CC (two teams), Golborne CC (seven teams) and Spring View CC (eight teams).

Women's and girls' cricket

The ECB's strategy Inspiring Generations 2020 - 2024 builds on the foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales. It is currently being refreshed. However, the Strategy has six key priorities and activities including to increase the representation of women and girls in every level of cricket by:

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

In Wigan Borough, there are five women, and three junior girls' dedicated teams provided across six clubs. These clubs are Atherton, Leigh, Spring View, Wigan and Winstanley Park cricket clubs. However, many of the remaining clubs do have some level of girls participating within their junior teams, although specific numbers where not provided.

In order to sustain current demand and increase women and girls' participation further there is a requirement to improve ancillary provision, and in particular changing rooms, to meet relevant requirements.

Unmet/latent demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which cannot access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

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Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. The only club which references clear latent demand is Standish CC which states that its lack of suitable ancillary provision is affecting its ability to increase participation. However, it does not specify a number of teams which it could field if this situation improved.

Imported/exported demand

Exported demand refers to Wigan Borough based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities.

Orrell Red Triangle CC is the only club known to export demand outside of Wigan Borough. Its third Saturday team plays 14 matches at Ormskirk Cricket Club (L39 4RG – West Lancashire) which is situated approximately 10.4 miles or 25 minutes from its home ground. Although the Club would prefer to accommodate this demand more locally it does not indicate its current arrangement to be too problematic.

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. There is no known club based imported demand into Wigan Borough.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development plans within Wigan Borough.

Notwithstanding the above, the ECB's five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024 includes a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. Together, significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPOSS and the impact should therefore be reviewed over coming years.

Population forecasts

Based on population projections to 2041 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass cricket pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

Total current population in Wigan Borough is 331,172 and is anticipated to increase to 329,262 by 2041. The table below shows the number of likely teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions per week.

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Table 7.12: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of whole new teams generated by the new population	Peak time for population	Average games for age group	No. of match equivalent sessions per season ³⁴
Men (18-55yrs)	1: 78,791	2.05	2	Saturday	12	24
Women (18-55yrs)	1:78,453	0.24	0	Sunday	8	-
Boys (7-18yrs)	1:24,529	2.68	2	Midweek	6	12
Girls (7-18yrs)	1:22,963	0.15	0	Midweek	6	-

As seen in the above, there are four additional teams expected to be generated by population growth alone for Wigan Borough generating demand for 36 match sessions per season. This equates to one men's and one boys' team each in the West and East analysis areas.

These figures will be applied to the supply and demand analysis later in this section.

Participation increases

ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country by 2026/2027, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand in Wigan Borough. This will be further tested as a scenario in the Strategy.

For female cricket to grow further in Wigan Borough, it is imperative that existing provision adapts to better accommodate women's and girls' demand. Many existing clubhouses are dated and provide unsegregated changing areas as well as communal showers that are unsuitable for mixed gender access.

Of the responding clubs in Wigan Borough, seven quantified their aspirations to increase levels of participation. This equates to a total predicted growth of two senior men's, six senior women's, five junior boys' and three junior girls' team.

Table 7.13: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
Astley & Tyldesley CC	East	1	1	-	1
Atherton CC	East	-	-	-	-
Golborne CC	Central	-	-	1	-
Goose Green CC	West	-	-	1	-
Norley Hall CC	West	-	1	1	-
Orrell Red Triangle CC	West	-	1	-	1
Spring View CC	Central	-	-	-	1
Standish CC	West	1	1	1	-
Westleigh CC	East	-	-	1	-
Wigan CC	West	-	1	-	1
Winstanley Park CC	West	-	1	-	-
-	Total	2	6	5	3

³⁴ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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Future demand summary

Population increases will be taken through into the supply and demand analysis later in this section. This is due to participation increases being seen as more aspirational.

Lancashire Cricket Foundation is working closely with clubs to drive women and girls' participation, particularly with the clubs that do not currently accommodate any women or girls' demand. In Wigan Borough, there are currently nine clubs which do not currently accommodate any women or girl's demand. The impact of participation increases, and the growth women and girls (ECB target) will be explored in a scenario in the preceding Strategy and Action Plan document.

Additional demand

All Stars cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine cricket clubs in Wigan Borough can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight.

Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

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

Dynamos cricket

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos programme for 8-11 year olds which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars Cricket programme for 5-8 year olds and will develop the pathway to retain juniors progressing from All Stars into Dynamos.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified soft ball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a new short format competition which launched in 2021.

The table below summarises sites and clubs which are involved in All Stars and Dynamos and the participation figures for 2024.

Table 7.14: Summary of All Stars and Dynamos participation

Site ID	Site	Club	All Stars count (No. female)	Dynamos (No. female)
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	Astley & Tyldesley CC	44 (13)	21 (3)
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Golborne CC	16 (2)	0

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Site ID	Site	Club	All Stars count (No. female)	Dynamos (No. female)
80	Higham Park	Atherton CC	39 (16)	30 (30)
81	Highfield Cricket Club	Highfield CC	40 (7)	0
82	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	Hindley St Peters CC	0	0
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	Leigh CC	0	0
84	Norley Hall Cricket Club	Norley Hall CC	0	0
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	Orrell Red Triangle CC	47 (6)	0
87	Standish Cricket Club	Standish CC	0	0
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	Westleigh CC	12 (0)	0
90	Wigan Sports Club	Wigan CC	19 (3)	4 (0)
91	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	Winstanley Park CC	7 (5)	0
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	Spring View CC	8 (3)	0
251	Goose Green Cricket Club	Goose Green CC	13 (7)	0
-	-	Total	245 (62)	55 (33)

Softball cricket

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

Winstanley Park CC, Leigh CC, Spring View CC and Standish CC operate women's softball or hardball sections in Wigan Borough. With this being said there are clear ambitions to increase this demand with Astley & Tyldesley CC, Norley Hall CC, Orrell Red Triangle CC and Wigan CC all wanting to start a women's section.

It should be noted that All Stars, Dynamos and Softball cricket generally takes place on the cricket outfields rather than the actual squares. Although this does not impact the carrying capacity of the square it does influence the accessibility of the squares as whilst the outfield is in use the main square cannot be used to accommodate fixtures. Therefore, this may limit the potential spare capacity whilst these activities are taking place, generally on midweek evenings or Sunday mornings.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Wigan Borough is Saturday, although several teams also play on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both are considered within the supply and demand analysis later in the section. For junior cricket, peak time is midweek.

7.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per pitch per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

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The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, the assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

To help calculate spare capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality grass wicket should be able to take five (senior) matches per season.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

Please note that NTPs have been discounted from the table overleaf. No NTPs are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season; therefore, all NTPs are considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and matches can be played on a variety of days.

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

Spare capacity

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 7:16 in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and Midweek).

Table 7.15 Spare capacity examples

Potential spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
No	Means the pitch is played to capacity within this peak period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
Yes	Not highlighted, it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period however this is discounted due to the pitch already being in full use at the time, played to capacity or being overplayed so it cannot accommodate any additional demand.
Yes	Highlighted in green, it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

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Table 7.16: Capacity analysis of community available grass cricket squares

Site ID	Active Places Power ID	Site name	Analysis area	Users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (MES)	Current use (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Saturday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for Sunday cricket	Potential spare capacity/ availability for midweek cricket
5	1040934	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	East	Astley & Tyldesley CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	56	16	No	Yes	Yes
26	1103396	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Central	Golborne CC	Secure	1	Standard	12	48	52	4	No	Yes	Yes
80	1208474	Higham Park	East	Atherton CC	Secure	1	Standard	14	56	63	8	No	Yes	Yes
81	1208477	Highfield Cricket Club	West	Highfield CC	Secure	1	Good	17	85	63	22	No	Yes	Yes
82	1208480	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	Central	Hindley St Peters CC	Secure	1	Good	12	60	23	37	No	Yes	Yes
83	1208482	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	East	Leigh CC	Secure	1	Good	15	75	72	3	No	No	Yes
84	1208484	Norley Hall Cricket Club	West	Norley Hall CC	Secure	1	Good	13	65	31	34	No	Yes	Yes
85	1208472	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	West	Orrell Red Triangle CC	Secure	1	Good	15	75	68	7	No	No	Yes
87	1040927	Standish Cricket Club	West	Standish CC	Secure	1	Standard	13	52	63	11	No	Yes	Yes
88	1208507	Westleigh Cricket Club	East	Westleigh CC	Secure	1	Good	8	40	53	13	No	Yes	Yes
90	1036262	Wigan Sports Club	West	Wigan CC	Secure	1	Good	12	60	70	10	No	No	No
91	1040926	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	West	Winstanley Park CC	Unsecure	1	Good	12	60	72	12	No	No	No
215	1040899	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	Central	Spring View CC	Secure	1	Standard	12	48	56	8	No	Yes	Yes
251	-	Goose Green Cricket Club	West	Goose Green CC	Secure	1	Good	6	30	22	8	No	Yes	Yes

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Saturday cricket - spare capacity

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

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

Taking the above into consideration there is no actual spare capacity to accommodate further senior demand at peak time on a Saturday in Wigan Borough.

Sunday cricket - spare capacity

Like Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Sunday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Sunday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Sunday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified. As such, no sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity (at least eight match equivalent sessions per season of spare capacity are required for an additional senior Sunday team to be accommodated) and neither are sites with unsecure tenure as future usage cannot be guaranteed.

Access to the square on a Sunday can be influenced by women and girls' softball activity on the outfields, meaning the square cannot be used whilst the outfield is in use.

Table 7.17: Sites with actual spare capacity to accommodate Sunday cricket

Site ID	Site	Potential number of additional teams	Comments	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams (MES)
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	1	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	1	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-

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Site ID	Site	Potential number of additional teams	Comments	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams (MES)
80	Higham Park	1	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-
81	Highfield Cricket Club	1	Spare capacity of 22 match equivalent sessions meaning only one team can be accommodated.	8
82	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	2	Spare capacity of 37 match equivalent sessions meaning only one team can be accommodated.	8
84	Norley Hall Cricket Club	2	Spare capacity of 34 match equivalent sessions meaning two team can be accommodated.	16
87	Standish Cricket Club	1	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	2	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	1	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-
251	Goose Green Cricket Club	2	Spare capacity of eight match equivalent sessions meaning only one team can be accommodated.	8

Taking the above into consideration there is spare capacity for four teams on a Sunday, one each at Highfield Cricket Club, Hindley St Peters Cricket Club, Norley Hall Cricket Club and Goose Green Cricket Club. This equates to 32 match equivalent sessions a season in the West Analysis Area and eight match equivalent sessions in the Central Analysis Area.

Midweek cricket - spare capacity

For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because usually most of the demand is from junior matches which are generally played during midweek, where matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for junior cricket, it must not be poor quality, have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have at least six match equivalent sessions per season of spare capacity, the average number of home matches an additional junior team would play.

Furthermore, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more, as availability is then assumed to be limited.

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On average, clubs are able to play junior fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as square remediation/preparation, training activity or All Stars and Dynamos cricket activity.

There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand midweek in Wigan Borough at four sites. These five sites can collectively accommodate nine additional teams in total.

Table 7.18: Sites with actual spare capacity to accommodate midweek cricket

Site ID	Site	Potential number of additional teams	Comments	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	3	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	3	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-
80	Higham Park	1	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-
81	Highfield Cricket Club	1	Spare capacity of 22 match equivalent sessions meaning only one team can be accommodated.	6
82	Hindley St Peters Cricket Club	6	Spare capacity of 37 match equivalent sessions meaning only two teams can be accommodated.	36
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	1	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-
84	Norley Hall Cricket Club	4	Spare capacity of 34 match equivalent sessions meaning only four teams can be accommodated.	24
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	1	Spare capacity of seven match equivalent sessions meaning only one team can be accommodated.	6
87	Standish Cricket Club	1	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	2	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	4	Square is overplayed and cannot accommodate further demand.	-

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Site ID	Site	Potential number of additional teams	Comments	Actual spare capacity required for additional teams
251	Goose Green Cricket Club	6	Spare capacity of eight match equivalent sessions meaning only one team can be accommodated.	6

The total of actual spare capacity midweek equates to 78 match equivalent sessions per season. This amounts to 36 and 42 match equivalent sessions per season in the Central and West Analysis Area, respectively.

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square.

In Wigan Borough, eight sites are overplayed equating to 82 match equivalent sessions a season. This amounts to 12 match equivalent sessions in the Central Analysis Area, 37 match equivalent sessions a season in the East Analysis Area and 33 match equivalent sessions a season in the West Analysis Area.

Table 7.19: Summary of overplay in matches per season

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (MES)
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	East	16
26	Golborne Sports And Social Club	Central	4
80	Higham Park	East	8
87	Standish Cricket Club	West	11
88	Westleigh Cricket Club	East	13
90	Wigan Sports Club	West	10
91	Winstanley Park Cricket Club	West	12
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	Central	8
-	-	Total	82

A large amount of the overplay is due to the high levels of demand coupled with standard quality provision (Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute, Golborne Sports and Social Club, Higham Park, Standish Cricket Club and Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club).

7.5: Supply and demand analysis

It should be noted that as the methodology has changed since the previous study a direct comparison cannot be made regarding the supply and demand analysis.

Senior cricket capacity balance (Saturday)

The below looks at actual spare capacity during the peak period (Saturday) for senior cricket against overplay.

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For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of squares to match equivalent sessions. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (one team per 0.5 squares that are available). The entirety of spare capacity available at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time (the maximum amount of spare capacity that can be accommodated on one square at peak time is 24 match equivalent sessions per season).

Table 7.20: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for Saturday cricket in matches per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand from population growth	Future total
Central	-	12	12	-	12
East	-	37	37	12	49
West	-	33	33	12	45
Total	-	82	82	24	106

There is a current overall shortfall of 82 match equivalent sessions per season on grass wicket squares in Wigan Borough on Saturdays. Shortfalls are currently evident in all analysis areas; however, the most prominent deficits are in the East and West analysis areas. After considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 106 match equivalent sessions per week.

Senior cricket capacity balance (Sunday)

The table below looks at actual spare capacity on Sunday for cricket against overplay and identified future demand. For this, actual spare capacity is considered in multiples of eight based on the average number of matches played by existing Sunday teams.

Table 7.21: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for Sunday cricket in matches per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand from population growth	Future total
Central	8	12	4	-	4
East	-	37	37	-	37
West	32	33	1	-	1
Total	40	82	42	-	42

There is a current overall shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions per season on grass wicket squares in Wigan Borough on Sundays. As there is no anticipated growth from population increases these shortfalls remain the same.

Junior cricket capacity balance

For junior cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because junior matches are generally played during midweek, where matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams.

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For a square to have actual spare capacity for junior cricket, it must not be poor quality or have unsecure tenure and it must not be overplayed; at least six match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are required for an additional junior team to be accommodated (the average number of matches junior teams play per season). Furthermore, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play junior fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars).

Table 7.22: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for midweek cricket in matches per season

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand from population growth	Future total
Central	36	12	24	-	24
East	-	37	37	6	43
West	42	33	9	6	3
Total	78	82	4	12	16

There is currently a shortfall of four match equivalent sessions per season on grass wicket squares in Wigan Borough for midweek cricket. Despite there being spare capacity in the East and West analysis areas. This deficit slightly increases when accounting for future demand in the East and West analysis areas.

7.6: Conclusion

In Wigan Borough, there is currently insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket at a Borough wide level across all peak times. When accounting for future demand for senior and junior cricket shortfalls are exacerbated further for Saturday and Midweek cricket.

Table 7.23: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares summary in matches per season

Peak time period	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	-	82	82	24	106
Sunday	40	82	42	-	42
Midweek	78	82	4	12	16

It should be noted that within Wigan Borough, a large amount of the overplay is due to the high levels of demand coupled with standard quality provision (Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute, Golborne Sports and Social Club, Higham Park, Standish Cricket Club and Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club). Some sites have also seen the number of senior wickets actively used condensed which in turn has reduced capacity.

Methods on how these natural turf squares shortfalls can be alleviated will be explored further with the Strategy & Action Plan.

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Supply and demand summary

- Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity of natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket at a Borough wide level across all peak times.
- When accounting for future demand for senior and junior cricket in Wigan Borough shortfalls are exacerbated further for Saturday and Midweek cricket.

Supply summary

- In total, there are 14 grass wicket cricket squares in Wigan Borough, provided across 14 sites, of which all are available for community use.
- Exactly half of the provision is located in the West Analysis Area (seven square or 50%), followed by the East Analysis Area with four squares (29%) and the Central Analysis Area with only 21% or three squares.
- The site known Westleigh Methodists Cricket Club, which previously accommodated a 14-wicket grass square, is considered disused. The site was classified as unused in the 2017 study due to quality issues with the square. Anecdotal evidence indicates the square has not been brought back into use since the previous study with the users, Westleigh Methodists CC, folding shortly afterwards.
- There are 11 non turf pitches (NTPs) in Wigan Borough. Five accompany existing squares at club sites, with all others being standalone NTPs.
- Within Wigan Borough all but one club, Winstanley Park CC, is considered to have security of tenure. The Club, despite negotiating a new lease, is considered to have unsecure tenure as there is a break clause in situ which allows the landowner to remove the Club from the site with only two years notice.
- The audit of grass wicket cricket squares in Wigan Borough found nine (64%) to be good quality and five (36%) to be of standard quality. There are no poor quality squares within the Authority.
- The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in Wigan Borough determines that eight squares (57%) are accompanied by good quality provision, four squares (29%) are accompanied by standard quality provision, and two squares (14%) have poor quality supporting ancillary provision located at Standish Cricket Club and Higham Park.
- The audit of training facilities in Wigan Borough three to be poor quality, 10 to be standard quality and two to be of poor quality.

Demand summary

- In Wigan Borough, there are 14 clubs generating a total of 106 teams broken down as 41 senior men's, five senior women's, 57 junior boys' and three junior girls' teams.
- Most demand (57 teams or 53%) is in the West Analysis Area, followed by the East Analysis Area (32 teams or 31%). The least amount of demand is in the Central Analysis Area with just 17 teams (16%) from the three clubs of Hindley St Peters CC (two teams), Golborne CC (seven teams) and Spring View CC (eight teams).
- In Wigan Borough, there are five women, and three junior girls' dedicated teams provided across six clubs. These clubs are Atherton, Leigh, Spring View, Wigan and Winstanley Park cricket clubs. With this being said many of the remaining clubs do have some level of girls participating within their junior teams, although specific numbers were not provided.
- There are four additional teams expected to be generated by population growth alone for Wigan Borough generating demand for 36 match sessions per season. This equates to one men's and one boys' team each in the West and East analysis area.
- Of the responding clubs in Wigan Borough, seven quantified its aspirations to increase levels of participation. This equates to a total predicted growth of two senior men's, six senior women's, five junior boys' and three junior girls' team.

PART 8: GOLF

8.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 730,000 members belonging to one of 1,800 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated Heritage Coast sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or listed Historic Parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

This section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within Wigan.

8.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

Table 8.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

Across the Wigan Borough, there are eight golf venues that provide facilities conforming with the above definitions, as identified in Figure 8.1 and Table 8.2 overleaf.

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Figure 8.1: Location of golf courses in Wigan Borough

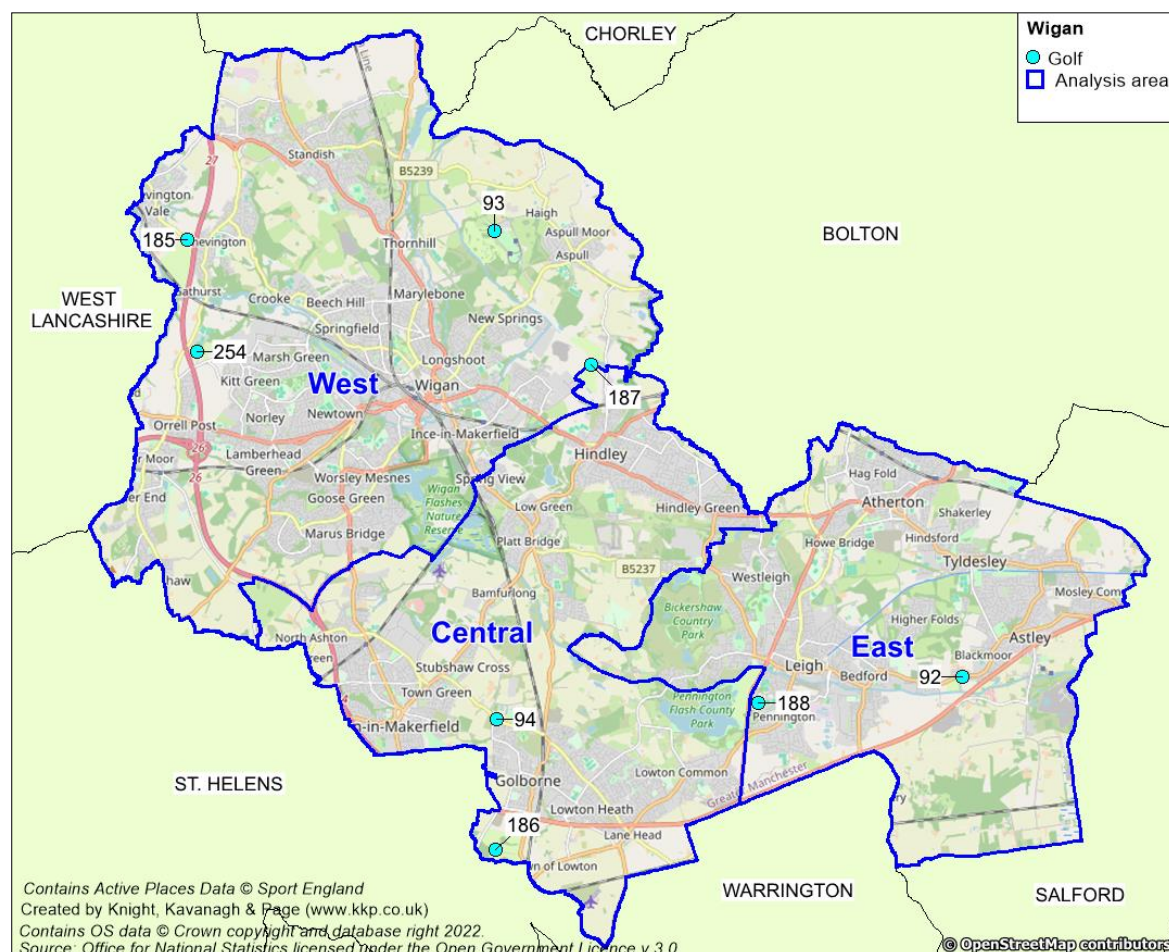


Table 8.2: Golf facilities within Wigan Borough

Site ID	Active Places Power ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type
92	1200172	Astley Golf Driving Range	East	M29 7FH	Driving Range
93	1101389	Haigh Hall Golf Course	West	WN2 1PE	Standard (18)
94	1101394	The Sycamores Golf Centre	Central	WA3 3UU	Driving Range
185	1101388	Gathurst Golf Club Ltd	West	WN6 6EW	Standard (18)
186	1101390	Haydock Park Golf Club	Central	WA12 0HX	Standard (18)
187	1101391	Hindley Park Golf Club	Central	WN2 2SQ	Standard (18)
188	1101392	Pennington Golf Course	East	WN 4JY	Standard (9)
254	N/A	Porters Wood Golf Course	West	WN5 0LH	Par 3 (9)

Disused provision

There is no identified disused provision within the Wigan Borough, however, Haigh Hall Golf Course previously accommodated a nine hole Par 3 course which is currently being used for footgolf. As the former Par 3 course is still being actively used, in some capacity for golf, it is anticipated that it would not take substantial remedial work to reinstate it.

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Although not located within the Wigan Borough it should be noted that Beacon Park Golf Club (West Lancashire – WN8 7RZ) has recently closed. The former 18 hole course, which closed circa 2023, is situated on the outskirts of Wigan close to Up Holland, Orrell and Shevington (West Analysis Area) and is believed to have serviced some demand from the Authority.

Standard hole golf courses

Across the Wigan Borough, there are four standard 18-hole courses and one standard 9-hole courses across five sites. These are summarised in the table below.

Table 8.3: Summary of standard hole provision in Wigan

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage ³⁵			Slope rating
93	Haigh Hall Golf Course ³⁶	18	71	6,254	5,796	4,937	67 - 134
185	Gathurst Golf Club Ltd	18	70	5,991	5,709	5,332	68 - 129
186	Haydock Park Golf Club	18	70	6,073	5,826	5,390	68 - 131
187	Hindley Park Golf Club	18	69	5,926	5,764	5,271	68 - 129
188	Pennington Golf Course	9	35	2,819	-	2,555	67 - 112

Of the 18-hole courses, Haigh Hall Golf Course provides the longest offering (6,254 yards), with Gathurst Golf Club Ltd providing the shortest (5,794 yards). However, all courses are in the range of what you would expect from traditional provision. Shorter courses tend to offer some variety that may appeal more so to a defined market that would not feel comfortable playing lengthier provision e.g., beginner and/or casual golfers.

Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase. This is the case for Pennington Golf Course, which is only 2,819 yards long (white tees).

Slope ratings³⁷

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World (established in 2021). The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that the courses in Wigan Borough are generally considered within this mean, with them collectively ranging from 67-134 (the slope rating varies depending on which tee is used).

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game.

There is only one dedicated Par 3 golf course located in the Authority namely Porters Wood Golf Course (West Analysis Area). A summary of the course can be seen in the table below.

³⁵ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

³⁶ Blue tees (Competition) 6,358 yardage

³⁷ <https://www.randa.org/en/course-handicap-calculator>

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Table 8.4: Summary of Par 3 provision in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Holes	Par	Yardage	Slope rating
254	Porters Wood Golf Course	West	9	29	1,445 (Yellow) 1,272 (Red)	55 - 89 (Yellow) 57 - 93 (Red)

As mentioned, the former Par 3 course at Haigh Hall Golf Course is not in use and is now commonly used for FootGolf.

Driving range bays

Accumulatively, there are 47 dedicated driving range bays in Wigan Borough across two sites, Astley Golf Driving Range and The Sycamores Golf Centre. Both driving ranges are serviced by sports lighting to allow all-year round and late evening usage and are available for pay and play.

Table 8.5: Summary of driving range bays in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of bays	Sports lit?	Pay and play?
92	Astley Golf Driving Range	East	26	Yes	Yes
94	The Sycamores Golf Centre	Central	21	Yes	Yes

Nationally, many driving range providers are updating their facilities with modern technology in a bid to increase demand, such as through the installation of automatic tees or via entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. Such provision allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback.

In Wigan Borough, neither Astley Golf Driving Range nor The Sycamores Golf Centre currently have such technology installed.

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England: members clubs, proprietary clubs and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

Table 8.6: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private

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Management type	Description
	companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment.

Of the eight golfing sites in Wigan Borough, three operate as members clubs, three are proprietary sites and two are municipal golf courses.

Table 8.7: Summary of ownership/management in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site name	Management type
92	Astley Golf Driving Range	Proprietary
93	Haigh Hall Golf Course	Municipal
94	The Sycamores Golf Centre	Proprietary
185	Gathurst Golf Club Ltd	Members
186	Haydock Park Golf Club	Members
187	Hindley Park Golf Club	Members
188	Pennington Golf Course	Municipal
254	Porters Wood Golf Course	Proprietary

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Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past few years, many facilities have altered their pricing structures to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf has positively encouraged this as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, some now offer five and/or six day memberships (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over).

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £1,071. In Wigan, average membership fees, where known, are below this national average at £856. One of the main reasons for this is the low membership fees at Haigh Hall Golf Course (municipal course).

The most expensive membership offerings are identified at Haydock Park Golf Club, whereby full membership fee amounts to £1,227 with an additional £500 joining (which can be spread over five years). In comparison, the lowest full membership fee is identified at Haigh Hall golf Course, amounting to just £100, which accounts for it being a municipal course.

Green fees in Wigan for Gathurst Golf Club Ltd, Haydock Park Golf Club and Hindley Park Golf Club are broadly similar ranging from £25 to £40 midweek and £30 to £50 at the weekend. The two cheaper offers are the municipal course, Haigh Hall Golf Course and Pennington Gold Course (9-hole course) which are £15 and £6.50 midweek and £7.50 and £30 weekend, respectively.

Pricing at all the sites providing a course is summarised in the table below.

Table 8.9: Pricing structures at golf facilities within the Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year) ³⁸	Green fee (per round)	
				Weekday	Weekend
93	Haigh Hall Golf Course	-	£100	£15	£30
185	Gathurst Golf Club Ltd	£250	£1,090	£35	£40
186	Haydock Park Golf Club	£500	£1,227	£40	£50
187	Hindley Park Golf Club	-	£1,095	£25	£30
188	Pennington Golf Course	-	-	£6.50	£7.50

Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

³⁸ Prices referenced are based on a full adult membership and do therefore not account for any discounts offered.

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Quality of the golf courses in Wigan is relatively good, with no significant issues identified. With this being said, facilities at Haigh Hall Golf Club and Pennington Golf Club are more basic as they do not have the subsidies from higher membership fees which Gathurst Golf Club Ltd, Haydock Park Golf Club and Hindley Park Golf Club which benefit from provision such as Bars & catering and function and meeting rooms.

The ancillary facilities are also for the most part good across Wigan Borough. Golf clubs often need such revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals.

From a golfing perspective, given the current emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g., by providing gender specific changing facilities.

8.3: Demand

Prior to the recent growth in demand, participation in golf had generally been in decline, with only recent signs showing that the reduction may have been levelling off. The landscape of demand has also changed, with fewer users taking up membership packages and more golfers becoming nomadic and using a range of courses on a pay and play basis.

The following section examines current demand for golf as well as recent trends and potential future demand.

Membership

England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 407, which is based on a central national handicap platform. In Wigan, the average across the clubs that operate a membership is currently 399 and therefore just below national average.

As seen in the table below, overall participation for golf across the Wigan Borough has increased significantly from 2015 to 2024 by a total of 29% or 90 members. This includes relatively low numbers of participants from Pennington Golf Course and Haigh Hall Golf Course which operate on a predominately pay and play basis.

There is a notable spike in membership from 2018 to 2022 / 23 which anecdotally can linked to the Covid 19 Pandemic, as the sport was one of first to become accessible whilst in periods of social distancing. The figures have decreased by 8% since 2023 however they are still just below the national average.

Data by club is not available as this is considered to be commercially sensitive information.

Table 8.10: Summary of golf membership within the Wigan Borough

2015 Average	2016 Average	2017 Average	2018 Average	2022 Average	2023 Average	2024 Average ³⁹
309	346	330	302	431	435	399

³⁹ Correct as of May 2024

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It should be noted that whilst some clubs will operate below the national average, this does not necessarily indicate insufficient levels demand. In fact, this could simply mean there is a particular emphasis on pay and play use, or it will take account of 9-hole courses having less capacity than 18-hole courses. At the members clubs with 18-hole courses, it is expected that most if not all will have a membership that is higher than average.

Where demand is especially low, England Golf can assist in this regard, primarily through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has increased across England in recent years, usage figures within Wigan are not generally known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf. However, it would be expected that demand would be highest at Haigh Hall Golf Club given that it is a municipal course, as well as at sites such as Pennington Golf Club which are more geared towards pay and play access and cheaper to use. In contrast, it will be lower at sites such as Gathurst Golf Club Ltd, Haydock Park Golf Club and Hindley Park Golf Club given that these are predominately focused on members and more expensive to play.

If facilities with low membership numbers do not have high green fee demand, long-term viability is questionable. Attracting pay and play usage is key to the business model and sustainability of such sites.

Relative demand

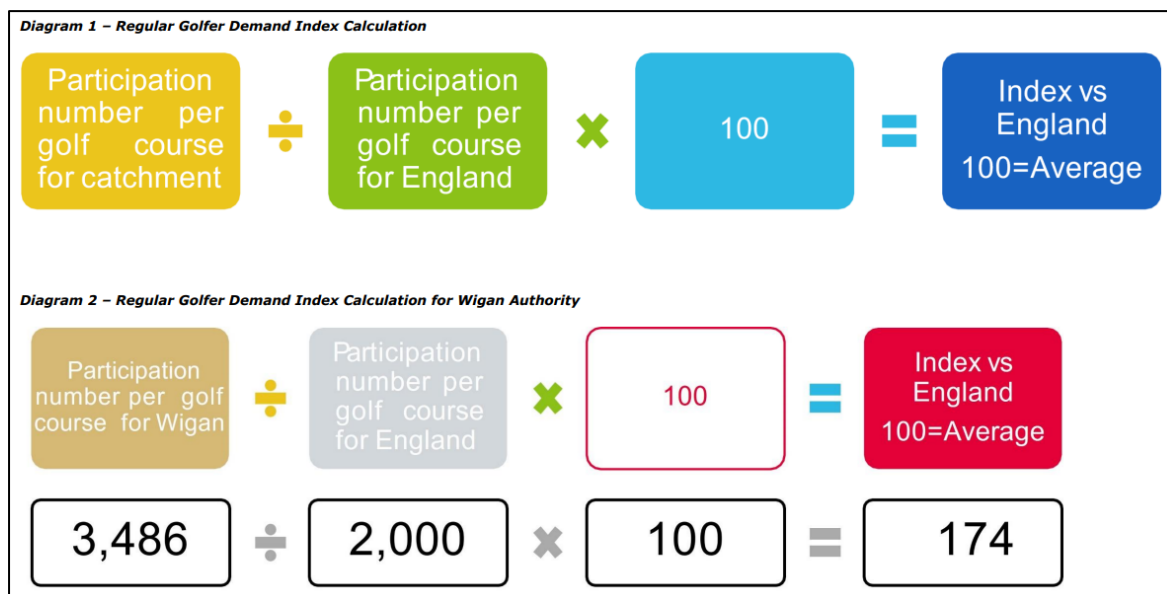
Nationally, England Golf utilises a figure of 3.5 million people that are considered to be regular golfers, with this defined as those that have played on a standard-length course at least twice within the last 12 months. Using this, it is able to indicate how much demand exists per facility within a catchment area before then comparing this to a national benchmark.

Within the formula, it calculates the participation number in an area by establishing what proportion of the population is likely to be golfers, which can then be used to determine the number of participants per facility. This can then be compared to the national rate, with an index created for comparison purposes. Using 100 as the average, anything below this suggests that an area has either low demand or a high facility count, whereas anything above provides evidence that an area has high demand and/or a low level of provision.

The calculations for the catchment area for the Wigan Authority can be seen via the image below, as provided by England Golf.

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Figure 8.2: Regular golfer demand index calculations for Wigan Authority



As shown, the index rating for the catchment area (174) is significantly above the national benchmark (100). This therefore indicates that demand is high in comparison to the number of facilities available, which in turn suggests that no provision could be lost without the situation being exacerbated.

Exported/imported demand

Cross-boundary demand for golf is common nationally due to the nature of the sport. Golfers do not necessarily recognise local authority borders, and many will choose a facility for a whole range of reasons other than where it is located, with factors including quality, availability, cost and where friends/family play. This can be especially pronounced at venues located close to neighbouring authorities and if there is a comparative lack of provision within those authorities.

For Wigan, based on its geographical location there are to be anticipated levels imported demand particularly from more rural local authorities such as West Lancashire, Chorley and St Helens which have less choice in provision such as Par 3 and/or 9-hole courses.

Additionally, there is known exported demand to Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council as Arley Hall (Wigan Golf Club) is located within this authority being approximately just four miles from the centre of Wigan itself.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As such, unmet demand in Wigan is considered to be very minimal, with most of the sites offering a membership scheme actively looking for new members and with ample opportunities for pay and play access. None of the clubs are known to have a waiting list.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision. To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 3,574 people within Wigan Borough.

In addition, England Golf also has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility (which is considered to be a reasonable travel distance). This is based on research undertaken that identifies that 24% of adults in England are potential players, amounting to circa 9.6 million people and equating to 9% current players, 8% lapsed (former) players and 7% latent players. It can be used by providers to identify what demand may exist for their facilities, thus helping inform marketing, development and investment decisions.

Using the tool across Wigan, Haydock Park Golf Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 213,627 people falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time. In comparison, Gathurst Golf Club has the smallest potential demand, equating to 52,496 people.

The tool also breaks the potential playing population down into nine golfing segments, with these defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members.
- ◀ Older traditionalists.
- ◀ Younger traditionalists.
- ◀ Younger fanatics.
- ◀ Younger actives.
- ◀ Late enthusiasts.
- ◀ Occasional time pressed.
- ◀ Social couples.
- ◀ Casual fun.

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from "Younger Traditionalists" (73,144 people), whilst the lowest is from "older traditionalists" (59,489 people).

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs/sites that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e. through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

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In Wigan Borough, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future growth, with membership clubs such as Gathurst Golf Club Ltd, Haydock Park Golf Club and Hindley Park Golf Club likely to be more satisfied with current usage levels in comparison Haigh Hall Golf Club which requires higher usage due to lower membership costs.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

With eight golfing sites in Wigan Borough and a mix of 18-hole courses, 9-hole courses, Par 3 courses and two driving ranges, the Authority is well placed to meet demand. This is especially the case given the various operational structures in place, with some facilities offering a high price point and others offering a low price point, and with some prioritising membership and others focusing on pay and play usage. This suggests that all types of golfers can be collectively catered for.

Additionally with a high Regular Golfing Index (174) in comparison to the national average (100) there is a need to protect current facilities and perhaps look at increasing offering to cater for latent demand, particularly for Haydock Park Golf Club and or Younger Traditionalists.

8.5: Conclusion

There is a reasonable quantity of golfing facilities in Wigan that offer a good variety of facilities to ensure that all golfers can be catered for. However, demand is also very high, which means that all existing provision needs to be protected and potentially expanded to meet latent demand.

Supply and demand summary

- With eight golfing sites in Wigan Borough and a mix of 18-hole courses, 9-hole courses, Par 3 courses and two driving ranges, the Authority is well placed to meet demand.

Supply summary

- There are currently eight golf sites in Wigan Borough.
- Across Wigan Borough, there are four standard 18-hole courses and one standard 9-hole courses across five sites.
- There are two driving ranges located in Wigan Borough, Astley Golf Driving Range and The Sycamores Golf Centre collectively providing 47 dedicated driving range bays.
- Quality of the golf facilities in Wigan Borough is relatively good, with no significant issues identified.

Demand summary

- In Wigan Borough, there are eight golfing sites, Astley Golf Driving Range, Haigh Hall Golf Course, The Sycamores Golf Centre, Gathurst Golf Club Ltd, Haydock Park Golf Club, Hindley Park Golf Club, Pennington Golf Course and Porters Wood Golf Course.
- Of the eight golfing sites in Wigan Borough, three operate as members clubs, three are proprietary sites and two are municipal golf courses.
- England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £1,071. In Wigan, average membership fees, where known, are below this national average at £856. One of the main reasons for this is the low membership fees at Haigh Hall Golf Course (municipal course).
- The most expensive membership offerings are identified at Haydock Park Golf Club, whereby full membership fee amounts to £1,227 with an additional £500 joining (which can be spread over five years). In comparison, the lowest full membership fee is identified at Haigh Hall golf Course, amounting to just £100, which accounts for it being a municipal course.
- Green fees in Wigan for Gathurst Golf Club Ltd, Haydock Park Golf Club and Hindley Park Golf Club are broadly similar ranging from £25 to £40 midweek and £30 to £50 at the weekend.

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- ◆ The two cheaper offers are the municipal course, Haigh Hall Golf Course and Pennington Gold Course (9-hole course) which are £15 and £6.50 midweek and £7.50 and £30 weekend, respectively.
- ◆ England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 407, which is based on a central national handicap platform. In Wigan Borough, the average across the clubs that operate a membership is currently 399 and therefore just below national average.
- ◆ There is a notable spike in membership from 2018 to 2022/23 which anecdotally can be linked to the Covid 19 Pandemic, as the sport was one of first to become accessible whilst in periods of social distancing. The figures have decreased by 8% since 2023 however they are still just below the national average.
- ◆ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 3,574 people within Wigan Borough.
- ◆ In Wigan Borough, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future growth, with membership clubs such as Gathurst Golf Club Ltd, Haydock Park Golf Club and Hindley Park Golf Club likely to be more satisfied with current usage levels in comparison Haigh Hall Golf Club which requires higher usage due to lower membership costs.

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PART 9: TENNIS

9.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across the Wigan Borough. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

Consultation

There are four tennis clubs in the Wigan Borough: Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club, Leigh Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club, Tyldesley Tennis Club and Winstanley Tennis Club. Only two clubs responded to consultation requests despite all clubs being contacted on several occasions, resulting in a 50% response rate as shown below.

Table 9.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club	No
Leigh Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club	No
Tyldesley Tennis Club	Yes
Winstanley Tennis Club	Yes

9.2: Supply

There are 66 tennis courts identified in the Borough across 15 sites. Of these, 49 courts are available for community use.

The largest offering of tennis courts is identified in the West Analysis Area, with 26 courts in total. In contrast, the Central Analysis Area offers the least amount of tennis courts with 16 courts.

It should be noted that a comparison to 2017 cannot be made throughout this section as tennis wasn't included in the previous study.

Table 9.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

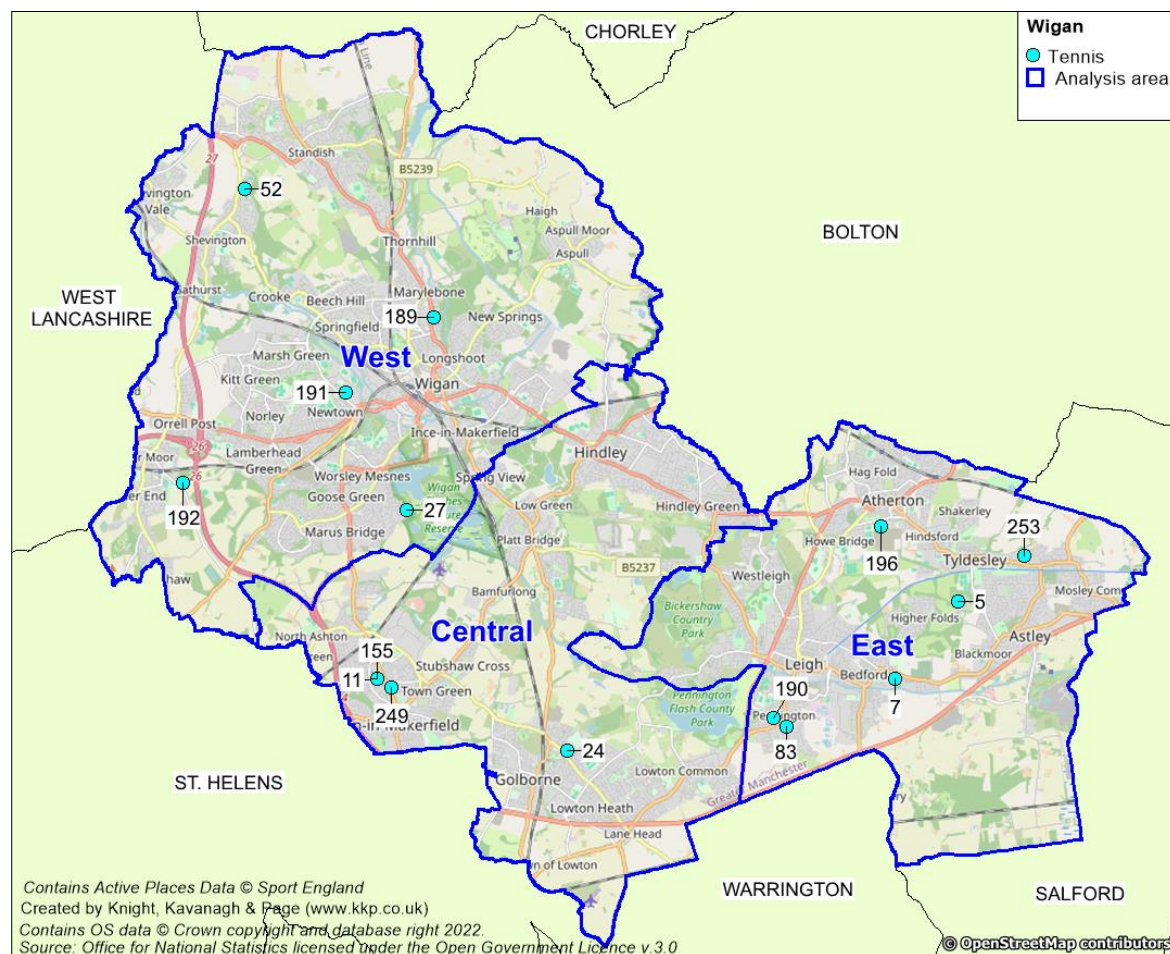
Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
Central	7	9
East	23	1
West	19	7
Total	49	17

Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both).

Figure 9.1 shows the location of the courts servicing in Wigan Borough, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 9.2.

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Figure 9.1: Location of tennis courts in the Wigan Borough



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Table 9.3: Tennis courts in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Active Places Power ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Overmarked?	Court type	Court quality
5	1040934	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	M29 7DW	East	Council	Yes	4	Yes	No	Macadam	Good
7	1201590	Bedford High School	WN7 2LU	East	Education	No	1	No	Yes	Macadam	Standard
11	1201714	Cansfield High School	WN4 9TP	Central	Education	No	3	No	Yes	Macadam	Standard
24	1203240	Golborne High School	WA3 3EL	Central	Education	No	6	No	Yes	Macadam	Poor
27	1201723	Hawkley Hall High School	WN3 5NY	West	Education	No	4	No	Yes	Artificial	Standard
52	1201574	Shevington High School	WN6 8AB	West	Education	No	3	No	Yes	Macadam	Standard
83	1208482	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	WN7 3LH	East	Sports Club	Yes	6	Yes	No	Artificial	Good
155	1002644	Ashton Leisure Centre	WN4 9TP	Central	Council	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Macadam	Standard
189	30006864	Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club	WN1 2NF	West	Sports Club	Yes	4	Yes	No	Artificial	Good
189	30006864	Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club	WN1 2NF	West	Sports Club	Yes	2	No	No	Artificial	Good
189	30006864	Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club	WN1 2NF	West	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	No	Macadam	Good
190	30010969	Pennington Hall Park	WN7 3UA	East	Council	Yes	4	No	No	Macadam	Good
191	1002651	Robin Park Leisure Centre	WN5 0UH	West	Council	Yes	4	Yes	Yes	Macadam	Good
192	30006715	Winstanley Tennis Club	WN5 7XN	West	Sports Club	Yes	4	Yes	No	Macadam	Good
192	30006715	Winstanley Tennis Club	WN5 7XN	West	Sports Club	Yes	2	No	No	Macadam	Good
196	-	Morley Street	M46 0BA	East	Council	Yes	6	No	No	Macadam	Poor
249	-	Jubilee Park, Wigan	WN4 9BH	Central	Council	Yes	4	No	No	Macadam	Poor
253	-	Tyldesley Tennis Club	M29 8WD	East	Sports Club	Yes	2	Yes	No	Artificial	Good
253	-	Tyldesley Tennis Club	M29 8WD	East	Sports Club	Yes	1	No	No	Artificial	Good

It should be noted that there are to be four macadam tennis courts created at The Byrchall High School (Central Analysis Area) as part of the wider school rebuild. There was also a macadam court located at Standish Leisure Centre (West Analysis Area) which was converted to 3G in the Summer of 2025.

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Unused provision

Although not classed as disused, as the sites are still actively used as public open spaces or used for other sports, there a number of sites which no longer provide active tennis courts. Details surrounding these sites are outlined in detail in the table below.

Table 9.4: Summary of unused tennis courts in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Comments
40	Leyland Park	Central	WN2 3RX	Previously provided three grass tennis courts which are no longer marked or posted. The site is still actively used for football and cricket.
144	Alexandra Park	West	WN5 9BN	Previously provided two macadam tennis courts which are no longer marked or posted. Now used as public open space.
220	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	West	WN2 1PP	Previously provided three macadam tennis courts which are no longer marked or posted. The site is still actively used for football.
226	Mesnes Park	West	WN1 1TU	Previously provided seven macadam tennis courts which are no longer marked or posted. Now used as public open space.
258	Hope Park	East	M29 8JN	Previously provided three macadam tennis courts which are no longer marked or posted. The site is still actively used for rugby league.

Management and security of tenure

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Wigan Borough. Most tennis courts are either operated by sports clubs or the Council. There are 17 (25%) tennis courts which are managed by education providers which are all unavailable for community use.

Table 9.5: Tennis courts by management type

Community use?	Sports club	Council	Education	Commercial
Available	24	17	-	8
Unavailable	-	-	17	-
Total	24	17	17	8

Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts in Wigan Borough have a macadam surface, with 47 being of this type and 34 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

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There are 19 courts with an artificial surface provided across four sites located at Leigh Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club, Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club, Tyldesley Tennis Club and Hawkley Hall High School of which the latter is unavailable for community use. The estimated lifespan of such provision is similar to that of a macadam surface, although it generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is usually more expensive and more regular maintenance is required, in part due to them often catering for multi-sports activity (e.g., football and hockey usage).

Sports lighting

Courts with sports lighting enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that sports lighting allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In Wigan Borough, 30 of the community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just 46% of the provision.

A lack of sports lighting at many of the school sites presents a key reason as to why many of the courts are unavailable for community use.

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key at parks and club sites as it allows for more usage of provision. Both the LTA and the Council aspire to add sports lighting to tennis courts located at park sites. To that end, it must be noted that all tennis clubs in Wigan Borough have access to sports lit courts.

The table below breaks down the number of courts which are available for community use and provide sports lighting by analysis area.

Table 9.6: Summary of the number of courts which have sports lighting by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts which have sports lighting	No. of courts which don't have sports lighting
Central	3	13
East	12	12
West	15	11
Total	30	36

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme⁴⁰

The LTA's mission is to grow tennis and padel by making them accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide interest-free loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts. The objectives of the fund are to:

- ◆ Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- ◆ Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- ◆ Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- ◆ Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.

⁴⁰ [Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](https://lta.org.uk/quick-access-loan-scheme)

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- Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an [online booking system](#).

As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

- Lighting upgrades to LED (outdoor and indoor).
- New sports lights.
- New court provision.
- Outdoor padel courts.
- Covered padel (courts and cover).
- Covered tennis courts.

Over markings

Tennis courts, particularly within school, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher level of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

Of the 58 courts, 15 courts are overmarked by netball provision, with eight of these located at school sites (Bedford High School, Hawkley Hall High School and Shevington High School) where curriculum activity makes this necessary.

Quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness, and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g., vandalism and/or littering).

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

Of the courts in Wigan Borough, 36 (55%) are assessed as good quality, 14 (21%) as standard quality and 16 (24%) as poor quality. Of the good quality tennis courts, all 36 are available for community use.

Table 9.7: Quality of tennis courts in Wigan Borough

Community use?	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	36	3	10
Unavailable	-	11	6
Total	36	14	16

The courts assessed as poor quality and available for community use are located at Morley Street and Jubilee Park, Wigan.

Issues recorded at these sites include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel, with maintenance also considered to be basic and infrequent at these sites. This leads to further deterioration in quality.

Across the four tennis clubs in the Wigan Borough, all clubs are serviced with good quality tennis courts with no significant issues identified.

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Renovation fund⁴¹

The LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into park tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

In the Wigan Borough, Pennington Hall Park has recently been improved as part of the LTA Parks Investment Strategy, including repainting four courts, new nets and posts and gate access technology. Additionally, the tennis courts located at Mesnes Park are identified for potential improvement.

Ancillary provision

Of the responding clubs, ancillary facilities servicing Winstanley Tennis Club are serviced with good quality facilities with Tyldesley Tennis Club report to be provided with standard quality ancillary facilities.

For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic, most of the sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service football/cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users. In some instances, quality is also poor.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

9.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

Of the two clubs in the Wigan Borough which responded to consultation, Tyldesley Tennis Club and Winstanley Tennis Club, there is a total of 246 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 198 senior and 48 junior members as seen below.

Table 9.8: Current tennis demand by club

Club	No. of senior members	No of junior members	Total members
Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club	-	-	<i>Unknown</i>
Leigh Cricket Tennis & Bowling Club	-	-	<i>Unknown</i>
Tyldesley Tennis Club	75	18	93
Winstanley Tennis Club	123	30	153

⁴¹[Renovation Fund for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](https://lta.org.uk/renovation-fund)

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Membership figures for Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club and Leigh Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club are unknown.

Participation trends

Nationally, the LTA has announced participation figures for 2022 showing sustained success in getting more people playing tennis more often, with growth across all demographics, regions and nations of Great Britain. This is particularly amongst 16-34 year-olds and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The number of adults reporting that they had played tennis during the year increased 43% compared to the previous year (2021), rising from 3.3 million to 4.7 million from January through to December. This is the highest total recorded since 2017 and has continued the growth seen in 2018-19 before being interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, more than two million adults play monthly, and this is the highest level recorded since the LTA started tracking this measure seven years ago. This means that the LTA has achieved the targets set out in its five-year 2018-23 strategy for adult annual and monthly participation one year ahead of schedule.

Finally, children's weekly participation in tennis has seen positive growth in the past year with over three and a half million children playing tennis and with an extra 328,000 children playing tennis in schools.

In the Wigan Borough, Tyldesley Tennis Club report that demand has increased over recent years. Conversely, Winstanley Tennis Club report that demand has decreased over recent years due to the recent cost of living crisis.

Informal and parks tennis

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities and other providers to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Play and Gate Access, which are further detailed below.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◆ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◆ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◆ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◆ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package.
- ◆ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◆ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.

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- ✦ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ✦ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

Three clubs in the Wigan Borough; Bellingham Tennis Club, Leigh Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club and Winstanley Tennis Club use ClubSpark with Tyldesley Tennis Club not currently using ClubSpark.

LTA Play

LTA Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

LTA Play provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Smart Access

The LTA has developed two Smart Access gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which results in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

Barclays Local Tennis Leagues

Barclays Local Tennis League are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by Local Tennis Leagues and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

In Wigan Borough, there is no Barclays Local Tennis League that takes place currently.

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Parks tennis

Parks tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by Local Tennis Leagues and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

In Wigan Borough, there is no Park Tennis League that takes place currently.

Free Parks Tennis

The LTA are due to launch the LTA Free Parks Tennis offer. This is due to the following needs:

- ◀ Player Trends:
 - ◀ 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park.
 - ◀ The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family.
- ◀ Barriers:
 - ◀ 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis.
 - ◀ 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often.
 - ◀ 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable.
 - ◀ 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players.
 - ◀ 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis.

The key points of a free park tennis session are:

- ◀ Free for all players to book and attend.
- ◀ Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators.
- ◀ Sessions should run all year round (weather depending).
- ◀ Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am.

Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites – a three court site can have up to 34 players attending. The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.

Free Park Tennis has recently launched early 2024 at Pennington Hall Park with weekly 'social tennis' led by Be Well Wigan.

LTA Big Tennis Weekend

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

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The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (in May, July and September) that are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

No sites in Wigan Borough currently host or are scheduled to host a Big Tennis Weekend.

LTA Youth Programmes

The LTA provides children with the perfect opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. Designed for children aged between 4-10, mini tennis utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques.

The game is split out into five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ✦ Blue Stage: Age 4-6 – learn the basics.
- ✦ Red Stage: Age 6-8 – serve, rally and score.
- ✦ Orange Stage: Age 8-9 – develop a rounded game.
- ✦ Green Stage: Age 9-10 – test your skills.
- ✦ Yellow Stage: Age 10+ - take your skills further.

No mini tennis courts have been identified in Wigan Borough.

Padel

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. It is, however, a different sport to tennis. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities; the rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

For more information regarding padel see Part 10: Padel.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low quality facilities were addressed.

Furthermore, the LTA conducted some research to understand how the public feels about tennis and the main barriers to accessing the sport. The research was split into club, community and education sectors, the headline findings of which are below:

- ✦ Around five million people play once per year with the majority of this in parks.
- ✦ 46% of tennis played by those 14 years is on park courts.
- ✦ 80% of those that do not play tennis but would like to see parks as their first option.
- ✦ Barriers preventing use of courts located in parks include the quality of the courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play.

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- ◆ Demand for tennis amongst those who stopped playing in the last five years is from 14 upwards.
- ◆ Although there is demand for tennis amongst working class individuals, the highest latent demand is from upper middle, middle and lower middle classes.

Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase demand.

In addition, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 5,521 people within Wigan Borough, which represents approximately 1.6% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 1.7%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand may be marginally lower than what would otherwise be expected.

Responding clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members.

This suggests that the latent demand identified through other methods is for non-club activity, or that other barriers aside from facilities are preventing activity.

Future demand

Of the responding clubs, only Tyldesley Tennis Club plans to increase membership by 25 seniors and 20 junior members.

Away from club-based demand, it is considered that all remaining future demand will be picked up via the latent/unmet demand noted above and attracted to non-club and particularly Council courts.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

For club-based tennis, the LTA suggests that non-sports lit courts can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas courts with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Using this, the table below identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs, taking into account current demand.

As Leigh Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club and Bellingham Tennis Club didn't respond to consultation requests current demand is unknown.

Table 9.9: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Available for community use?	Current demand (members)	Current capacity (members)	Capacity balance (members)
83	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	Yes	Unknown	360	Unknown
189	Bellingham Lawn Tennis Club	Bellingham Tennis Club	Yes	Unknown	500	Unknown

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Site ID	Site	Club users	Available for community use?	Current demand (members)	Current capacity (members)	Capacity balance (members)
192	Winstanley Tennis Club	Winstanley Tennis Club	Yes	153	320	167
253	Tyldesley Tennis Club	Tyldesley Tennis Club	Yes	93	160	67

Both Winstanley Tennis Club and Tyldesley Tennis Club has sufficient capacity to accommodate its membership both now and in the future.

Further investigation is required to determine capacity at both Leigh Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club and Bellingham Tennis Club.

Away from clubs, although no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving the supply in ways that can meet unmet and latent demand identified.

9.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, where known through consultation, both Winstanley Tennis Club and Tyldesley Tennis Club has sufficient capacity to facilitate club demand both now and in the future. It should be noted further investigation needs to be carried out with the two outstanding clubs to further understand any capacity issues.

For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the amount of unmet and latent demand evidenced both nationally and in the Authority. There is instead a clear need to improve the current supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users at sites such as Morley Street and Jubilee Park, Wigan. This should include improving the current quality of court provision, and in addition enhancing levels of sports lighting to allow for more usage.

Supply and demand summary

- For club-based tennis, where known through consultation, both Winstanley Tennis Club and Tyldesley Tennis Club has sufficient capacity to facilitate club demand both now and in the future. It should be noted further investigation needs to be carried out with the two outstanding clubs to further understand any capacity issues.
- Away from clubs, although no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving the supply in ways that can meet unmet and latent demand identified.

Supply summary

- There are 66 tennis courts identified in the Borough across 15 sites. Of these, 49 courts are available for community use.
- The largest offering of tennis courts is identified in the West Analysis Area, with 26 courts in total. In contrast, the Central Analysis Areas offer the least amount of tennis courts with 16 courts.
- All tennis courts identified as being unavailable for community use are located at school sites.
- Most tennis courts are either operated by sports clubs or the Council. There are 17 (25%) tennis courts which are managed by education providers which are all unavailable for community use.
- Most outdoor tennis courts in the Wigan Borough have a macadam surface, with 47 being of this type and 34 of these being available for community use.

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- ◆ In the Wigan Borough, 30 of the community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just 46% of the provision.
- ◆ Of the courts in Wigan Borough, 37 (55%) are assessed as good quality, 14 (21%) as standard quality and 16 (24%) as poor quality. Of the good quality tennis courts, all 37 are available for community use.
- ◆ Of the responding clubs, ancillary facilities servicing Winstanley Tennis Club are serviced with good quality facilities with Tyldesley Tennis Club report to be provided with standard quality ancillary facilities.

Demand summary

- ◆ There are four tennis clubs in the Wigan Borough.
- ◆ Of the two clubs in the Wigan Borough which responded to consultation, Tyldesley Tennis Club and Winstanley Tennis Club there is a total of 246 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 198 senior and 48 junior members.
- ◆ In the Wigan Borough, Tyldesley Tennis Club report that demand has increased over recent years. Conversely, Winstanley Tennis Club report that demand has decreased over recent years due to the recent cost of living crisis.
- ◆ Three clubs in the Wigan Borough; Bellingham Tennis Club, Leigh Cricket, Tennis and Bowling Club and Winstanley Tennis Club use ClubSpark with Tyldesley Tennis Club not currently using ClubSpark.
- ◆ Sport England's Segmentation tool identifies latent demand of 5,521 people within Wigan Borough, which represents approximately 1.6% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 1.7%.
- ◆ Of the responding clubs, only Tyldesley Tennis Club plans to increase membership by 25 seniors and 20 junior members.

PART 10: PADEL

10.1: Introduction

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA (LTA are the governing body for Padel). It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, whereas there were 350 at the end of 2023 and 129,000 identified participants, with this illustrating significant growth. It is therefore envisaged that the infrastructure and participation in padel will continue to increase substantially in the next five years, with the LTA identifying an aim to grow the number of courts to 1,000 and the number of players to 400,000.

10.2: Supply

There are currently no padel tennis courts in Wigan Borough, however, there are plans in progress to develop provision.

Planning has recently (May 2025) been approved to create six courts at Fives Wigan. These will be from the conversion of two small size 3G pitch and managed commercially.

Likewise in June 2025 planning was approved (A/25/098536/FULL), with conditions, for the construction of three courts with associated means of enclosure and sports lighting. These do not affect any playing field provision as the development is located on an industrial estate (Eckersley Mill, Swan Road).

Finally, a recent application (A/25/099122/FULL) has been submitted in August 2025 for the development of four courts with canopy roofs and sports lighting on shrub land adjacent to Crilly Park.

Additionally, there are aspirations to create provision at Wigan Sports Club (managed by the sports club), Robin Park Leisure Centre (managed by Be Well Wigan), and near Wigan Athletics' Training Ground with the latter being a private development.

It is currently unknown how many courts will be located at Robin Park Leisure Centre and near Wigan Athletics' Training Ground. It should be noted that these four sites are all located in the West Analysis Area and approximately 15-minute drive time from each other. With the need for 25 courts identified within Wigan Borough, the LTA does not foresee this to be problematic.

Given the lack of current provision, the LTA reports that padel facilities should be considered in the near future to offer playing opportunities for residents. Linked to this, it has recently carried out a mapping exercise that sets out the level of provision that could be sustained within a local authority, based on population and demand, with this identifying that 25 courts are warranted in Wigan Borough.

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In terms of future supply, the LTA states that a variety of tennis environments can be considered, with padel courts often situated next to or managed by those running existing tennis facilities. To that end, padel court development at leisure centre sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model. Furthermore, they can benefit clubs and particularly those that may be otherwise struggling due to the additional revenue that they can provide.

Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging clubs or local authorities to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of traditional courts remains sufficient.

10.3: Demand

As of the end of 2023, 129,000 people reportedly play padel more than once a year in England, which represents a significant increase compared to 2021 data when the number was 15,000. This exemplifies the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for. One of the LTAs key strategies is to find new ways to grow participation and padel is an innovative format of tennis that is fun, flexible, easy to play and extremely sociable.

As mentioned previously, there are currently no padel tennis courts in Wigan Borough, although it is said that demand exists for courts to be established, with 25 courts identified by the LTA mapping as being needed relative to population. It is likely that the creation of courts would lead to high levels of use providing they were well located and advertised.

10.4: Conclusion

Given the information collated above, there is an identified need based on population demand amounting to 25 padel courts with no courts currently provided. Therefore, the LTA is supportive of plans for new provision to be established, however, should not be detrimental to tennis and where possible have a positive impact on both sports.

If the all the current applications are completed this would see the creation of 13 courts meaning, there would still be a shortfall of 12 in the Wigan Borough.

Supply and demand summary

- ▶ **Currently, given that no padel courts are provided in Wigan Borough, any padel demand is not being met. However, given the potential three new padel sites, demand should begin to be accommodated.**
- ▶ **If all the current applications are completed this would see the creation of 13 courts meaning, there would still be a shortfall of 12 in the Wigan Borough.**

Supply summary

- ▶ There are currently no padel tennis courts in Wigan Borough, however, there are two approved and one pending planning application in process.
- ▶ Additionally, there are aspirations to create provision at Wigan Sports Club (managed by the sports club), Robin Park Leisure Centre (managed by Be Well Wigan), and near Wigan Athletics' Training Ground with the latter being a private development.

Demand summary

- ▶ The LTA has recently carried out a mapping exercise that sets out the level of provision that could be sustained within a local authority, based on population and demand, with this identifying a need for 25 courts in Wigan Borough.

PART 11: NETBALL

11.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility can also be problematic.

Consultation

There are three key netball clubs in the Borough, Diamond Netball Club, Lions Netball and Tyldesley. All clubs mainly use indoor courts with only minor outdoor usage located at Robins Park Leisure Centre and Standish Leisure Centre in the summer months. Currently, no clubs have responded to consultation requests.

Information to inform this section of the report was primarily obtained through internet research.

11.2: Supply

There are 31 outdoor netball courts identified across 11 sites in Wigan Borough. Of these, 19 courts at seven sites are available for community use.

The West Analysis Area provides the largest number of courts, with 15. The East Analysis Area provides the least number of courts with just four courts.

It should be noted that a comparison to 2017 cannot be made throughout this section as netball wasn't included in the previous study.

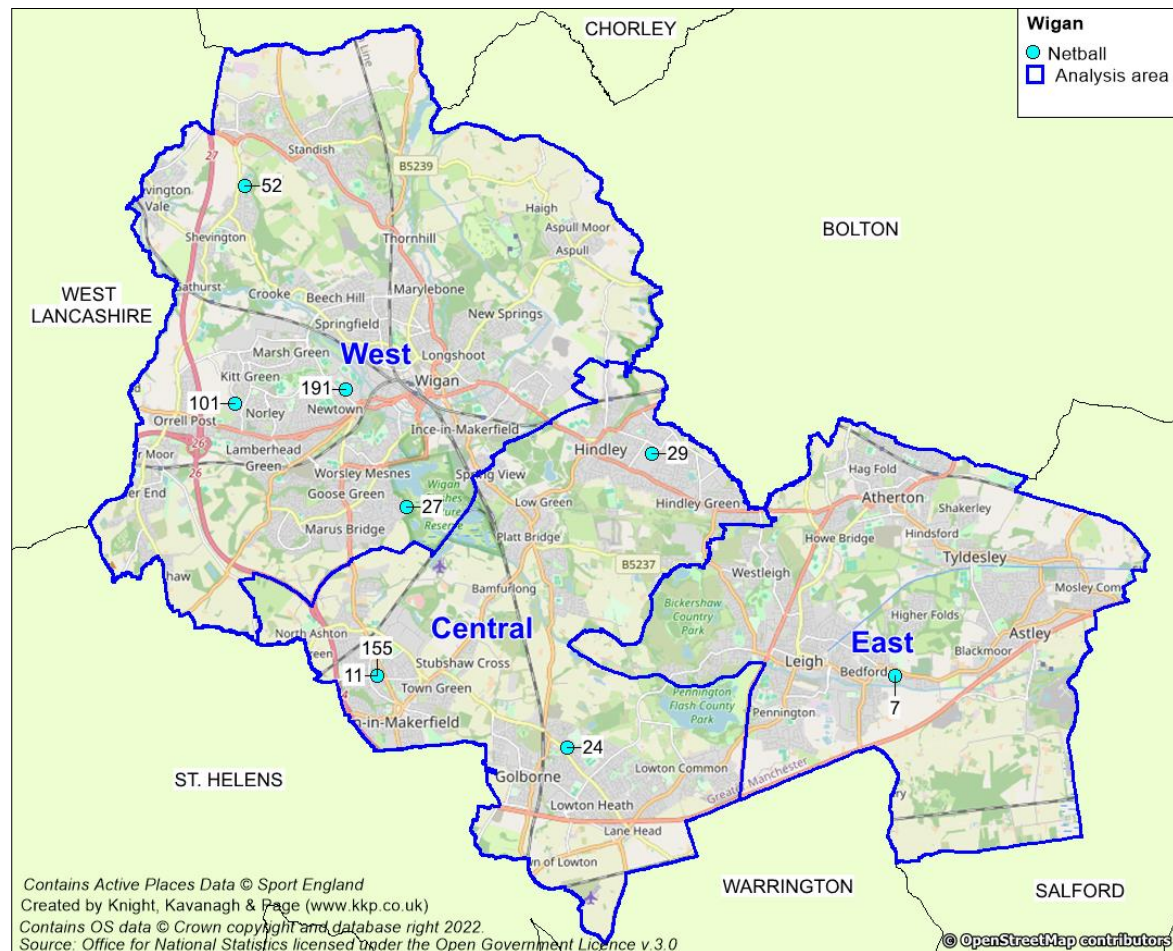
Table 11.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Courts available	Courts unavailable
Central	4	8
East	-	4
West	15	-
Total	19	12

For a site-by-site breakdown of the courts supplied across Wigan Borough, please refer to Table 11.2 and Figure 11.1 below.

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Figure 11.1: Location of netball courts in Wigan Borough



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Table 11.2: Netball courts in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Active Places Power ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Ownership	Number of courts	Over marked?	Surface type	Sports lighting	Quality
7	1201590	Bedford High School	WN7 2LU	East	No	Education	1	Yes	Macadam	No	Standard
11	1201714	Cansfield High School	WN4 9TP	Central	No	Education	2	Yes	Macadam	No	Standard
24	1203240	Golborne High School	WA3 3EL	Central	No	Education	6	No	Macadam	No	Poor
27	1201723	Hawkley Hall High School	WN3 5NY	West	Yes	Education	2	Yes	Macadam	No	Poor
27	1201723	Hawkley Hall High School	WN3 5NY	West	Yes	Education	4	Yes	Artificial	No	Standard
29	1201702	Outwood Academy Hindley	WN2 4LG	Central	Yes	Education	2	No	Macadam	No	Poor
52	1201574	Shevington High School	WN6 8AB	West	Yes	Education	3	Yes	Macadam	No	Standard
101	1037812	Dean Trust Wigan	WN5 0DQ	West	Yes	Education	2	No	Macadam	No	Poor
115	6014587	Meadowbank Primary School And Nursery Education Centre	M46 0HX	East	No	Education	1	No	Macadam	No	Poor
155	1002644	Ashton Leisure Centre	WN4 9TP	Central	Yes	Council	2	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
163	1201586	The Westleigh School	WN7 5NL	East	No	Education	2	No	Macadam	No	Poor
191	1002651	Robin Park Leisure Centre	WN5 0UH	West	Yes	Council	4	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Good

It should be noted that there are to be three macadam netball courts created at The Byrchall High School (Central Analysis Area) as part of the wider school rebuild. There was also a macadam court located at Standish Leisure Centre (West Analysis Area) which was converted to 3G in the Summer of 2025.

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Management

Although not uncommon across the Country, netball provision within Wigan Borough is largely located on educational sites. This creates a particular issue surrounding community availability where there is often limited or reduced community access.

There are six netball courts located across three Council sites, Ashton Leisure Centre and Robin Park Leisure Centre which is overmarked with tennis.

Table 11.3: Courts by management type

Community use	Council	Education
Available	6	13
Unavailable	-	12
Wigan Borough	6	25

Court type

The majority of outdoor netball courts in Wigan Borough have a macadam surface, with all 27 being of this type and 15 of these being available for community use. The remaining four have an artificial surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

Sports lighting

Only six netball courts (22%) are serviced by sports lighting. These are located at:

- ▶ Ashton Leisure Centre (two courts).
- ▶ Robin Park Leisure Centre (four courts).

A lack of sports lighting on netball courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in April 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are sports-lit throughout the Country (38%).

Over markings

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often over marked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision that is over marked tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand.

In Wigan Borough, 18 netball courts (59%) are over marked with tennis courts. The only standalone courts are located at Dean Trust Wigan (West Analysis Area), Golborne High School (Central Analysis Area) and Outwood Academy Hindley (Central Analysis Area).

Quality

The quality of netball courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering). For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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Of the courts in Wigan Borough, four (15%) are assessed as good quality, 12 (38%) as standard quality and 15 (47%) as poor quality. Of the good quality courts, all four are available for community use.

Table 11.4: Quality of community available courts

Community use	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	4	9	6
Unavailable	-	3	9
Wigan Borough	4	12	15

The poor quality courts are located at Dean Trust Wigan, Golborne High School, Hawkley Hall High School, Meadowbank Primary School And Nursery Education Centre, The Westleigh School and Outwood Academy Hindley. Problems recorded during site assessments include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss and worn line markings, with maintenance also considered to be basic.

In contrast, the good quality courts are supplied at:

- ▶ Hawkley Hall High School (four courts).
- ▶ Robin Park Leisure Centre (four courts).

Of these, all three sites are available for community use. It should be noted that both Robin Park Leisure Centre and Standish Leisure Centre has minor netball usage on its outdoor courts.

Climate & Quality Considerations

England Netball state Wigan Borough (and Greater Manchester generally) ranks among the wettest areas in England, and while that does not always affect playability, seasonal darkness, poor drainage and court deterioration present real delivery challenges.

Participation levels are also heavily influenced by weather conditions, which can result in sessions being cancelled or becoming financially non-viable. This has the greatest impact on outdoor tournaments, festivals, leagues, and England Netball programmes, where poor weather can significantly reduce attendance, disrupt delivery, and affect long-term sustainability.

GM Moving has done extensive work to understand the complex factors that influence physical activity behaviours. From a whole systems and place-based perspective, it knows that consistency and routine are key to building active habits. When outdoor sessions are cancelled due to poor weather, or when environments feel unreliable or inaccessible, it disrupts that routine, particularly for those new to activity or returning after a break. These small breaks in delivery can have a big impact on long-term engagement, highlighting the importance of secure, fit-for-purpose local facilities that support sustained participation year-round.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision is generally considered to be sufficient, whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets.

11.3: Demand

Demand for outdoor netball tends to come in two forms; league and club-based netball that consists of matches and training, as well as various netball-based initiatives such as Back to Netball and walking netball.

Diamonds Netball Club

Diamonds Netball Club is a large netball club located in Wigan Borough which offers both performance and development training sessions, ensuring all players have access to high quality training, appropriate to their level of expertise. The Club uses the indoor courts at both Dean Trust Wigan and Shevington High School.

Lions Netball Club

Lions Netball Club formed in 2017 and created a team consisting of girls and women from St Helens, Wigan and Warrington. It trains once a week and plays competitively every Thursday in the Wigan and Leigh Netball League. It currently uses the indoor courts at Robin Park Leisure Centre with some use on the outdoor courts in the summer months.

Tyldesley Netball Club

Tyldesley Netball Club is a community netball club which currently use the indoor netball courts located at Leigh Leisure Centre every Monday early evening. It caters for all abilities and aspires to create friendships and raise skill levels and fitness.

Existing Outdoor Leagues in Wigan

There are multiple outdoor netball leagues operating regularly within Wigan Borough, including:

- ◀ Bloom Wigan Netball League (Hawkley Hall High School).
- ◀ Play Netball – Wigan League.
- ◀ Manchester Evening Netball League.

These are structured leagues attracting hundreds of women weekly across different stages of life; from beginners returning to netball to competitive club players. Without reliable access to outdoor courts, these leagues simply could not run.

Back to Netball

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport.

There is a Wigan Back to Netball League which is currently hosted indoors at Leigh Leisure Centre, with fixtures being played once a month.

Walking netball

Walking netball is a slower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

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Walking Netball sessions are held every Tuesday 11am until 12pm at Robin Park Leisure Centre and every Thursday 11am until 12pm at Leigh Leisure Centre mainly using the indoor netball courts at both sites, with some usage on the outdoor courts in the summer months at Robin Park Leisure Centre.

Netball Now

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring.

There is a Netball Now session held every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 7pm until 8pm in Wigan Borough located at both Robin Park Leisure Centre and Standish Leisure Centre mainly using the indoor courts but often use the outdoor courts in the summer months.

Bee Netball

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and teamwork, with each session managed by an England Netball accredited coach. There are no community sessions nationwide, England Netball are in the process of using trailblazer clubs to trial the programme. None of the clubs within Wigan Borough are trailblazer clubs.

ParaNetball

England Netball have developed a ParaNetball Strategy and offer a diverse range of opportunities to play, train and develop and now we are excited to bring deaf and disabled women and girls into the Netball Family. There is no ParaNetball session that takes place in Wigan Borough currently.

School and programme delivery

Much of England Netball junior engagement and performance pathway activity in Wigan takes place outdoors:

- ✦ Primary school competitions and Bee Netball festivals – large-scale participation events typically delivered outdoors and held between three and six times per year. Often hosted on secondary school playgrounds or outdoor courts, these festivals attract up to 20 local primary schools at a time. They play a crucial role in providing early netball experiences, and their delivery is entirely dependent on continued access to safe, fit-for-purpose outdoor facilities.
- ✦ Secondary school competitions - 5 to 8 Tournaments and Leagues are held throughout the year for school years Yr7 to Y10. The majority of these events are held outdoor during the spring/summer months.
- ✦ Community leagues, casual sessions, Back to Netball and Walking Netball – many use outdoor space at facilities such as Robin Park, Ashton, Hindley, Leigh, Standish, and Howe Bridge leisure centres.
- ✦ BeWell Wigan's network of programmes (7 EN partner programmes currently running) – are at capacity and now utilise outdoor courts for at least 15 weeks per year to maintain continuity across the seasons. BeWell and I are currently exploring a range of new indoor and outdoor netball projects to expand local opportunities.

11.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is clear current demand for outdoor courts, and seasonal usage is critical to sustaining netball all year round. There are structured leagues, school delivery, and England Netball programmes already in place which rely on outdoor provision. Removing outdoor netball courts from future protection risks undermining a large portion of grassroots delivery, especially among underserved participation groups. The high number of poor quality courts is particularly concerning. Substantial investment is needed to improve these sites to meet existing demand, enable the growth of netball provision, and support future projects currently in development.

11.5: Conclusion

In summary, there is a need to protect the current number of outdoor netball courts within Wigan Borough in order to sustain current levels of demand. There is also a need to improve the quality of courts in order to accommodate additional demand. Additionally, exploration should be given to opening up unavailable sites for community use.

Supply and demand summary

- ◆ **In summary, there is a need to protect the current number of outdoor netball courts within Wigan Borough in order to sustain current levels of demand. There is also a need to improve the quality of courts in order to accommodate additional demand. Additionally, exploration should be given to opening up unavailable sites for community use.**

Supply summary

- ◆ There are 31 netball courts identified across 11 sites in Wigan Borough.
- ◆ Of these, 19 courts at five sites are available for community use.
- ◆ The West Analysis Area provides the largest number of courts, with 15. The East Analysis Area provides the least number of courts with just four courts.
- ◆ Most courts are operated by schools, with 25 of the 32 courts falling under this management type. The remaining six courts are located at Council sites.
- ◆ The majority of outdoor netball courts in Wigan Borough have a macadam surface, with all 27 being of this type and 15 of these being available for community use. The remaining four have an artificial surface.
- ◆ In Wigan Borough, 18 netball courts (59%) are over marked. The only standalone courts are located at Dean Trust Wigan (West Analysis Area), Golborne High School (Central Analysis Area) and Outwood Academy Hindley (Central Analysis Area).
- ◆ Only six netball courts (22%) are serviced by sports lighting with all seven being available for community use located at Ashton Leisure Centre and Robin Park Leisure Centre.
- ◆ Of the courts in Wigan Borough, four (15%) are assessed as good quality, 12 (38%) as standard quality and 15 (47%) as poor quality. Of the good quality courts, all four are available for community use.

Demand summary

- ◆ Diamond Netball Club, Lions Netball and Tyldesley are the key netball clubs in Wigan Borough utilising both indoor and outdoor courts located at Robin Park Leisure Centre.
- ◆ There is a Wigan Back to Netball league which is currently hosted indoors at Leigh Leisure Centre, with fixtures being played once a month.
- ◆ Walking Netball Sessions are held every Tuesday 11am until 12pm at Robin Park Leisure Centre and every Thursday 11am until 12pm at Leigh Leisure Centre.
- ◆ There is a Netball Now session held every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 7pm until 8pm in Wigan Borough located at both Robin Park Leisure Centre and Standish Leisure Centre mainly using both indoor and outdoor courts.

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

PART 12: BOWLS

12.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in Wigan Borough is played on crown greens, with a typical season running in the Summer from May until September. The British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport.

Flat green bowls is another version of bowls played in England, governed separately by Bowls England. However, this format of the sport is played predominately in the South of England.

Consultation

There are 26 bowls clubs located in Wigan Borough. Of the 26 clubs, 13 clubs responded to consultation requests, resulting in an 50% response rate as seen below. It should be noted that since that Joy Mining Bowling Club has recently folded.

We are in the process of checking with BCGBA regarding the sites which currently have no club assigned to be playing there to understand if there is any recent activity.

Table 12.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Alexander Park St Judes	Yes
Astley & Tyldesley Miners BC	No
Atherton Park BC	Yes
Brunswick Recreation Ground Bowling Club	No
Butts Park Bowls Club	Yes
Earls Sports and Social Club	No
Garswood Hall Bowling Club	No
Golborne Parkside BC	No
Highfield Gardens Pensioners	Yes
Highfield Park Crown Green Bowls Club	No
Hindley Platt Lane Bowling Club	Yes
Leigh Bowling Club	No
Pemberton Cons Crown Green Bowling Club	No
Shevington Village Bowling Club	No
Spring View Bowling Club	Yes
St Aidens Bowls Club	No
St Andrews	Yes
St James Social Club,	Yes
St Matthews	Yes
St Patrick's Parish Club	No
St Pauls	Yes
St Thomas	Yes
St Wilfrid's Bowling Club	No
St. Marie's Bowling Club	No
Trinity	Yes
Wigan BC	Yes

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12.2: Supply

There are 59 crown bowling greens identified in Wigan Borough across 50 sites, all of which, are available for community use. Most of this provision is in West Analysis Area (26 greens).

It should be noted that since the previous study nine crown bowling sites are now disused located at Great Acre (Whelley), Coronation Park, Dootson Park, Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Social Club, Mesnes Park, Holt Arms Crown Green Bowls Club, Pools Street, Pemberton Central Working Men's Club and Whelley Labour Club.

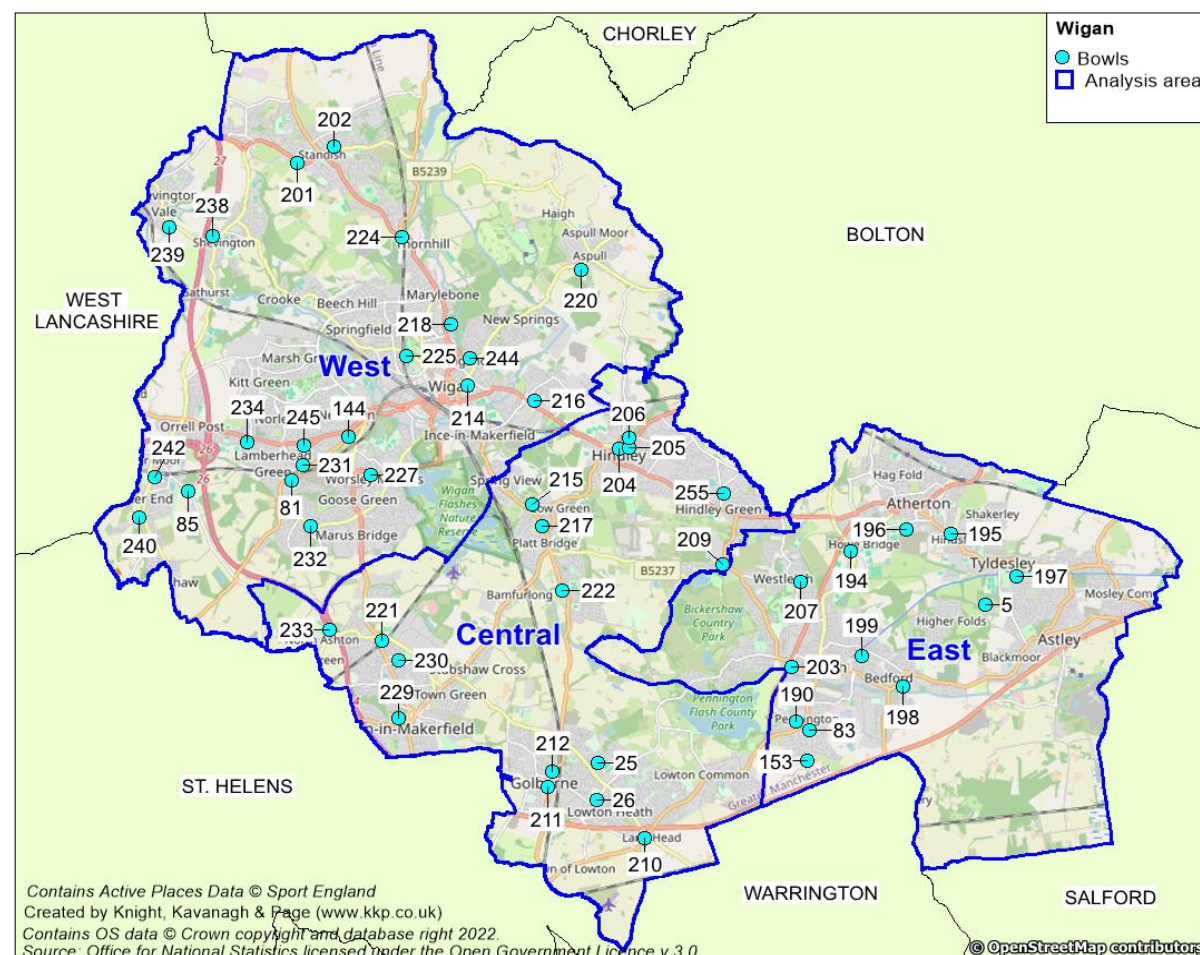
It should be noted that a comparison to 2017 cannot be made throughout this section as bowls wasn't included in the pervious study.

Table 12.2: Summary of community available greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of bowling greens
Central	18
East	15
West	26
Total	59

The figures below show the location of the greens servicing Wigan Borough. For a key to the map, see Table 12.3.

Figure 12.1: Location of bowling greens in Wigan Borough



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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 12.3: Key to map

Site ID	Active Places Power ID ⁴²	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Type of green	Club user	Quality
5	1040934	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	M29 7DW	East	1	Crown	Astley & Tyldesley Miners BC	Good
25	20000589	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club	WA3 3HG	East	1	Crown	Golborne Parkside BC	Good
26	1103396	Golborne Sports and Social Club	WA3 2SE	Central	1	Crown	-	Standard
81	1208477	Highfield Cricket Club	WN3 6BL	West	1	Crown	St Matthews	Good
83	1208482	Leigh Cricket Tennis and Bowling Club	WN7 3LH	East	1	Crown	-	Good
85	1208472	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	WN5 7XE	West	1	Crown	-	Good
144	1040631	Alexandra Park Playing Fields	WN5 9BN	West	1	Crown	Alexandra Park St Judes / St Andrews	Standard
144	1040631	Alexandra Park Playing Fields	WN5 9BN	West	1	Crown	Alexandra Park St Judes / St Andrews	Poor
153	30007823	Round Ash Park	WN7 3NA	East	1	Crown	-	Poor
190	30010969	Pennington Hall Park	WN7 3UA	East	2	Crown	-	Standard
194	-	The Gardeners Public House	M46 0PG	East	1	Crown	-	Standard
195	-	Botanical Gardens Bowling Green	M46 9AE	East	1	Crown	Atherton Park BC	Good
196	-	Morley Street	M46 0BA	East	2	Crown	-	Poor
197	-	Tyldesley Subby Club, Haseley Close	M29 8HD	East	1	Crown	-	Standard
198	-	Butts Park Bowling Club	WN7 2LA	East	1	Crown	Butts Park Bowls Club	Good
199	-	Leigh Bowling Club	WN7 2HA	East	1	Crown	Leigh Bowling Club	Good
201	-	St. Marie's Bowling Club	WN6 0UR	West	1	Crown	St. Marie's Bowling Club	Good
202	-	St Wilfrid's Bowling Club	WN6 0NH	West	1	Crown	St Wilfrid's Bowling Club	Good
203	-	Leigh Miners Welfare Institute	WN7 4EF	East	1	Crown	-	Poor

⁴² Where relevant as not all bowling greens are listed on APP.

WIGAN COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Active Places Power ID ⁴²	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Type of green	Club user	Quality
204	-	Bowling Green next to Angling Direct	WN2 3AD	Central	1	Crown	-	Standard
205	-	Hindley Community Sports and Social Club	WN2 3LW	Central	1	Crown	Hindley Platt Lane Bowling Club	Good
206	-	Lord Nelson Hotel	WN2 3LQ	Central	1	Crown	-	Standard
207	-	Green at end of Liza Street	WN7 5JB	East	1	Crown	-	Standard
209	-	Brunswick Recreation and Bowling Club	WN2 4XW	Central	1	Crown	Brunswick Recreation Ground Bowling Club	Good
210	-	Rear of Red Lion pub	WA3 1HE	Central	1	Crown	-	Good
211	-	Green opposite All Saints Social Centre	WA3 3BG	Central	1	Crown	-	Standard
212	-	Golborne Community Bowling Club	WA3 3DB	Central	1	Crown	-	Good
214	-	St Patrick's Parish Club	WN1 3SA	West	1	Crown	St Patrick's Parish Club	Good
215	1040899	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	WN2 3TQ	Central	1	Crown	Spring View Bowling Club	Good
216	-	Earls Sports and Social Club	WN2 2EN	West	1	Crown	Earls Sports and Social Club	Standard
217	-	Platt Bridge Community Centre	WN2 5AH	Central	1	Crown	-	Good
218	-	Wigan Bowling Green Ltd	WN1 2ND	West	2	Crown	-	Standard
220	-	Aspull Civic Recreation Ground	WN2 1PP	West	2	Crown	-	Poor
221	-	Behind Ashton Masonic Properties	WN4 0AA	Central	1	Crown	-	Poor
222	-	The Bucks Head	WN2 5RQ	Central	1	Crown	-	Poor
224	-	Behind the Boars Head pub	WN6 0AD	West	1	Crown	-	Poor
225	-	Wigan Subscription Crown Green Bowls Club	WN1 1SA	West	1	Crown	-	Good
227	-	St. Paul's Bowling Club	WN3 5XJ	West	1	Crown	St Pauls	Good
229	-	Ashton Rec	WN4 9AX	Central	2	Crown	St Thomas / Wigan BC	Standard
230	-	Garswood Hall Bowling and Community Club	WN4 8LU	Central	2	Crown	Garswood Hall Bowling Club	Good

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Active Places Power ID ⁴²	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Type of green	Club user	Quality
231	-	Highfield Park Crown Green Bowls Club	WN5 8DF	West	1	Crown	Trinity / Highfield Gardens Pensioners / Highfield Park Crown Green Bowls Club	Poor
232	-	St Aidens Social Club	WN3 6EE	West	1	Crown	St Aidens Bowls Club	Good
233	-	Our Lady's (Ashton in Makerfield) Crown Green Bowls Club	WN4 0LZ	Central	1	Crown	-	Standard
234	-	Pemberton Cons Crown Green Bowling Club	WN5 8HY	West	1	Crown	Pemberton Cons Crown Green Bowling Club	Standard
238	-	Shevington Conservative Club	WN6 8EB	West	1	Crown	-	Good
239	-	Shevington Village Bowling Club (Forest Fold)	WN6 8JG	West	1	Crown	Shevington Village Bowling Club	Standard
240	-	Bispham Hall Recreation Crown Green Bowls Club	WN5 7DW	West	1	Crown	-	Standard
242	-	St James Social Club,	WN5 7AA	West	1	Crown	St James Social Club	Standard
244	-	Great Acre	WN1 3NR	West	3	Crown	-	Standard
245	-	Ravine WMC	WN5 9HF	West	1	Crown	-	Standard
255	-	Swann Lane Bowling Green	WN2 4HD	Central	1	Crown	-	Poor

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Quality

Non-technical assessment of greens in Wigan Borough have been cross referenced with the findings against club consultation to generate a quality score. The table below identifies these scores for every site.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-70%), Poor (<70%) and include, but are not limited to, the examination of; evenness of playing surface, condition of ditches/boarding, quality of surrounding hard areas, disability access, evidence of litter/leaf fall/fouling/inappropriate use and quality of ancillary provision (clubhouse/pavilion/car parking / floodlights/fencing).

Table 12.4: Summary of bowling green quality by analysis area

Analysis area	Good	Standard	Poor	Total
Central	8	7	3	18
East	6	5	4	15
West	9	12	5	26
Total	23	24	12	59

In Wigan Borough, a total of 23 greens (39%) are assessed as good quality, 24 greens (41%) as standard quality with the remaining 12 being poor quality (20%). Even though most greens across Wigan Borough are either good or standard quality, they still require a high level of dedicated maintenance to sustain this standard.

A green is considered good quality if it has a high percentage of grass coverage, an even playing surface and limited signs of wear and tear on surrounding ditches/boarding and hard standing areas. In addition, there must be little to no evidence of litter, dog fouling, leaves and inappropriate usage of the green.

Wigan BC, St Thomas BC, Highfield Gardens BC and Trinity BC all highlight the maintenance carried out on their respective greens is basic and is starting to affect its quality with the latter two clubs already accessing a poor quality green. Wigan BC and St Thomas BC currently access a standard quality green.

St Matthews BC reports it good quality green located at Highfield Cricket Club has improved in quality largely due to dedicated maintenance team working to improve the green throughout winter and spring.

Butts Park BC highlight aspiration for an all-weather bowling green for all year-round usage. The Club is currently in the process of renewing its lease with the Council.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs which responded to consultation have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house. The quality of these ranges from purpose built brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters.

In Wigan Borough, 22 (47%) sites are accompanied by good quality facilities, with 20 (42%) sites having standard quality facilities and five (11%) sites having poor quality facilities.

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 12.5: Summary of ancillary provision quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of greens	Ancillary quality rating
5	Astley & Tyldesley Miner's Welfare Institute	East	1	Good
25	Golborne Parkside Sport and Community Club	East	1	Good
26	Golborne Sports and Social Club	Central	1	Good
81	Highfield Cricket Club	West	1	Good
85	Orrell Red Triangle Cricket Club	West	1	Good
144	Alexandra Park Playing Fields	West	2	Poor
153	Round Ash Park	East	1	Poor
190	Pennington Hall Park	East	2	Standard
194	The Gardeners Public House	East	1	Standard
195	Botanical Gardens Bowling Green	East	1	Good
196	Morley Street	East	2	Standard
197	Tydesley Subby Club, Haseley Close	East	1	Good
198	Butts Park Bowling Club	East	1	Good
199	Leigh Bowling Club	East	1	Good
201	St. Marie's Bowling Club	West	1	Standard
202	St Wilfrid's Bowling Club	West	1	Standard
203	Leigh Miners Welfare Institute	East	1	Poor
204	Bowling Green next to Angling Direct	Central	1	Good
205	Hindley Community Sports and Social Club	Central	1	Standard
206	Lord Nelson Hotel	Central	1	Standard
207	Green at end of Liza Street	East	1	Good
209	Brunswick Recreation and Bowling Club	Central	1	Standard
210	Rear of Red Lion pub	Central	1	Standard
211	Green opposite All Saints Social Centre	Central	1	Good
212	Golborne Community Bowling Club	Central	1	Standard
214	St Patrick's Parish Club	West	1	Standard
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	Central	1	Good
216	Earls Sports and Social Club	West	1	Good
217	Platt Bridge Community Centre	Central	1	Standard
218	Wigan Bowling Green Ltd	West	2	Good
222	The Bucks Head	Central	1	Standard
224	Behind the Boars Head pub	West	1	Standard
225	Wigan Subscription Crown Green Bowls Club	West	1	Standard
227	St. Paul's Bowling Club	West	1	Good
229	Ashton Rec	Central	2	Standard
230	Garswood Hall Bowling and Community Club	Central	2	Good
231	Highfield Park Crown Green Bowls Club	West	1	Poor
232	St Aidens Social Club	West	1	Standard
233	Our Lady's (Ashton in Makerfield) Crown Green Bowls Club	Central	1	Standard
234	Pemberton Cons Crown Green Bowling Club	West	1	Good
238	Shevington Conservative Club	West	1	Good
239	Shevington Village Bowling Club (Forest Fold)	West	1	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of greens	Ancillary quality rating
240	Bispham Hall Recreation Crown Green Bowls Club	West	1	Standard
242	St James Social Club,	West	1	Standard
244	Great Acre	West	3	Good
245	Ravine WMC	West	1	Good
255	Swann Lane Bowling Green	Central	1	Poor

The ancillary facilities identified as poor quality are located across six sites, Alexandra Park Playing Field, Round Ash Park, Leigh Miners Welfare Institute, Ashton Rec, Highfield Park Crown Green Bowls Club and Swann Lane Bowling Club this is due to being outdated and in need of modernisation.

Alexandra Park St Jude's highlight its clubhouse facilities located at Alexandra Park are poor quality including the toilet and shower facilities which all need improving and modernising.

Spring View BC aspires to add additional shelter around the green to allow more spectators to watch the game.

No other issues or future for ancillary provision were highlighted through consultation with clubs.

Sports lighting

In Wigan Borough, 31 greens across 29 sites are serviced by sports lighting. The table below breaks down the number of greens which are provide sports lighting by analysis area.

Table 12.6: Summary of the number of courts which have sports lighting by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of greens which have sports lighting	No. of greens which don't have sports lighting
Ashton	5	7
Leigh	14	6
Wigan Town	12	14
Total	31	27

Greens with sports lighting offer opportunities to access provision for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months. However, they are relatively rare across the Country, with the level of sports lighting supply across the Wigan Borough considered to be comparatively high.

12.3: Demand

Current demand

There are 26 bowling clubs identified as playing in Wigan Borough although only 13 clubs have responded to consultation requests to date and given membership figures. Membership of the responsive clubs where known can be seen in the table below.

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 12.7: Membership for responding bowls clubs across Wigan Borough

Club name	Senior males	Senior females	Juniors (U18)	Total
Alexander Park- St Judes	-	13	-	13
Atherton Park	30	10	-	40
Butts Park Bowls Club	50	20	-	70
Highfield Gardens Pensioners	14	1	-	15
Hindley Platt Lane Bowling Club	60	-	-	60
Spring View Bowling Club	55	23	-	78
St Andrews	5	4	-	9
St James Social Club,	35	5	-	40
St Matthews	43	17	-	60
St Pauls	20	13	1	34
St Thomas	15	4	-	19
Trinity	-	10	-	10
Wigan BC	27	-	-	27

The largest club according to known membership in Wigan Borough is currently Spring View Bowling Club, with 78 members.

Future demand

The BCGBA is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation. As such, it is taking active steps at a county and national level to encourage younger players.

Of responding clubs in Wigan Borough, nine (Alexandra Park St Jude's, Trinity BC, Atherton Park, Butt Park BC, St James BC, St Matthews BC, St Thomas BC, Highfield Gardens Pensioners and Spring View BC) highlight plans to increase membership, however, only six quantify an amount equating to 39 members collectively.

Latent and unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of greens for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example where a club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is currently no latent demand which is highlighted through consultation.

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool⁴³ enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 538 people who would like to participate in the sport within Wigan Borough. This represents approximately 0.16% of the Wigan Borough's population which aligns with the national average of 0.16%.

Notwithstanding the above, none of the bowling clubs in the Wigan Borough are reported as operating at capacity, with all clubs willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within Wigan Borough who would like to start participating, could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

⁴³ See Appendix 2

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

The BCGBA does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club.

However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. Therefore, capacity ratings for bowling greens are classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in Wigan Borough receives, where the information is known. Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

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Table 12.8: Bowling green supply vs demand analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Users	No. of greens	Total members	Current capacity	Future members	Future capacity
81	Highfield Cricket Club	West	St Matthews	1	60	-	2	2
144	Alexandra Park Playing Fields	West	Alexandra Park St Jude's / St Andrews	2	22	38	3	35
195	Botanical Gardens Bowling Green	East	Atherton Park BC	1	40	20	-	20
198	Butts Park Bowling Club	East	Butts Park BC	1	70	10	-	10
205	Hindley Community Sports and Social Club	Central	Hindley Platt Lane Bowling Club	1	60	-	-	-
215	Spring View Cricket and Bowling Club	Central	Spring View Bowling Club	1	78	18	20	38
227	St. Paul's Bowling Club	West	St Pauls	1	34	26	-	26
229	Ashton Rec	Central	St Thomas / Wigan BC	2	46	14	4	10
231	Highfield Park Crown Green Bowls Club	West	Trinity	1	10	50	-	50
231	Highfield Park Crown Green Bowls Club	West	Highfield Gardens Pensioners	1	15	45	10	35
242	St James Social Club,	West	St James Social Club	1	40	20	-	20

Of the responding clubs, the table above shows that all but six clubs (Butts Park BC, Spring View Bowling Club, St Matthews, Hindley Platt Lane Bowling Club, Trinity and Highfield Gardens Pensioners) are currently operating within a 'sustainable' membership range within Wigan Borough. There are four clubs (Butts Park BC, St Matthews, Hindley Platt Lane Bowling Club and Spring View Bowling Club) operating at or above BCGBA capacity guidelines. However, no club specifically mentions a need for an additional bowling green as a way to accommodate existing or further demand. Trinity currently accommodates ten members and Highfield Gardens Pensioners currently accommodates 15 members which is below the recommendation to be considered sustainable.

Those clubs which have a substantial level of demand need to be monitored to ensure they have the appropriate quantity and quality of provision. The BCGBA identifies that clubs operating with a membership of over 60 members per green could have capacity issues. Emphasis in this regard should therefore be on supporting clubs with aspirations to improve their sites as this will likely improve the capacity for the provision to accommodate increased levels of demand.

12.5: Conclusion

Total membership for the 13 responsive clubs equates to 475. Of these clubs, nine highlight aspirations to increase membership. However, these clubs all suggest that future demand can adequately be accommodated on their existing green.

Although all current identified demand is being accommodated, several clubs (Butts Park BC, St Matthews, Hindley Platt Lane Bowling Club and Spring View Bowling Club) are operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate. It should be noted that there is currently no quality issues identified at these four sites with all four clubs accessing good quality bowling greens.

Conversely, both Trinity and Highfield Gardens Pensioners clubs are operating below the recommended threshold to be suitable and therefore need to be monitored to ensure the long-term survival of the clubs. Additionally, both Trinity and Highfield Gardens Pensioners currently access a poor quality bowling green alongside poor quality ancillary facilities located at Highfield Park Crown Green Bowls Club. There is a need to improve both the bowling green and ancillary facilities at this site to attract more members to both clubs to ensure its survival.

Supply and demand summary

- ▶ **Four clubs within Wigan Borough (Butts Park BC, Spring View Bowling Club, St Matthews, Hindley Platt Lane Bowling Club, Trinity and Highfield Gardens Pensioners) are operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.**
- ▶ **Overall, future demand expressed can be accommodated on existing greens.**

Supply summary

- ▶ There are 59 crown bowling greens identified in Wigan Borough across 50 sites, all of which, are available for community use. Most of this provision is in the West Analysis Area (26 greens).
- ▶ It should be noted that since the previous study nine crown bowling sites are now disused located at Great Acre (Whelley), Coronation Park, Dootson Park, Ince Rose Bridge Sports and Social Club, Mesnes Park, Holt Arms Crown Green Bowls Club, Pools Street, Pemberton Central Working Men's Club and Whelley Labour Club.
- ▶ In Wigan Borough, a total of 23 greens (39%) are assessed as good quality, 24 greens (41%) as standard quality with the remaining 12 being poor quality (20%).
- ▶ Furthermore, in Wigan Borough, 22 (47%) sites are accompanied by good quality facilities, with 19 (40%) sites having standard quality facilities and six (13%) sites having poor quality facilities.
- ▶ In Wigan Borough, 31 greens across 29 sites are serviced by sports lighting.

Demand summary

- ▶ There are 26 bowling clubs identified as playing in Wigan Borough although only 13 have responded to consultation requests to date and given membership figures. Membership of the responsive clubs where known totals 475, resulting in an average of 37 members.
- ▶ The largest club according to known membership in Wigan Borough is currently Spring View Bowling Club, with 78 members.
- ▶ Of responding clubs in the Wigan Borough, nine clubs (Alexandra Park St Jude's, Trinity BC, Atherton Park, Butt Park BC, St James BC, St Matthews BC, St Thomas BC, Highfield Gardens Pensioners and Spring View BC) highlight plans to increase membership, however, only six clubs quantify an amount equating to 39 members collectively.

PART 13: ATHLETICS

13.1: Introduction

England Athletics (EA) is the not-for-profit membership and development body responsible for grassroots athletics and running in England. EA supports 1,750 affiliated clubs and organisations (covering track and field, road running, fell, hill, trail and cross-country clubs), 147,000 registered athletes, 18,700 licensed coaches and leaders, 3,800 officials and 6.2m regular running participants. EA's Athletics purpose is to inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport. Their vision is for athletics and running to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.

Future Provision

England Athletics strategic position is that in most areas of the country there is a sufficient supply of traditional synthetic outdoor 400m tracks to meet club and competition needs and that there should focus on protecting and maintaining this provision. In addition to traditional facilities, EA is keen to support the development of a new generation of innovative athletics & running facilities (NewGen), as well as a country-wide network of indoor athletics facilities developed as part of future indoor multisport projects.

Priority for both NewGen and indoor developments will be given to those areas that sit outside EAs recommended drivetime catchment of existing facilities or where there is additional, demonstrable demand.

NewGen facility concepts

Track & Field (Run/Jump/Throw)

- ▶ **Play Track:** The simple animation of dated playground surfaces using colourful painted lines and markings to (KS1 & KS2) – encouraging participation in run/jump/throw activities by creating challenging and inspiring environments.
- ▶ **CompactTrack:** A sports-lit, multiple lane, synthetic sprint straight with optional jumps and throws provision.
- ▶ **MiniTrack:** A sports-lit synthetic “mini” running oval, with sprint straight, multi-sport “infield” and optional jumps and throws provision.

Recreational Running/Endurance Running/Multi sport

- ▶ **Active Track:** A free to access, macadam running / cycling circuit designed to be sympathetic to the local environment and support the recreational needs of local communities.
- ▶ Ideally lit by low level lighting / solar columns, ActiveTracks can be introduced to existing parks, open spaces and playing fields⁴⁴ or integrated into the masterplanning of new housing developments.
- ▶ Sport England Case Study: ActiveTrack: [Sowerby Sports Village](#)

⁴⁴ It should be noted that Sport England will not support the development of Active Tracks where they conflict with the Playing Field Policy.

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Consultation

There are two track and field athletics clubs in Wigan Borough: Wigan Harriers AC and Leigh Harriers AC. Both Wigan Harriers AC and Leigh Harriers AC responded to consultation requests, resulting in a 100% response rate.

13.2: Supply

There are two formal athletics track in Wigan Borough located at Robin Park Arena and Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium, of which both are eight lane, synthetic 400 metre tracks. Both tracks are provided with sports lighting to support activities on both the track and infield and provide all accompanying field event facilities including a throws cage (hammer, discus & club), javelin, high jump, long/triple jump and shot put area.

Additionally, there is an indoor athletics facility (60m sprint straight with jumps and throws) located at Robin Park Area and a covered 110 metre straight at Leigh Sports Village.

It should be noted that a comparison to 2017 cannot be made throughout this section as athletics wasn't included in the previous study.

Table 13.1: Summary of athletics tracks in Wigan Borough

Site ID	Active Places Power ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Length	Number of lanes	Surface type	Sports lighting
37	1037960	Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium	WN7 4GX	East	400m	8	Synthetic	Yes
50	30009815	Robin Park Arena	WN5 0UH	West	400m	8	Synthetic	Yes

Management

The track at Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium is owned by the Council and managed by Leigh Harriers AC, with the athletics track at Robin Park Arena is also owned by the Council and is leased to Wigan Warriors with Wigan Harriers paying to use the athletics track.

Quality

Key factors impacting upon the quality ratings of athletics facilities include the condition and age of the track surface, the prominence of the line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use. For the full site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

The non-technical assessment undertaken in July 2024 by KKP identifies the track and accompanying track and field facilities at Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium as good quality with good quality accompanying ancillary facility.

The athletics track located at Robin Park Arena is assessed as poor quality with the track in need of resurfacing within the next two years and minor repairs are needed to the field facilities. Wigan Harriers AC is currently working with Wigan Warriors RLFC on a facilities development plan.

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Concerts are held seasonally at Robin Park Arena and Wigan Harriers AC raise concerns around how this will affect the quality of the track and field facilities. Furthermore, the Club need to find alternative venues during this period meaning it's at risk of losing substantial membership due to members not being able to travel to an alternative venue.

TrackMark⁴⁵

TrackMark is UK Athletics' quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021, venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

The athletics track located at Robin Park Arena failed it's TrackMark inspection on the 22.04.25 and is no longer accredited for track events and therefore cannot host licensed competitions until such a time as necessary track repairs or a track resurface are carried out. As per the independent inspection report, the track is now near to reaching end of life and will require a full resurface by 2028.

The athletics track located at Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium is fully TrackMark accredited until 04.09.27 and no major issues were identified in the TrackMark inspections carried out in October 2024.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facilities including the condition of the clubhouse, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, medical room, car parking and boundary fencing.

The table below summarises all ancillary facilities including changing provision used by rugby league clubs based in Wigan Borough.

Table 13.2: Athletics ancillary facilities quality

Site ID	Site name	Track quality rating	Ancillary quality rating	Comments on changing rooms/clubhouses
37	Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium	Good	Good	The club lease the building which includes the clubhouse facilities, kitchen, changing rooms, showers, toilets and equipment/kit room. The facilities are accessible for users with a disability.
50	Robin Park Arena	Poor	Good	The club access a building which includes changing rooms, showers, toilets and equipment/kit room. The facilities are accessible for users with a disability. Wigan Harriers also have a club room as part of the main building. The site has suffered from vandalism in the past resulting in more security onsite.

⁴⁵ <https://www.uka.org.uk/about/what-we-do/facilities/>

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13.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

Table 13.3: Summary of track and field club membership

Name of club	Home site	Male	Female	Junior (U18s)	Total number of members
Leigh Harriers AC	Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium	80	41	162	283
Wigan Harriers AC	Robin Park Arena	176	188	147	511
-	Total	256	229	309	794

Leigh Harriers AC

Leigh Harriers AC is a large Club Mark Accredited athletics club based at Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium. It accommodates both male and female members at senior and junior level and covers the full spectrum of athletic activities including track and field, road racing, cross country and fell running supporting all national, regional, county and local competitions.

Wigan Harriers AC

Wigan Harriers AC is the largest athletic club in Wigan with 511 members and is currently based at Robin Park Arena. It accommodates both male and female members at senior and junior level and covers the full spectrum of athletic activities including track and field, road racing, endurance and triathlon. It states the Club has increase in membership by 21% from April 2023.

Wigan Phoenix Running Club

The Club is a running club based in Standish and train Monday and Thursday evenings from 6pm. It caters all running abilities and uses both Kiwi Nurseries (WN6 0YJ) and Mossy Lea Road & Boundary Lane Junction (WN6 9RE) as a meeting base.

Wigan Warriors Junior Athletics Programme

Wigan Warriors offers an athletics development programme for young and aspiring individuals to become involved in Athletics. The programme ran weekly at Robin Park Arena and is provided to children aged 5-11. The programme develops children's speed, agility, coordination, balance and endurance and provides participants with an opportunity to participate in a full range of athletics events. Sessions run every Monday and Wednesday at Robin Park Arena

ParkRun

ParkRun is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all ParkRun events.

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There are two ParkRuns located at Haigh Country Park and Pennington Flash Country Park. Furthermore, there is one junior ParkRun located at Leigh Sports Village which is held every Sunday at 9am.

Table 13.4: Summary of ParkRun in the Wigan Borough

Location	Event	Number of events	Average annual attendance
Haigh Country Park	ParkRun	386	13,528
Leigh Sports Village	Junior ParkRun	195	1038
Pennington Flash Country Park	ParkRun	604	15,301

In addition to the above a junior ParkRun is set to start in the summer of 2025 at Mesnes Park.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners to get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle, including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 6,626 people in Wigan Borough, which represents approximately 2% of the Borough's population which aligns with the national average of 2%.

Both Leigh Harriers AC and Wigan Harriers AC report to be operating a waiting list which currently includes 56 potential new members collectively due to the lack of volunteers.

Future demand

Wigan Harriers AC highlight plans to increase members by 35 senior male, 30 senior female and 40 juniors. additionally, Leigh Harriers AC reports an aspiration to increase its membership, however, does not quantify the amount.

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England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to continue to increase, particularly for initiatives such as ParkRun, although to what extent is difficult to quantify.

13.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is considered that for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of circa 200 is required. This is based on figures and consultation provided by England Athletics. In the Wigan Borough, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand at both Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium and Robin Park Arena with one community track and field club based at each site (Leigh Harriers AC and Wigan Harriers AC). Leigh Harriers AC currently accommodate 283 members with Wigan Harriers AC currently accommodating 511 members, of which both are above the recommended membership figures.

13.5: Conclusion

As both Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium and Robin Park Arena are currently used for club athletics, there is a need to protect all facilities and ensure that quality remains sufficient to accommodate the level of demand received.

In the case of Robin Park investment is required in order to repair/replace the track surface and bring the venue back into compliance i.e. achieve UKA TrackMark accreditation.

Away from track and field, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities taking place in Wigan Borough, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

Supply and demand summary

- ▶ In Wigan Borough, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, as the two community track and field club currently based in the Authority, (Leigh Harriers AC and Wigan Harriers AC) totalling 794 members, is above the recommended membership figure.
- ▶ All other clubs are primarily road running clubs that do not access the track facilities.

Supply summary

- ▶ There are two formal athletics track in Wigan Borough located at Robin Park Arena and Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium, of which both are eight lane, synthetic 400 metre tracks.
- ▶ Both tracks are provided with sports lighting to support activities on both the track and infield and provides all accompanying field event facilities including a throws cage (hammer, discus & club), javelin, high jump, long/triple jump and shot put area.
- ▶ Additionally, there is an indoor athletics facility (60m sprint straight with jumps and throws) located at Robin Park Area and covered 110 metre straight at Leigh Sports Village.

Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium

- ▶ The track at Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium is owned by the Council and managed by Leigh Harriers AC.
- ▶ The non-technical assessment undertaken in July 2024 by KKP identifies the track and accompanying track and field facilities at Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium as good quality with good quality accompanying ancillary facility.

Robin Park Arena

- ▶ The athletics track at Robin Park Arena is owned by the Council and managed by Wigan Warriors.
- ▶ The athletics track located at Robin Park Arena failed its TrackMark inspection on the 22.04.25 and is no longer accredited for track events and therefore cannot host licensed competitions until such a time as necessary track repairs or a track resurface are carried out. As per the independent inspection report, the track is now near to reaching end of life and will require a full resurface by 2028.
- ▶ There are good quality ancillary facilities at the site.

Demand summary

- ▶ Three clubs have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in Wigan Borough.

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

- ◀ Leigh Harriers AC and Wigan Harriers AC are the only track and field Club in Wigan Borough using Leigh Harriers Athletics Stadium and Robin Park Arena.
- ◀ There are two ParkRuns located at Haigh Country Park and Pennington Flash Country Park. Furthermore, there is one junior ParkRuns located at Leigh Sports Village which is held every Sunday at 9am.
- ◀ Both Leigh Harriers AC and Wigan Harriers AC report to be operating a waiting list which currently includes 56 potential new members collectively due to the lack of volunteers.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 6,626 people in Wigan Borough, which represents approximately 2% of the Borough's population with aligns with the national average of 2%.
- ◀ Wigan Harriers AC highlights plan to increase number of members by 35 senior male, 30 senior female and 40 junior members. additionally, Leigh Harriers AC reports an aspiration in increase the number of members, however, does not quantify the amount.

PART 14: ARCHERY

14.1: Introduction

Archery GB is the NGB for the sport of archery in England. It is responsible for all levels of archery within the UK from grassroots to performance level. There are several disciplines of archery including target archery, indoor archery, field and 3D archery, paralympic archery, flight archery and run archery.

Target archery, which is the discipline of shooting arrows at circular targets at a fixed distance, is the most widely known due to its inclusion on the programme of the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and World Games. Para archery is one of the sports with the most similarity to its able-bodied counterpart and disabled archers can compete in both the Olympics and Paralympics as long as they meet the qualification criteria. Para archers may use their assistive devices to level the playing field against their able-bodied competitors.

Field archery is the discipline of shooting at stationary circular targets of different sizes set at varying distances, heights and angles around a course of natural terrain. 3D archery is the discipline of shooting at stationary foam targets in the shapes of different animals set at varying distances, heights and angles around a course.

The Archery GB rules of shooting includes clear guidelines on range layout, which includes the standards to be met depending on the distance being shot and/or the bow being used. The range guidelines also include overshoot and side safety areas to account for arrows that may go beyond the targets (either missing or deflections).

In addition, Archery GB has a range assessment process for any range that does not meet the rules of shooting compliance to ensure required standards are met and followed at all times. Dispensations are only given where safety expectations can be successfully met.

Archery is a sport participated in all-year round; outdoor activity takes place between April and October, whilst during the winter indoor facilities are used.

Consultation

There are two affiliated archery clubs within Wigan Borough known as Spinners Mill Archers and Wigan and Orrell Archers. Currently, none of the clubs have responded to consultation requests. As such, a combination of consultation with Archery GB and online research have been used to inform the report.

14.2: Supply

Wigan and Orrell Archers utilise two outdoor facilities in the Summer located at Wigan RUFC and Brunswick Bowling Club in Hindley Green. Additionally, it uses Standish Community High School as a shooting venue in the winter.

Spinners Mill Archers currently has its own dedicated indoor venue located at Leigh Spinners Mill which is a fully carpeted 20m range. The Club currently don't use any outdoor venues in Wigan Borough.

It should be noted that a comparison to 2017 cannot be made throughout this section as Archery wasn't included in the previous study.

14.3: Demand

The two archery clubs in Wigan Borough are summarised below.

Spinners Mill Archers

Spinners Mill Archers currently consists of 80 members of which 18 are junior members, operating at its dedicated indoor venue located at Leigh Spinners Mill. The Club has access to the site Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am. The Club caters for all ages and abilities.

The Club runs yearly championship tournaments as well as regular handicap competitions. It's hosted several successful open tournaments over the years.

Wigan and Orrell Archers

Wigan and Orrell Archers currently consist of 62 members, of which 23 are juniors, operating at multiple of venues but its main venue being Wigan RUFC. The Club also use Standish Community High School for indoor usage in Winter.

The Club runs several beginner courses throughout the year, providing a six-week training course.

It should be noted that the Club currently has no lease agreement in place for the use of Wigan RUFC, and this is a concern for the Club with a formal agreement needed for its continued use of the site.

Latent/unmet demand

Waiting lists at archery clubs is common nationally. In part, this is due to the sport having rules for beginner courses and safety requirements in line with the Rules of Shooting, with membership often limited by the number of instructors available and the size of the sites being used.

In Wigan Borough, currently no unmet demand is identified as both clubs are still actively looking for new members online and through social media.

In addition, Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in archery but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 391 people who would like to participate in the sport within the Wigan Borough.

Future demand

As previously mentioned, both clubs are actively looking for new members online and through social media.

Notwithstanding the above, Archery GB identifies that it would expect future growth aspirations to be higher as this would better reflect the national picture and recent trends.

14.4: Supply and demand analysis

Archery within the Wigan Borough is well catered for through facilities such as: Wigan RUFC, Brunswick Bowling Club in Hindley Green, Standish High School and Leigh Spinners Mill, meaning that archery is particularly well catered for when it comes to both indoor and outdoor venues. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs openly advertising to attract new members.

14.5: Conclusion

Existing provision requires protection to ensure recreational/future/latent demand can continue to be met with emphasis in protecting access and maintaining quality. Additionally, given Wigan and Orrell Archers has a current leasing issue at its site located at Wigan RUFC, there is a need to resolve this with a more formal lease arrangement to protect its current and future usage.

Supply and demand summary

- ◆ **Archery within Wigan Borough is well catered for when it comes to both indoor and outdoor venues. However, there is a need to ensure continued use of sites through securing tenure for clubs.**

Supply summary

- ◆ Wigan and Orrell Archers utilise two outdoor facilities in the Summer located at Wigan RUFC and Brunswick Bowling Club in Hindley Green. Additionally, it uses Standish Community High School as a shooting venue in the Winter.
- ◆ It should be noted that the Club currently has no lease agreement in place for the use of Wigan RUFC, and this is a concern for the Club with a formal agreement needed for its continued use of the site.
- ◆ Spinners Mill Archers currently has its own dedicated indoor venue located at Leigh Spinners Mill which is a fully carpeted 20m range. The Club currently don't use any outdoor venues in the Wigan Borough.

Demand summary

- ◆ Spinners Mill Archers currently consists of 80 members of which 18 are junior members, operating at its dedicated indoor venue located at Leigh Spinners Mill. The Club has access to the site Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am. The Club caters for all ages and abilities.
- ◆ Additionally, The Club runs yearly championship tournaments as well as regular handicap competitions. It's hosted several successful open tournaments over the years.
- ◆ Wigan and Orrell Archers currently consist of 62 members of which 23 are juniors, operating at multiple of venues but its main venue being Wigan RUFC. The Club also use Standish Community Hogh School for indoor usage in winter.
- ◆ The Club runs several beginner courses throughout the year, providing a six-week training course.
- ◆ In Wigan Borough, currently no unmet demand is identified as both clubs are still actively looking for new members online and through social media.
- ◆ Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in archery but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand amounting to 391 people in Wigan Borough.
- ◆ Archery GB identifies that it would expect future growth to be high as this would reflect the national picture and recent trends.

PART 15: OTHER SPORTS

15.1: American football

Introduction

American football in the UK is governed and administered by the British American Football Association (BAFA). This covers both contact and flag activity.

Adult contact teams play within the BAFA National League or the BAFA Women's National League and play home and away fixtures per the regular season with a playoff system to follow for those which qualify. Junior contact football is played as a full 11v11 format league season for U19s, whilst U16s contact football is played as a 5v5 format with full equipment and tackling based across a series of day tournaments as part of a festival structure.

Flag football is the fastest growing format of the game not only in Great Britain, but also across the world, with professional leagues such as the American Flag Football League and the newly established NFL Flag starting to spring up. It is a high-octane, non-contact version of American football, where tackles are made by pulling off flags which all players wear on their hips. There are multiple formats and variations globally, but in Great Britain the predominant format is 5v5 aligning with the current International Federation of American Football competition format.

Consultation

There is one American football club located in Wigan Borough, Leigh Miners American Football Club (AFC). Additionally, there is one flag football team⁴⁶, Wigan Bandits. Attempts were made to consult with both clubs, however, were unsuccessful. As a result, online research and non-technical assessments were used to guide this section.

Supply

There are no dedicated American football pitches in Wigan Borough, however, there is one dual use pitch which is shared with rugby union located at Tyldesley Rugby Football Club (East Analysis Area). This pitch is used for both training and competitive demand by Leigh Miners American Football Club.

Wigan Bandits is currently utilising the 3G pitch located at St John Rigby College.

Demand

Leigh Miners AFC has one adult men's contact team which play on Sunday afternoons at Tyldesley Rugby Football Club. The Club use the 3G pitch at Howe Bridge Leisure Centre for training in the off season.

Wigan Bandits has one senior men's team which competes in a number of tournaments throughout the seasons. The Club uses the 3G pitch located at St John Rigby College for training demand as competitive fixture are played at central venues.

⁴⁶ Flag football is a non-contact version of American football where 'tackles' are made by pulling off flags (attached to a belt) worn by the ball carrier.

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Supply and demand analysis

It is considered that there is sufficient supply to meet the demand for American football in Wigan Borough for both competitive and training demand. As a result, it is essential that Leigh Miners AFC continues to have access to the provision at Tyldesley Rugby Football Club to meet its demand. In addition, Wigan Bandits need to continue to access St John Rigby College for its training demand.

Supply and demand summary

- ◀ **In Wigan Borough, it is considered that there is sufficient supply to meet the demand for American football in Wigan Borough for both competitive and training demand.**

Supply summary

- ◀ There are no dedicated American Football pitches in the Wigan Borough, however, there is one dual use pitch which is shared with rugby union located at Tyldesley Rugby Football Club (East Analysis Area). This pitch is used for both training and competitive demand by Leigh Miners American Football Club.
- ◀ Wigan Bandits American Flag Football Team is currently utilising the 3G pitch located at St John Rigby College.

Demand summary

- ◀ Leigh Miners American Football Club has one adult men's contact team which play on Sunday afternoons at Tyldesley Rugby Football Club. The Club use the 3G pitch at Howe Bridge Leisure Centre for training in the off season.
- ◀ Wigan Bandits American Flag Football Team has one senior men's team which competes in a number of tournaments throughout the seasons. The Club uses the 3G pitch located at St John Rigby College for training demand as competitive fixture are played at central venues.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tackling inequalities

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

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

National Planning Policy Framework (2024)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA: A Thriving Grassroots Game (2024-28)

This new strategy aims to enhance participation, improve facilities and create a more inclusive and enjoyable environment for players, coaches, volunteers and officials.

The strategy focuses on five main areas:

1. **Improving Playing Choice and Opportunity**
Creating diverse and flexible playing options to cater to all individuals.
2. **Delivering Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls**
Ensuring every woman and girl has access to football in a safe and enjoyable setting.
3. **Building and Improving Facilities**
Increasing the quality and quantity of grassroots football pitches and facilities.
4. **Tackling Poor Behaviour**
Reducing incidents of poor behaviour and discrimination, promoting positive conduct.
5. **Developing a Valued Network of Volunteers, Coaches, and Referees**
Growing and supporting the grassroots workforce to sustain the game's future.

To achieve these priorities, the FA has identified three key drivers:

- ▶ **Supporting Thriving Community Clubs**
Assisting clubs to grow sustainably and provide excellent football experiences.
- ▶ **Connecting and Serving Participants**
Enhancing digital services to offer personalized and accessible opportunities.
- ▶ **Progressing the Game's Governance**
Implementing high governance standards to serve all football participants effectively.

These initiatives are developed in collaboration with County FAs to ensure local needs are met.

The FA's strategy aims to transform grassroots football by addressing key challenges, investing in facilities, and promoting inclusivity and positive behaviour.

The FA: Inspiring Positive Change Through Football (2024-28)⁴⁷

The FA launched its new Strategy which aims to 'take English football forward, with clear focus on the biggest opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed'.

To achieve this, eight key strategic priorities are identified which include four 'Game Changer' objectives and four 'Drivers' objectives as detailed below. The strategy also outlines how The FA's plans to achieve these objectives.

Game Changers:

- ▶ Win tournaments
 - ◀ Develop pathways
 - ◀ Support elite players
 - ◀ Enhance environments
 - ◀ Collaborate and influence
- ▶ A game free from discrimination
 - ◀ Boost representation
 - ◀ Drive more inclusion
 - ◀ Tackle discrimination
- ▶ Equal opportunities for women & girls
 - ◀ Increase school participation
 - ◀ Increase club participation

⁴⁷ [FA Strategy 2024-2028: The Football Association](#)

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- ◀ Enhance women's competitions
- ◀ Support female coaches and referees
- ▶ Transform the pitch landscape
 - ◀ Sustain and grow high-quality grass pitches
 - ◀ Deliver new 3G pitches
 - ◀ Support inclusivity accessibility and environmental sustainability of facilities
- ▶ Drivers:
- ▶ Thriving community clubs
 - ◀ Develop club opportunities
 - ◀ Support the current and future generation of club leaders
 - ◀ Equip clubs to add long-term value to local communities
- ▶ World-class FA cups
 - ◀ Broaden commercial appeal
 - ◀ Evolve the Adobe Women's FA Cup format
- ▶ Participant led
 - ◀ Place participants at the centre of decision making
 - ◀ Create flexible models to meet participants needs
 - ◀ Provide digital tools to improve experiences
- ▶ Progressive governance
 - ◀ Support integration of women's and girls' football
 - ◀ Support governance of the NLS
 - ◀ Support our County Football Associations (CFAs)

The FA: Reaching Higher (2024-28)⁴⁸

The FA's 2020-2024 strategy, 'Inspiring Positive Change', coincided with record growth across the sport, with more women and girls playing, coaching, officiating and supporting the flourishing professional game than ever before.

This strategy aims to build on the success achieved to date and strives to continue working to unlock the full potential of the women's and girls' game. The strategy outlines four strategic priorities as seen below.

1. **Build and Protect the Uniqueness of the Women's Game:** Continue to honour the history of women's football and recognise those who have contributed towards making it so unique, whilst ensuring the distinct qualities and unique culture of the women's game are valued and protected.
2. **Win a Major Tournament:** Continue to be world-leaders both on and off the pitch, developing players and building an inclusive talent pathway system to make football more equal and accessible at every level of the game, ensuring the England pathway and teams represent society.
3. **Build Robust, High-Quality Competition:** Create compelling competition structures and support clubs to develop to the appropriate level within the game, while enabling people to grow and develop within The FA's competition structures.
4. **Deliver Equal Opportunities for Women and Girls to Play:** Sustain growth in schools whilst tackling inequalities. Continue to grow the number of female teams and deliver vibrant league offers whilst extending and enhancing the sessional football offer. The ambition is for 90% of schools to deliver equal access for girls to play football in key stages two and three.

⁴⁸ [The FA Womens & Girls Football Strategy 2024-28](#)

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There are five golden threads which weave through each of the four strategic priorities and across all levels of the women's and girls' game, which will be instrumental for delivering the next phase of growth by 2028:

1. **Female Health and Wellbeing:** Develop the game to support women and girls with their health and wellbeing needs, providing them with environments in which they can thrive.
2. **Safeguarding:** Support the evolution of an ever-safer culture across the women's and girls' game.
3. **Refereeing:** Grow and nurture a new generation of referees who are representative of our society.
4. **Coaching:** Support and develop brilliant coaches capable of unleashing every player's potential in a safe and inclusive game.
5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Ensure the game is more reflective of our society.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ **Grow and nurture the core**
 - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
 - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
 - ◀ Invest in club facilities
 - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
 - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
 - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
 - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
 - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
 - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
 - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
 - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
 - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
 - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
 - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
 - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
 - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
 - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
 - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
 - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
 - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
 - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ **Support our communities**
 - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
 - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
 - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
 - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

Inspiring Generations – Cricket’s Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28)^[1]

In October 2024 the ECB released its new strategy Inspiring Generations – Cricket’s Game-wide Strategy (2025 – 28). Cricket in England and Wales has seen transformative growth since the publication of its previous strategy Inspiring Generation (2020-24). Its new strategy represents an evolution of its plans, however, many of its previous themes are still relevant. Its main purpose is to say ‘Cricket is a game for me’ through its vision:

- ✦ To become the most inclusive team sport
- ✦ To grow and unite the game
- ✦ Lead the game through global transformation

It aims to obtain this vision through six key objectives

- ✦ Make cricket diverse, inclusive and accessible
- ✦ Transform Women’s and Girl’s cricket
- ✦ Connect communities through play
- ✦ Inspire through winning England teams
- ✦ Support a thriving and sustainable men’s and women’s professional game
- ✦ Win the battle for attention

Underpinning these six ambitions are a series of enablers that cut-across multiple areas of the game, alongside Cricket’s Core Values.

The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards

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

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

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

Game Objectives:

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

Driving Objectives:

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

^[1]<https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2024/10/22/19a925d7-3c92-4a36-8e7b-f49cb470377f/ECB-Inspiring-Generations-2025-2028.pdf>

England Hockey Strategy (2023 – 2028)

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3rd October. The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

Underpinning the strategy and of importance to the hockey community are four values, "collaborate inclusively, care for people and places, play with spirit win with grace and resilient in everything we do".

The strategy is the culmination of two years consultation with various stakeholders across the sport and larger sporting sector. Hockey will be guided by five key objectives over the next five years.

1. **Lead Positive Change:** to create and champion positive change within the community by broadening and widening the engagement of the sport and making it more ethnically and culturally diverse.
2. **Meaningful Growth:** to make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future, we want to nurture a love of hockey within a more diverse group of young players and communities to reflect society.
3. **Drive Visible Impact:** to produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game, captures the passion, builds a deep connection and amplifies the voices of the hockey community with new and existing participants.
4. **Responsible Leadership:** to provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership. Leadership that fosters trust within physically and psychologically safe environments and which puts players, the community and sustainability at heart of every decision.
5. **Inspirational International Success:** inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage, underpinned by a thriving talent system and domestic game.

The strategy aligns with Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy and UK Sport's Powering Success, Inspiring Impact' strategic plan.

Rugby Football League – National Community Facilities Strategy (2024 – 2030)

The RFL has developed a new National Facilities Strategy which will guide investment into the game from 2024 through to 2030. The proposed investment package aligned to the Strategy will not only transform facilities, but also bolster the sport's social impact, reinforcing its position as a vital part of the nation's sporting and social fabric.

The four focus areas of the Strategy are:

- ◆ **Security of Tenure** – allowing clubs to plan for the long-term
- ◆ **Accessible and Inclusive Facilities** – providing suitable facilities for all and creating safe spaces for the wider community
- ◆ **Adequate and Appropriate Pitch Provision**– investment both in playing surfaces, and in upskilling a volunteer workforce to maintain them
- ◆ **Sustainability**– both environmental and financial

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The Strategy will deliver on the four focus areas by delivering against a set of five recommendations which are set within the Strategy and are detailed below. These recommendations reflect the wider strategic aspirations across the sport and are for the RFL to work to deliver.

◀ **Focus Community Clubs**

- ◀ Ensure the RFL has sufficient capacity and resource to deliver the recommendations identified within this Strategy to support its community clubs.
- ◀ Ensure all community clubs have the knowledge and resource to provide good quality grass pitches.
- ◀ Supporting clubs to have good quality changing and social facilities which can support the scale of need at each club. These must be inclusive for all participants and benefit target user groups such as women and girls' participants.
- ◀ Ensure clubs can accommodate a sustainable operational programme for clubhouses to ensure the longevity of provision.
- ◀ Work with clubs and key partners to increase the number of clubs with secured tenure of their club facilities.
- ◀ Develop a dedicated funding programme which is specifically aimed at supporting clubs to gain security of tenure at their respective site.
- ◀ Highlight success stories and best practices from community clubs to inspire others and showcase the positive impact of these efforts.

◀ **Deliver positive social and environmental impact**

- ◀ Support clubs through training and advice on how to promote facilities for non-rugby league purposes.
- ◀ Work with Active Partnerships across England to enable higher usage and activation of rugby league assets for non-rugby league activity.
- ◀ Prioritise clubs for wellbeing hubs which may offer the widest social benefit (relative to local need) – particularly those in high deprivation areas.
- ◀ Use the activation of club facilities as a prerequisite to capital funding for club house improvements / new development.
- ◀ Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies

◀ **Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies**

- ◀ Ensure continued working with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of other sports to capitalise on shared investment opportunities.
- ◀ Work with the Football Foundation to maximise Multi-Sport funding opportunities – utilising the framework provided in this Strategy as the baseline of shared investment.
- ◀ Work closely with Active Partnerships in areas with high club densities to establish opportunities for pitch access via the Open School Facilities programme.

◀ **Technological solutions**

- ◀ Ensure the RFL gathers greater levels of information from clubs via affiliation. To include (e.g.) security of tenure information and an integrated self-assessment audit of community facilities.
- ◀ Continue expanding the use and application of PitchPower so all clubs can self-assess provision and support clubs to make positive contributions to improving the quality of grass pitches.
- ◀ Promote technological solutions which progress clubs into being more sustainable, energy efficient and ensure their long-term viability as community assets.
- ◀ Create a platform or resource hub where clubs can access information on funding opportunities, facility management, and sustainable operational practices.

◀ **Working with Charitable Community Organisations and Wheelchair Rugby League**

- ◀ Develop an investment package to support the operational delivery of professional club foundation led wheelchair activity focusing on storage and logistical solutions.
- ◀ Prioritise capital investment into community club sites which also accommodate professional club foundations as tenants for community Rugby League activity.

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- ◀ Begin work on the feasibility of developing a national wheelchair centre which includes exploring partnership opportunities with other sports to maximise multisport value and return on investment.
- ◀ Consult with professional club foundations, where possible, to understand the need for 3G access and work to ascertain sufficient access hours during peak times of need.

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

Objectives:

- ▶ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ▶ More people playing more often;
 - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
 - The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ▶ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies:

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

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For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023) and Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031). Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

England Netball

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

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The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:-

- ▶ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
- ▶ elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- ▶ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

Facility Development

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ▶ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ▶ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ▶ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.

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- ✦ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- ✦ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- ✦ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ✦ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ✦ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ✦ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ✦ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

British Crown Green Bowling Association

Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England.

<http://bcgba.org.uk/index.html>

England athletics strategy plan 2021 – 2032: Athletics and runners at the heart – creating opportunities, enhancing experiences and powering potential.

This strategy ensures a robust and clearly defined future direction for the sport which places athletics and runners at the heart of everything we will do over the 12 year period to 2032.

England Athletics overarching purpose and visions are:

Purpose: 'To inspire more athletics and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport.'

Vision: 'For athletics to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.'

At the heart of this plan, and the focal point for everything England Athletics do, are the people and communities involved in athletics across the following five areas:

1. Clubs, Club Leaders and facilities
2. Competition
3. Coaches and officials
4. Participation: young people and running
5. Talented athletes

Each has its own unique challenges and opportunities, yet also the opportunity to positively influence the success and growth of the other areas.

There are four key supporting activities that will be essential in enabling us to deliver the strategic priorities and ultimately achieve goals:

- ✦ Provide strong leadership that builds trust and respect by creating an open and positive culture.

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- ◀ Embrace technology and reduce our environmental impact by putting digital first and encouraging innovation and creativity.
- ◀ Ensure greater engagement through sharing of high-quality insight, information and content.
- ◀ Develop commercial minds to maximise funding opportunities and diversify income.

England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf's influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

<https://www.englandgolf.org/englandgolfstrategy/>

Archery GB's Strategic Plan (2021-2026)

This Strategic Plan aims to enrich lives through archery and rebuild, reimagine and re-present archery in the next five years. To do this, it has six strategic ambitions:

- ◀ Membership structure – an effective and efficient governance and delivery structure for the whole sport, with a member-centric membership offer.
- ◀ Empowering workforce – connections that engage, recruit and support the thousands of people who create opportunities for archery to happen.
- ◀ Diversity throughout – a diverse and inclusive organisation that enables everyone to be themselves and develop in a way that suits them.
- ◀ Archer recruitment – a revitalised club network, rebuilding from the damage of Covid-19, new groups, partnerships, places that increase the breadth of our archery communities.
- ◀ Digital first – putting digital transformation at the heart of the organisation, leveraging technology to modernise systems and resources.
- ◀ Pathway & podium – redefine GB performance archery and be the pioneers on the world archery stage.

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APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

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

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PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Grass rugby pitch non-technical assessment

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

WIGAN COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

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

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