



PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

**ASSESSMENT REPORT
MARCH 2024**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY	2
1.1: Introduction	2
1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach	2
1.3: Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.....	6
1.4: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.....	11
PART 2: FOOTBALL.....	13
2.1: Introduction	13
2.2: Supply	14
2.3: Demand	22
2.4: Capacity analysis	26
2.5: Supply and demand analysis.....	32
2.6: Conclusion	35
PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) PITCHES	37
3.1: Introduction	37
3.2: Supply.....	37
3.3: Demand	43
3.4: Supply and demand analysis.....	46
3.5: Conclusion	49
PART 4: CRICKET.....	51
4.1: Introduction	51
4.2: Supply.....	52
4.3: Demand	59
4.4: Capacity analysis	64
4.5: Supply and demand analysis.....	69
4.6: Conclusion	71
PART 5: RUGBY UNION	72
5.1: Introduction	72
5.2: Supply	72
5.3: Demand	77
5.4: Capacity analysis	81
5.5: Supply and demand analysis.....	83
5.6: Conclusion	84
PART 6: RUGBY LEAGUE	86
6.1: Introduction	86
6.2: Supply.....	86
6.3: Demand	88
6.4: Supply and demand analysis.....	89
6.5: Conclusion	90

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

PART 7: HOCKEY	91
7.1: Introduction	91
7.2: Supply	92
7.3: Demand	97
7.4: Capacity analysis	99
7.5: Supply and demand analysis.....	102
7.6: Conclusion	103
 PART 8: TENNIS	 104
8.1: Introduction	104
8.2: Supply	104
8.3: Demand	110
8.4: Supply and demand analysis.....	115
8.5: Conclusion	116
 PART 9: BOWLS	 117
9.1: Introduction	117
9.2: Supply	117
9.3: Demand	121
9.4: Supply and demand analysis.....	122
9.5: Conclusion	125
 PART 10: OTHER SPORTS	 126
10.1: American football	126
10.2: Rounders	127
 APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT	 129
APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS.....	137

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
FCC	Cricket Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GI	Green Infrastructure
GMA	Grounds Management Association
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCF	Lancashire Cricket Foundation
LFA	Lancashire County Football Association
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PBC	Pendle Borough Council
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SE	Sport England
TGR	Team Generation Rates
U	Under
WRFA	West Riding County Football Association
WR	World Rugby

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Pendle Borough Council (PBC) and Ribble Valley Borough Council (RVBC) have commissioned Knight, Kavanagh and Page to produce a joint Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). This is the Assessment Report for Pendle.

This report (known as the Assessment Report) presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities within Pendle and is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS and its Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for non-pitch outdoor sports.

Sport England's PPS Guidance details a 10-stepped approach for the assessment of pitches, separated into five distinct sections, as follows:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the proceeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing throughout the lifespan of the work.

ANOG is used for the assessment of non-pitch outdoor sports and is separated into two parts; undertaking an assessment and applying the assessment. This report focuses on the first of these, with the guidance splitting it into three stages:

- ◀ Stage 1 – Prepare and tailor the assessment.
- ◀ Stage 2 – Gather information on supply and demand.
- ◀ Stage 3 – Assessment, bring the information together.

A PPOSS is considered to be out of date if its baseline data has not been reviewed after three years of the study being undertaken. If the PPOSS is monitored annually then its lifespan will depend on the point at which an Annual Monitoring Report identifies changes that are significant enough to warrant a partial or full review. A process for this will be included within the subsequent Strategy.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the PPOSS is being developed

The primary purpose of the PPS is to provide a strategic framework and action plan which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches and sports facilities meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Pendle.

The previous Pendle PPS was completed in 2016 through a joint study with Burnley and Rossendale and is past its recommended life span and is therefore in need of renewal in order to be a key evidence base.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The PPOSS will therefore provide a strategic framework to ensure that the provision of outdoor sports facilities meets the needs of residents (both existing and future) and visitors across Pendle. It will also support those organisations, including the Council, involved in the provision of outdoor sports facilities across Pendle.

Pendle Local context

The existing Pendle Local Plan was formally adopted in December 2015. It sets out the strategic planning policies the Council will use to help guide development into the most sustainable places over the 15-year period between its adoption through to 2030. In late 2021, the Council identified plans in favour of producing a new Local Plan and has set out a Local Development Scheme confirming timescales for its development. It is expected that the new Local Plan will run through to 2040.

A new PPOSS will provide an up-to-date evidence base and policy for the provision of new, and the improvement of existing, outdoor sports facilities to ensure the planned housing growth is supported by appropriate sporting infrastructure.

National context

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g., growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.

The Pendle PPOSS will provide an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination whilst meeting the requirements of the National Planning

Policy Framework (NPPF)

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

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

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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

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

Paragraphs 105, 106, and 107 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

Sport England provides its own playing field policy. Its aim is to help protect and enhance opportunities for people to take part in sport and physical activity, whilst making it easier to develop and assess related applications for all applicants and local authorities. Full details of this can be found here: <https://www.sportengland.org/news/new-playing-fields-planning-guidance>

For the full national context, including for each of the sports covered please refer to Appendix 1.

Study area

The study area comprises of the PBC council area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Pendle as a whole.

Whilst the analysis areas for Pendle will be based on the 2016 PPS.

Table 1.1: Summary of Pendle analysis areas

Analysis area	Ward
Barrowford & Western	Barrowford & Pendleside / Fence & Higham
Brierfield & Reedley	<i>Brierfield East & Clover Hill (part)</i> / Brierfield West & Reedley
Colne & District	Boulsworth & Foulridge / Vivary Bridge / Waterside & Horsfield
Nelson	Bradley / <i>Brierfield East & Clover Hill (part)</i> / Marsden & Southfield / Whitefield & Walverden
West Craven	Barnoldswick / Earby & Coates

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 1.1: Pendle analysis area map



Agreed scope

The Assessment Report provides detail in respect of what exists in each local authority with regards to each sport. It will specifically consider the number of pitches/facilities and will consider the size, quality, location, accessibility and capacity of the provision as well as accompanying ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation, toilets and car parking.

It also considers the demand for facilities based on population distribution and planned growth. The following are the key outdoor sports (and associated facilities, including artificial surfaces) in Pendle and as such are included within the scope:

- ❖ Football pitches
- ❖ 3G pitches
- ❖ Cricket pitches
- ❖ Rugby union pitches
- ❖ Hockey artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ❖ Rugby league pitches
- ❖ Tennis courts
- ❖ Bowling greens
- ❖ Other pitch sports (i.e. Baseball/Softball, Rounders and American football)

Pitch sports (i.e. football, rugby union, rugby league, 3Gs, hockey and cricket) have been assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy Guidance: An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy.

Non-pitch facilities (tennis, athletics and MUGAs) have been assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014).

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Management arrangements

A project team with officers from Pendle Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available so that project stages and milestones are delivered on time. In addition, a strong and effective steering group has and will continue to lead the PPOSS during its development and will be responsible for the delivery of its recommendations and actions.

The membership of the steering group is balanced and representative of the different parties and key drivers behind the work; it is made up of representatives from both councils, Sport England and relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). It is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective and for supporting and checking and challenging the work of the project team.

It will be important for the steering group to continue once the PPOSS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for provision in the area and promote the importance of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Support implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study.
- ◀ Ensure that the work is kept up to date and refreshed through regular monitoring and review.

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

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

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field; these are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'¹:

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

It should be noted that the reference to five years within the Order is purely in relation to whether Sport England should be consulted in a statutory capacity. The fact that a playing field may not have been marked out for pitch sport for more than five years does not mean that it is no longer a playing field. That remains its lawful planning use whether marked out or not. There is no positive obligation (under planning law) for any playing field to be actively used as such.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, this PPOSS takes account of smaller size pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it 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).

¹ [Link to legislation: Town and Country Planning](#)

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

As far as possible all best endeavours have been made to identify all playing fields and pitches irrespective of ownership and use. The Assessment Report aims to capture all of the playing pitch facilities within Pendle; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as school or private 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, they are 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.

Quantity

Where known, all playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using data from the Pendle 2015 PPS as well as Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with both councils and NGBs supporting the process by checking and updating this initial data as well as supplying their own. This was also verified against club and league information supplied through consultation and any affiliation processes.

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.

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 in place, 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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 this PPOSS, should be retained and protected for future use or could be replaced in accordance with paragraph 103 of the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

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.

Quality

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

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

The quality of all known playing pitches is identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them have been assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Non-technical assessments are carried out on every site that is accessible to understand the quality of each pitch and ancillary facilities. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating has also been recorded within the audit for each individual pitch. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each facility to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments to assess the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this i.e., an "agreed quality rating". Additionally, both councils have undertaken a portfolio of PitchPower² assessments which will inform quality ratings once these assessments have been processed.

² [Link to PitchPower](#)

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Gather demand information and views

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

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

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.

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches; 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 pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available. Exported and imported demand refers to those teams that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (including some online video calls) was carried out with key clubs and leagues (as identified by both councils and NGBs) from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey was utilised. The response rates of consultation are set out below.

Table 1.3: Summary of study response rates

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Pendle	-	-	-	-
Football clubs	22	11	50%	Face to face/video meeting Online survey Telephone
Football teams	160	137	86%	Face to face/video meeting Online survey Telephone
Cricket clubs	8	5	63%	Face to face/video meeting Online survey Telephone
Rugby union clubs	2	1	50%	Video meeting
Rugby league clubs	1	1	100%	Video meeting Telephone Online survey
Hockey clubs	1	1	100%	Video meeting
Tennis clubs	1	1	100%	Online survey Telephone
Bowling clubs	12	9	75%	Online survey Telephone

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation and Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

As key providers and users of the sports facilities, educational establishments are also in the process of being consulted (to coincide with winter sports assessments). This will also involve online and in person consultation with secondary schools and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

Future demand

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

Pendle population growth

The resident population in Pendle based on ONS 2018 projections data is 92,531. By 2040, the Borough's population is set to increase by 2,104 people to 94,636, representing population growth of 2.27%.

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 is then applied to predicted population growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for Pendle cover the period up until 2040, in line with the Council's current Local Plan and to enable the provision of robust evidence base for a future Local Plan review.

Participation growth

Each club that responded to consultation requests has been asked whether they are likely to field more teams over the lifespan of the PPOSS and, if so, what level of growth is likely to be achieved. Each sport-by- sport section within this report highlights the level of future demand based on this as well as determining the impact that this will have on provision.

Other information sources that were used to help related to participation growth 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.

In addition to the above, Housing Growth Scenarios will be included in the Strategy Report to estimate the additional demand for pitches by sport generated by housing numbers, cumulatively over the Local Plan period, and by individual strategic housing sites.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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

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

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions a pitch could accommodate. This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

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

As a guide, the FA, RFL, RFU and ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality.

Table 1.4: Capacity of playing pitches in match equivalent sessions

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

It should be noted that for 3G pitches there is no MES based capacity guidance. This is due to the nature of use and that the guidance on capacity analysis is based on hours available in the peak period, accessibility of the pitches, the usage and remaining capacity during peak times.

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, the LTA states that a hard court with sports lighting has capacity for 60 members, whereas a court without sports lighting has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

Develop the current picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a Borough wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak period demand. This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity on provision or whether there is a shortfall.

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.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing the aforementioned steps, it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision. This report therefore seeks to identify and present such key information on a sport-by-sport basis prior to the development of the Strategy and Action Plan for the Borough.

Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, latent, exported and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. As such, most of the scenario testing generally occurs in the Strategy report that proceeds this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Lancashire FA are the organisation overseeing the development (and some elements of administration) of football in Pendle whilst some clubs affiliate and are supported by West Riding FA. They are responsible for growing participation, promoting diversity and regulating the sport for everyone to enjoy.

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), that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game. The FF also acts on behalf of The FA as the strategic NGB for football in supporting development of the PPOSS.

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

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)	Recommended pitch size including runoff (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64	106 x 70
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55	97 x 61
Youth 11v11	U13s-U14s	82 x 50	88 x 56
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46	79 x 52
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37	61 x 43
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27	43 x 33

Part 3 of this report captures supply and demand for third generation (3G) pitches, which is the only recommended artificial surface type for football.

Pendle Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment for Pendle. The plan is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of pitch provision in the local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS 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.

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

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

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Each LFFP builds upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game as well as including strategic priorities for investment across small-sided football (including recreational and indoor activity). The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities.

This includes those which may be key partners with regards to using football for behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

The LFFPs for Pendle³ was produced in 2019. As it is a 'live' document it should be updated following the completion of this study as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

Consultation

In addition to face to face and video consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all football clubs and leagues in Pendle distributed via Lancashire FA and West Riding FA.

In Pendle, a 50% club response rate and an 86% team response rate has been achieved. The responsive clubs include the following that have been identified as particularly key given their size and/or aspirations:

- ◆ Barnoldswick Town Juniors FC
- ◆ Barrowford Celtic FC
- ◆ Burnley Belvedere FC
- ◆ Colne FC
- ◆ Pendle Forest Sports Club FC

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 50 grass football pitches within Pendle across 26 sites, with 43 pitches across 21 sites identified as being available for community use. All the unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

Of the community available pitches in Pendle, 12 (28%) are in each Colne & District and West Craven analysis areas. Whilst the Brierfield & Reedley Analysis Area has the fewest number of pitches with four (9%).

Table 2.2: Grass football pitches available for community use by analysis area

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	1	2	-	4	1	8
Brierfield & Reedley	1	2	-	1	-	4
Colne & District	5	2	2	1	2	12
Nelson	3	-	3	1	-	7
West Craven	4	4	3	1	-	12
Total	14	10	8	8	3	43

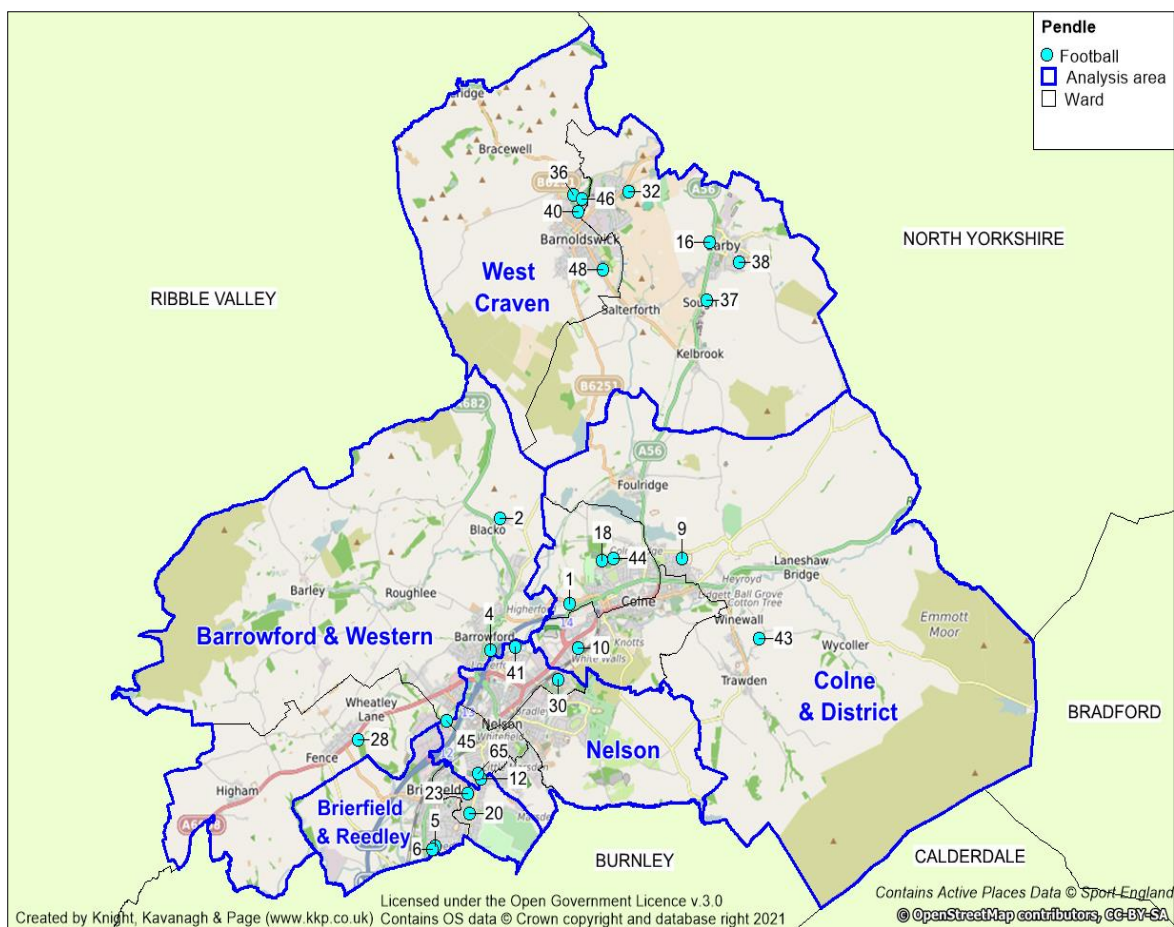
³[Pendle LFFP](#)

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The large number of adult pitches reflects high demand for adult football; however, there are actually more youth 11v11 teams playing within Pendle. This leads to many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, which is not ideal for players at U13-U16 level and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.

For the location of the pitches, please see Figure 2.1 below. Table 2.14 provides a key to the map.

Figure 2.1: Grass football pitches in Pendle by community use availability



Future developments

No future developments have been identified within Pendle.

Potential development aspirations

Nelson and Colne College

Nelson and Colne College owns the freehold of Barrowford Road Playing Fields. It was transferred the land after a nearby housing development provided it over 20 years ago. The playing field is maintained by the College (albeit the contract for maintenance sits with Pendle BC).

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The College states it has not formally used the pitches for at least eight years for college purposes (it has a 3G pitch directly available at its Scotland Road campus) and that it is losing money keeping the pitches fit for use. The site is not accompanied by any form of ancillary provision, including car parking and the two youth pitches (based on a KKP non-technical audit) are poor quality and suffer from clear waterlogging issues.

The site does receive a baseline level of community use with two community teams registered as using it per week, on average.

However, the playing field is underutilised and could, in theory, accommodate a higher number of pitches if marked out, although the ground conditions likely play a factor in its existing use.

The College is exploring opportunities to develop the playing field (which potentially could involve retaining a proportion of it). At this stage, it has not submitted any formal pre planning application.

Swinden Playing Field (Pendle Panthers BMX Club)

Pendle Panthers operate a successful BMX pump track at Swinden Playing Fields. It aspires to build an Olympic size BMX track to support its existing pump and cycle track. Based on the existing configuration of the site this would result in the potential loss of playing field land (one grass football pitch). The site accommodates one mini pitch and two youth pitches which are well used. The Club is popular and PBC state it is oversubscribed with members who can't be accommodated having to travel to areas such as Bradford and Blackpool to access such provision.

Management and security of tenure

Tenure of football sites in Pendle is generally secure. Clubs are generally considered to have secure tenure where they have freehold, leasehold or formally secured use of their site/s (e.g., through a community use agreement) for the next three or more years. As part of this, sites operated by the Council (or parish/town councils) are secure due an ongoing commitment for a leisure offering to be provided.

The majority of community available sites which are classified as having unsecure tenure are located at educational sites. This is due to schools and academies being able to state their own policies, resulting in them being more likely to restrict levels of community use. The only exceptions to this are where community use agreements are in place, with these generally being secured via a planning condition. This is often linked to a development at their site/s.

In Pendle of the 43 community available pitches, 29 are under council management, three are under educational management, nine are under sports club management and two are under industry sports club management. The two pitches under industry sports club management are located at Rolls Royce Sports Ground, whilst the clubs accessing the site have done so for a number of years, the Club is not considered to have secure tenure due to the nature of management from industry sports clubs. This is due to nothing stopping the management of the site no longer allowing the use of the pitches from current clubs at any time.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Pendle has been assessed via a combination of site visits undertaken in November 2023 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), user consultation and PitchPower assessments. This is to reach and apply an agreed quality rating as follows.

Table 2.3: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PitchPower assessment ratings

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

Please see Appendix 2 for the full assessment criteria.

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of 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 are able to accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking several matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in Pendle. In Pendle, seven pitches (16%) are rated as good quality, 11 as standard quality (26%) and 25 as poor quality (58%).

Table 2.4: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Pendle	-	-	-
Adult	4	5	5
Youth 11v11	1	4	5
Youth 9v9	-	-	8
Mini 7v7	2	2	4
Mini 5v5	-	-	3
Total	7	11	25

The good quality community available pitches in Pendle are located at:

- ✦ Burnley Belvedere FC
- ✦ Burnley RUFC
- ✦ Pendle Forest Sports Club
- ✦ Silentnight Stadium
- ✦ Victory Park

In contrast, the 25 poor quality community available pitches are spread across 14 different sites respectively, with this therefore amounting to a significant number. In the main, these pitches show significant signs of wear and tear and limited maintenance with many also having problems with waterlogging.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Specific comments relating to the pitch conditions at some key individual sites are detailed in the table below. These are either taken from club consultation or from site assessments.

Table 2.5: Summary of pitch quality comments from consultation

Site ID	Site name	Club user	Comments
-	Pendle	-	-
5/6	Burnley Belvedere FC/ Burnley RUFC	Burnley Belvedere FC	Recently awarded the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF) from the FF following PitchPower assessments to improve pitch quality. In the fourth year of a six year pitch improvement project. Pitches have considerably improved. However, the Club is concerned about funding the ongoing maintenance once it has passed the sixth year of the GPMF, as it fears if maintenance is not upheld the pitch would start to decline.
16	Hill Top Recreation Ground	Barnoldswick Barons FC	The site sits on a considerable slope and so all pitches are unlevel. Dog fouling/glass/litter is prevalent on site.
20	John Bradley Playing Fields	Brierfield Celtic FC	Pitches onsite have significant areas of the pitch with very limited grass coverage. This leads to areas of mud and puddles across them and in turn cancellation of fixtures.
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	Pendle Forest Sports Club FC	The quality of the adult pitch has declined considerably. Although it is rated as good quality within the PitchPower assessment, the drainage on the pitch is poor and there is a considerable amount of work required to improve.
44	Nori Stadium (Colne Football Club)	Colne FC	The stadia pitch is poor quality. The Club reports that several games have been cancelled over recent years, due to the pitch draining poorly, leaving the pitch waterlogged after heavy rain. In turn this has also meant the pitch has now become uneven in places.

PitchPower Assessment Tool

Initially launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund before being updated and re-launched in 2022, the web-app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily. This is once submitted for review by Grounds Management Association (GMA) regional pitch advisors. The tool across web-app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example, clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, such as to obtain revenue funding for improved maintenance or the required maintenance equipment, both available through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF).

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Furthermore, the FF also launched a new Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

Lancashire FA and West Riding FA are currently working with the council and clubs to complete PitchPower assessments for their respective sites.

Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund⁴

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

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

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

All applicants must have either security of tenure or land owners permission and have received a PitchPower Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding pitches used for National League System play), leagues, County FAs, community organisations and charities. In 2023 the fund was opened up to education organisations and Town/Parish Councils as eligible applicants.

Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have permission of the landowner via service level agreement. There are currently four sites which are receiving GPMF support in Pendle:

- ❖ Burnley Belvedere FC and Burnley RUFC (Burnley Belvedere FC)
- ❖ Pendle Forest Sports Club (Pendle Forest Sports Club FC)
- ❖ Victory Park (Barnoldswick Town Juniors FC)
- ❖ Rolls Royce Sports Ground (Rolls FC)

Ancillary facilities

As with pitch quality, the quality of ancillary facilities across Pendle has been rated via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating of good, standard or poor.

⁴ <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site and their quality, with provision such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing included.

The table below identifies the ratings for football sites that are actively utilised for football across Pendle. Of the sites used for community football in Pendle four (19%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, eight (38%) by standard quality facilities and five (24%) by poor quality facilities. The remaining four (19%) sites are not known to be serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

Table 2.6: Summary of ancillary facility quality at active football sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
-	Pendle	-	-
1	Barrowford Road Playing Fields	Colne & District	N/A
2	Beverley Road Playing Fields	Barrowford & Western	N/A
4	Bullholme Playing Field	Barrowford & Western	Good
5	Burnley Belvedere FC	Brierfield & Reedley	Standard
6	Burnley RUFC	Brierfield & Reedley	Poor
12	Edge End Playing Fields	Nelson	Good
16	Hill Top Recreation Ground	West Craven	Standard
18	Holt House Playing Fields	Colne & District	Good
20	John Bradley Playing Fields	Brierfield & Reedley	Poor
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	Barrowford & Western	Standard
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	West Craven	Standard
36	Silentnight Stadium	West Craven	Good
37	Sough Park	West Craven	Poor
38	Springfield Recreation Ground	West Craven	N/A
41	Swinden Playing Fields	Nelson	Poor
43	Trawden Recreation Ground	Colne & District	Standard
44	Nori Stadium (Colne Football Club)	Colne & District	Standard
45	Victoria Park (Nelson)	Nelson	Poor
46	Victory Park	West Craven	Standard
48	West Craven High School	West Craven	Standard
65	St Paul's Primary School	Nelson	N/A

Nelson FC plans to improve the changing rooms as it suggests they are out of date at Victoria Park (Nelson). At present this would be through remedial work, however, it reports that in the future it would like to update the clubhouse, which would be through a new build.

Colne FC aspires to update and extend its clubhouse and changing facility at the Nori Stadium. Although the building is well maintained, the function room/bar area is insufficient and limited in size. In order to improve the facility, the Club has plans to extend the function area whilst also improving the changing rooms and shower facilities.

Barrowford Celtic FC suggests that although the clubhouse and changing rooms at Bullholme Playing Fields are of good quality, they are becoming outdated and need some remedial work to keep them to a good quality.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Burnley Belvedere FC reports that the main clubhouse and changing rooms at Burnley Belvedere FC/Burnley RUFC require improvement. Although the main changing rooms are large enough, they require an update and modernising, whilst the second set of changing rooms are too small. The Club also wishes to modernise its showers and install cubicles as at present it is an open shower block.

The changing rooms at Pendle Forest Sports Club have not been updated in over 10 years. Pendle Forest Sports Club FC reports that it aspires to redevelop the changing rooms to improve and extend them whilst also redeveloping the shower facilities. In addition, the Club is also in the process of installing a new central heating system as it has had issues in recent years with flooding due to the current system.

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

Three sites in Pendle provide community available provision are not equipped with ancillary facilities. Eight teams across three clubs in Pendle are using pitches at sites which are without ancillary facilities. The following table provides a breakdown of the teams playing matches at such sites.

Table 2.7: Summary of teams using sites without ancillary facilities (community available)

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Number of teams
-	Pendle	-	-
1	Barrowford Road Playing Fields	Barrowford Celtic FC	2
38	Springfield Recreation Ground	Barnoldswick Barons FC	5
65	St Paul's Primary School	Brierfield Celtic FC	1

The sites referenced in the table above should be considered and explored for future ancillary investment, especially those catering for the greatest demand. It should be noted that some sites included in the table below are serviced by accessible provision such as primary school facilities (access to toilets) or village halls. These are, however, not always accessible and typical come with a rental cost for use and in the cases of primary school sites do not include changing rooms.

Local Football Facility Plan

The LFFP for Pendle identify sites considered as priority sites for clubhouse and changing facility improvements, although there may again be a need to amend and/or add to this list based on the findings of this study.

It recommends that the following three sites for Pendle should be a priority for ancillary refurbishment/ replacement:

- ❖ Saint John Fisher and Thomas More High School
- ❖ Burnley Belvedere FC/ Burnley RUFC
- ❖ Pendle Forest Sports Club

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 160 teams from across 24 affiliated clubs play regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Pendle. This consists of 25 adult men's, three adult women's, 59 youth boys', 17 youth girls' and 56 mini teams.

Table 2.8: Summary of football team demand playing in Pendle

Age group	No. of teams
Pendle	-
Adult Men's (18-45)	25
Adult Women's (18-45)	3
Youth Boys (12-17)	41
Youth Girls (12-17)	9
Youth Boys (10-11)	18
Youth Girls (10-11)	8
Mini Mixed (8-9)	25
Mini Mixed (6-7)	31
Total	160

When broken down in Pendle, the Colne & District Analysis Area provides for the largest number of teams with a total of 45 teams (28%). Conversely, the Barrowford & Western Analysis Area provides the least with 26 teams (16%). Overall, in the Borough, youth 11v11 football is the predominant playing format (50 teams), whilst mini 7v7 football has the fewest teams (25).

Table 2.9: Summary of number of competitive teams playing matches in Pendle

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	0	15	0	3	8	26
Brierfield & Reedley	3	8	4	4	8	27
Colne & District	8	11	9	7	10	45
Nelson	7	7	7	7	0	28
West Craven	10	9	6	4	5	34
Total	28	50	26	25	31	160

Of the 160 teams in Pendle, 89% play on grass pitches. However, three adult men's, one adult women's, nine youth boys, three youth girls and one mini team access 3G pitches regularly for competitive match play across two sites at Nelson and Colne College and Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School.

For more information, see Part 3 of this report.

National League System

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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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 ground grading 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.

Ground grading assesses grounds from 1 to 7, with Grade 1 being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and Grade 6 being the requirement for Step 6 clubs. Please refer to the FA website for the full specifications for each⁵.

In Pendle, there are three teams which compete in the NLS. A summary of this demand is provided in the following table.

Table 2.10: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Pendle	-	-
Colne FC	North West Counties Premier Division	Step 5
Barnoldswick Town FC	North West Counties Premier Division	Step 5
Nelson FC	North West Counties First Division North	Step 6

The general principle for clubs in the NLS is that they must achieve the appropriate ground grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard, Grade 7 is an interim grade which must be met during the grace period of a club getting up to Grade 6 for Step six football. It is also important to note that from a ground grading perspective, the jump from a Regional Feeder League to Step 6 is significant and that, as a minimum, sites require a pitch with sports lighting, hardstanding areas for fans and turnstiles for fan entry.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly, there is a Women's NLS. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier needing to meet differing stadium accreditation requirements.

Although women's teams are still required to meet ground requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements (Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and four of the men's NLS, 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.

There are currently no women's teams from Pendle playing within the women's NLS.

Women's and girls' demand

There are currently three women's teams and 17 dedicated girls' teams playing football in Pendle. This represents 13% of all demand across the Authority.

⁵ [Link to FA Ground Grading](#)

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Key clubs and organisations presently fielding female teams include Barrowford Celtic, BFC Women Juniors, Burnley Belvedere and Barnoldswick Town Juniors football clubs. Teams typically play locally in the East Lancashire Football Alliance and the Lancashire Women's County League.

The FA has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation as part of its Inspiring Positive Change Strategy. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities are suitable for female access and attractive to encourage participation, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing provision.

Walking football

Walking football is an alternate version of football than the format which is governed by the Football Association. The walking format is governed by The Walking Football Association. The sport has picked up popularity in recent years and has a typical demographic of over 50s for men and over 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.

In Pendle, Burnley FC in the Community provides specific and free to access walking football sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays on the small sided indoor 3G pitch at The Leisure Box. There is also one known community team: Colne Walking Football Club. These play at Soccer Burnley (Woodland Spa).

All known activity across both local authorities is based on 3G pitches.

Imported demand

The only known imported demand into Pendle is from BFC Women Juniors and Padiham United. BFC Women Juniors is based in the neighbouring authority of Burnley and comes into Pendle to access the 3G pitch at Nelson and Colne College. Padiham United also imports demand from Burnley and plays within the Pendle Charity Sunday League on Sundays which access pitches across the Borough, with venues allocated by the league, however, the majority of the team's matches are played at Holt House Playing Fields.

All of the imported demand referenced is done so due to leagues and venues used to suit the Clubs requirements for the level of football played. No issues were raised about looking to relocate this demand.

Exported demand

There is currently no known exported demand outside of Pendle.

Unmet/latent demand

No unmet or latent demand is identified in Pendle, with all responsive clubs identifying that they can accommodate current demand levels and that no players are being turned away.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Future demand

Future demand can be defined via several ways, including through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand that could arise from housing developments across Pendle.

Participation growth

Of responding clubs in Pendle, five report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. This totals a predicted growth of nine teams.

Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	No. of teams	Gender	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁶
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
Barnoldswick Town FC	West Craven	1	Mens	Adult	0.5
Barnoldswick Town Juniors FC	West Craven	1	Boys	Youth 11v11	0.5
Barnoldswick Town Juniors FC	West Craven	1	Girls	Youth 11v11	0.5
Barrowford Celtic FC	Barrowford & Western	1	Mens	Adult	0.5
Barrowford Celtic FC	Barrowford & Western	1	Womens	Adult	0.5
Nelson FC	Nelson	1	Womens	Adult	0.5
Nelson FC	Nelson	1	Boys	Youth 11v11	0.5
Nelson FC	Nelson	1	Mixed	Mini 7v7	0.5
Pendle Forest Sports Club FC	Barrowford & Western	1	Girls	Youth 9v9	0.5
Total	-	9	-	-	4.5

The total future demand expressed by clubs in Pendle amounts to 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week (as two teams equates to one match equivalent session playing on a home and away basis). Broken down by pitch type, one match equivalent session per week is identified on adult pitches, 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 11v11 pitches, 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches and 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2040 for Pendle (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand as per each authorities Local Plan), 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.

⁶ 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Total current population in Pendle of 92,531 will increase to 94,634 by 2040. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.12: 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 per week ⁷
Pendle	-	-	-	-
Adult Mens (16-45)	670.40	0.57	0	0
Adult Womens (16-45)	5,477.10	0.07	0	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	60.79	0.93	0	0
Youth Girls (12-15)	262.49	0.20	0	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	72.40	0.41	0	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	155.98	0.18	0	0
Mini Mixed (8-9)	100.23	0.57	0	0
Mini Mixed (6-7)	82.05	0.70	0	0

As seen for Pendle there is no predicted future growth in teams through population change.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that some aims and initiatives are likely to result in participation increasing to a greater level than what is projected through population growth. For example, the FA has a focus on growing women's and girls' demand that will likely see a greater number of female teams than what is currently predicted.

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. However, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised.

Taking the above into consideration there will be no future demand applied for Pendle at this stage.

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.

⁷ 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in Pendle:

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

Table 2.14 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, the current usage at such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use.

The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in less grass pitch use).

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play.

Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

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

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time and are considered to be secure tenure. In both Pendle, peak time is Saturday afternoons for adult football and Sunday mornings for youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 football. Peak time is based on when most teams play matches for each format of play.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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

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

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as 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 friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order 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 2.14.

Table 2.13: 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 but 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 2.14: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Active Places ID	Com use	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁸	Carrying capacity ⁹	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	Barrowford Road Playing Fields	BB8 9QP	Colne & District	30006941	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
2	Beverley Road Playing Fields	BB9 6LX	Barrowford & Western	6004491	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
4	Bullholme Playing Field	BB9 8PU	Barrowford & Western	1208413	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini Mini	(7v7) (5v5)	2	Standard	2.5	8	5.5	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
4	Bullholme Playing Field	BB9 8PU	Barrowford & Western	1208413	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	6.5	4	2.5	-	Pitches are overplayed by 2.5 MES per week.
5	Burnley Belvedere FC	BB10 2LE	Brierfield & Reedley	30009722	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	3	3	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
6	Burnley RUFC	BB10 2LE	Brierfield & Reedley	1208414	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Youth Youth	(11v11) (9v9)	1	Good	6	4	2	-	Pitch is overplayed by two MES per week.
9	Colne Park High School	BB8 7DP	Colne & District	1201538	No	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
9	Colne Park High School	BB8 7DP	Colne & District	1201538	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
10	Colne Primet Academy	BB8 8JF	Colne & District	6004496	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
12	Edge End Playing Fields	BB9 0PY	Nelson	1042688	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
16	Hill Top Recreation Ground	BB18 6PX	West Craven	6006000	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
18	Holt House Playing Fields	BB8 9SF	Colne & District	1208418	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2	2	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
18	Holt House Playing Fields	BB8 9SF	Colne & District	1208418	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	2	1	1	1	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.
18	Holt House Playing Fields	BB8 9SF	Colne & District	1208418	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.
18	Holt House Playing Fields	BB8 9SF	Colne & District	1208418	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
18	Holt House Playing Fields	BB8 9SF	Colne & District	1208418	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
20	John Bradley Playing Fields	BB9 5EY	Brierfield & Reedley	6005997	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
20	John Bradley Playing Fields	BB9 5EY	Brierfield & Reedley	6005997	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	4	1	3	-	Pitch is overplayed by three MES per week.
23	Marsden Heights Community College	BB9 0PR	Brierfield & Reedley	1040661	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	2	2	0	2	Pitches are played to capacity.
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	BB12 9QQ	Barrowford & Western	6004189	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	1	3	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

⁸ Match equivalent sessions per week

⁹ Match equivalent sessions per week, based on pitch quality - the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Analysis area	Active Places ID	Com use	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play ⁸	Carrying capacity ⁹	Capacity balance	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	BB12 9QQ	Barrowford & Western	6004189	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Good	3	12	9	-	Pitches are played to capacity at peak time.
30	Pendle Vale College	BB9 8LF	Nelson	6004510	No	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	1	Pitch is played to capacity.
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	BB18 6JG	West Craven	6004519	Yes	Industry Sports Club	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	BB18 6JG	West Craven	6004519	Yes	Industry Sports Club	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
36	Silentnight Stadium	BB18 5LJ	West Craven	30003416	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted to protect NLS pitch quality.
37	Sough Park	BB18 6SY	West Craven	6006038	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
38	Springfield Recreation Ground	BB18 6LS	West Craven	6005995	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth <i>Mini</i>	(9v9) (7v7)	1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES per week.
40	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Barnoldswick)	BB18 5EN	West Craven	30004314	No	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
41	Swinden Playing Fields	BB9 8SJ	Nelson	1208421	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	3	2	2	-	Pitch is overplayed by two MES per week.
41	Swinden Playing Fields	BB9 8SJ	Nelson	1208421	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.
43	Trawden Recreation Ground	BB8 8RR	Colne & District	1040861	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	1.5	Pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.
43	Trawden Recreation Ground	BB8 8RR	Colne & District	1040861	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
44	Nori Stadium (Colne Football Club)	BB8 9RT	Colne & District	6020603	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult <i>Mini</i>	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5		Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. NLS pitch for Colne FC.
45	Victoria Park (Nelson)	BB9 7BN	Nelson	6015997	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted to protect Step pitch quality.
46	Victory Park	BB18 5EN	West Craven	1208423	Yes	Sport Club	Secure	Adult		1	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
46	Victory Park	BB18 5EN	West Craven	1208423	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini <i>Mini</i>	(7v7) (5v5)	1	Poor	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one MES per week.
46	Victory Park	BB18 5EN	West Craven	1208423	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth <i>Youth</i>	(11v11) (9v9)	2	Poor	2	2	0	1.5	Pitch is played to capacity.
48	West Craven High School	BB18 5TB	West Craven	1041295	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
65	St Paul's Primary School	BB9 0PY	Nelson	-	Yes	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Actual spare capacity

In Pendle actual spare capacity totals three match equivalent sessions per week across four pitches.

This has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type below.

Table 2.15: Summary of actual spare capacity on grass football pitches match equivalent sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult pitches	Youth 11v11 pitches	Youth 9v9 pitches	Mini 7v7 pitches	Mini 5v5 pitches	Total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	1.5	-	-	-	-	1.5
Brierfield & Reedley	-	-	-	-	-	0
Colne & District	-	-	-	-	-	0
Nelson	1	-	-	-	-	1
West Craven	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
Pendle Total	3	0	0	0	0	3

In Pendle all actual spare capacity is identified on adult pitches (three match equivalent sessions), with no actual spare capacity across other pitch types. On an analysis area basis, most actual spare capacity is in the Barrowford & Western Analysis Area (1.5 match equivalent sessions).

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity caused by poor quality).

In Pendle, 14 pitches across nine sites are overplayed by a combined total of 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.16: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES per week)
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-
4	Bullholme Playing Field	Barrowford & Western	Youth (11v11)	2	2.5
6	Burnley RUFC	Brierfield & Reedley	Youth (11v11)	1	2
18	Holt House Playing Fields	Colne & District	Adult	1	1
18	Holt House Playing Fields	Colne & District	Mini (5v5)	1	1
20	John Bradley Playing Fields	Brierfield & Reedley	Youth (11v11)	1	3
38	Springfield Recreation Ground	West Craven	Youth (9v9)	1	1.5
41	Swinden Playing Fields	Nelson	Mini (7v7)	1	2
41	Swinden Playing Fields	Nelson	Youth (9v9)	2	0.5

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES per week)
43	Trawden Recreation Ground	Colne & District	Adult	2	0.5
44	Nori Stadium (Colne Football Club)	Colne & District	Adult	1	0.5
46	Victory Park	West Craven	Mini (7v7)	1	1
-	-	-	Total	14	15.5

The most overplay in Pendle is situated in the Brierfield & Reedley Analysis Area (five match equivalent sessions per week) and on youth 11v11 pitches (7.5 match equivalent sessions per week). Conversely, mini 5v5 pitches have the least amount of overplay, equating to a total of one match equivalent session per week.

Table 2.17: Summary of overplay of grass football pitches in match equivalent sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult pitches	Youth 11v11 pitches	Youth 9v9 pitches	Mini 7v7 pitches	Mini 5v5 pitches	Total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	-	2.5	-	-	-	2.5
Brierfield & Reedley	-	5	-	-	-	5
Colne & District	2	-	-	-	1	3
Nelson	-	-	0.5	2	-	2.5
West Craven	-	-	1.5	1	-	2.5
Pendle Total	2	7.5	2	3	1	15.5

Most overplay is generated from high levels of demand, in some instances regardless of quality. However, it should be noted that most overplayed pitches are only marginally overplayed, although there are exceptions in Pendle such as the pitches at Bullholme Playing Fields, Swinden Playing Fields and John Bradley Playing Fields. Overplay across these three sites equates to eight match equivalent sessions per week.

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

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

Adult pitches

At present, across adult pitches in Pendle, four pitches at three sites have actual spare capacity equalling three match equivalent sessions per week, whilst overplay of two match equivalent sessions per week is identified on four adult pitches across three sites.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 2.18: Supply and demand position for adult pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.5
Brierfield & Reedley	-	-	0	-	0
Colne & District	-	2	2	-	2
Nelson	1	-	1	-	1
West Craven	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
Pendle Total	3	2	1	0	1

Overall, in Pendle there is currently spare capacity across adult pitches of one match equivalent session per week. Furthermore, a deficit is found in only the Colne & District Analysis Area. As there is no predicted future demand from population growth, the future position remains the same.

Youth 11v11 pitches

At present in Pendle, across youth 11v11 pitches there are no pitches that offer actual spare capacity. However, there is a level of overplay on four pitches across three sites of 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.19: Supply and demand for youth 11v11 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	-	2.5	2.5	-	2.5
Brierfield & Reedley	-	5	5	-	5
Colne & District	-	-	0	-	0
Nelson	-	-	0	-	0
West Craven	-	-	0	-	0
Pendle Total	0	7.5	7.5	0	7.5

Overall, in Pendle there is a current shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week across youth 11v11 pitches. Furthermore, a deficit is found in the Barrowford & Western and Brierfield & Reedley analysis areas. As there is no predicted future demand the future position remains the same.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Youth 9v9 pitches

At present in Pendle, across youth 9v9 pitches there are no pitches that offer actual spare capacity. However, there is a level of overplay on three pitches across two sites of two match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.20: Supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	-	-	0	-	0
Brierfield & Reedley	-	-	0	-	0
Colne & District	-	-	0	-	0
Nelson	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
West Craven	-	1.5	1.5	-	1.5
Pendle Total	0	2	2	0	2

Overall, in Pendle there is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions per week across youth 9v9 pitches. Furthermore, a deficit is found in the Nelson and West Craven analysis areas. As there is no predicted future demand the future position remains the same.

Mini 7v7 pitches

At present in Pendle, across mini 7v7 pitches there are no pitches that offer actual spare capacity. However, there is a level of overplay on two pitches across two sites of three match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.21: Supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	-	-	0	-	0
Brierfield & Reedley	-	-	0	-	0
Colne & District	-	-	0	-	0
Nelson	-	2	2	-	2
West Craven	-	1	1	-	1
Pendle Total	0	3	3	0	3

Overall, in Pendle there is a current shortfall of three match equivalent sessions per week across mini 7v7 pitches. Furthermore, a deficit is found in the Nelson and West Craven analysis areas. As there is no predicted future demand the future position remains the same.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Mini 5v5 pitches

At present in Pendle, across mini 5v5 pitches there are no pitches that offer actual spare capacity. However, there is a level of overplay on one pitch across one site of one match equivalent session per week.

Table 2.22: Supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	-	-	0	-	0
Brierfield & Reedley	-	-	0	-	0
Colne & District	-	1	1	-	1
Nelson	-	-	0	-	0
West Craven	-	-	0	-	0
Pendle Total	0	1	1	0	1

Overall, in Pendle there is a current shortfall of one match equivalent sessions per week across mini 5v5 pitches. Furthermore, a deficit is found in the Colne & District Analysis Area. As there is no predicted future demand the future position remains the same.

2.6: Conclusion

In conclusion, at an authority wide level in Pendle, there are current shortfalls across youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 pitches and mini 5v5 pitches, whilst capacity is sufficient across adult provision. Future demand would see the shortfalls further exacerbated.

Table 2.23: Supply and demand analysis for all football pitches in match equivalent sessions

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	3	2	1	0	1
Youth 11v11	0	7.5	7.5	0	7.5
Youth 9v9	0	2	2	0	2
Mini 7v7	0	3	3	0	3
Mini 5v5	0	1	1	0	1

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Pendle – football supply and demand summary

- Overall, there are current shortfalls across youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 pitches and mini 5v5 pitches, whilst capacity is sufficient across adult provision.

Pendle – football supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 50 grass football pitches within Pendle across 26 sites, with 43 pitches across 21 sites identified as being available for community use.
- Tenure of football sites in Pendle is generally secure, although not at most educational sites.
- Of the pitches that are available for community use, seven pitches (16%) are rated as good quality, 11 as standard quality (26%) and 25 as poor quality (58%).
- Of the sites used for community football in Pendle two (9%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, eight (38%) by standard quality facilities and five (24%) by poor quality facilities. The remaining six (29%) sites are not known to be serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

Pendle – football demand summary

- There are a total of 160 teams from across 24 affiliated clubs playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Pendle. This consists of 25 adult men's, three adult women's, 59 youth boys', 17 youth girls' and 56 mini teams.
- Three clubs play within the men's national league system and have to adhere to ground grading.
- There is no predicted future growth in teams through population.
- Of responding clubs in Pendle, four report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. This totals a predicted growth of seven teams.

PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) PITCHES

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 union, more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for the sport. The artificial surface standards identified allows contact training and 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. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, meaning World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements, subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test.

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

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

3.2: Supply

The recommended dimensions for a 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.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered e.g., a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 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 size 3G pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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

The table below summarises all 3G pitch provision in Pendle by size and analysis area.

In Pendle, there are three 11v11 size and two smaller size 3G pitches identified, all pitches are available for community use. All pitches have sports lighting.

Table 3.1: Number of small size and 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area

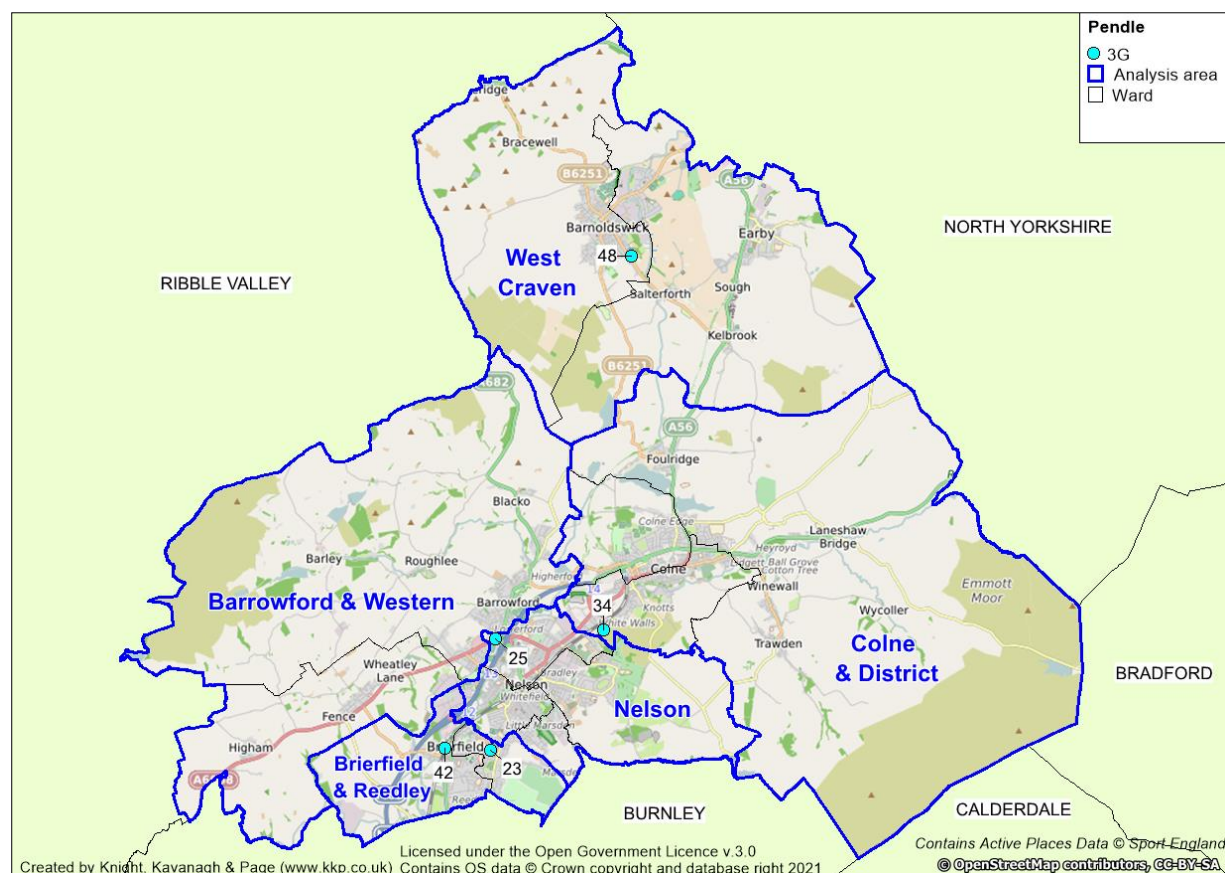
Analysis area	11v11 size available for community use	11v11 size unavailable for community use	Small size available for community use	Small size unavailable for community use
Pendle	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	-	-	-	-
Brierfield & Reedley	1	-	1	-
Colne & District	1	-	-	-
Nelson	1	-	-	-
West Craven	-	-	1	-
Total	3	0	2	0

In Pendle, there is no 3G provision in the Barrowford & Western Analysis Area. Whilst the West Craven Analysis Area only has access to small size 3G provision.

Please see the figure below for the location of the 3G pitches currently servicing Pendle. See Table 3.2 for a key to the map.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Pendle



PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 3.2: Summary of all 3G pitches in Pendle

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Analysis area	Postcode	Size	Community use?	Number of pitches	Sports lighting?	Dimensions (metres)	Year built/refurbished	Certification (Expiration)
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Marsden Heights Community College	1040661	Brierfield & Reedley	BB9 0PR	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	92x55	2021	FA (31/05/2027)
25	Nelson and Colne College	1203438	Nelson	BB9 7YT	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	92 x 50	2014	FA (31/05/2025)
34	Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School	1203376	Colne & District	BB8 8JT	11v11	Yes	1	Yes	100 x 64	2017	FA (31/05/2026)
42	The Leisure Box	30008152	Brierfield & Reedley	BB9 5NH	Small	Yes	1	Yes	55 x 37	2018	FA (31/05/2024)
48	West Craven High School	1041295	West Craven	BB18 5TB	Small	Yes	1	Yes	50 x 30	2015	-

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Potential future provision

The Pendle LFFP identifies sites to be considered as priority sites for 3G pitch development, although there will be a need to amend and/or add to the LFFP list based on the findings of this study. In summary, the 2019 plan recommends developments at the following sites:

- ◆ West Craven College – 11v11 size 3G pitch.
- ◆ Colne Primet Academy or Nori Stadium - 11v11 size 3G pitch.

Since the production of the LFFP, none of the abovementioned sites have been developed, albeit a new 3G pitch has been provided at Marsden Heights Community College (2021).

In line with the LFFP, Colne FC reports that it is currently exploring the opportunity to convert its stadia pitch. However, due to funding it cannot currently undertake such a development, without applying to the Premier League Stadia Fund albeit it is concerned about the wait time for a response to applications and aspires to have the development completed sooner.

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.

For pitches used by affiliated grassroots football clubs (below regional feeder league level) and clubs in the Women's Football Pyramid (Tier 3), the minimum requirement of testing is the FA Register Test. However, matches played at Step 1 to 6 of the Men's National League System must follow more stringent testing, with this including a minimum pitch size of 100 x 64 metres, a run-off area of between 1.83 metres (Step 2-6) and 2.25 metres (Step 1), a consistent playing surface shade of green and appropriate line markings. In addition, FA testing must take place annually rather than every three years.

As for 3G pitches used in the Women's Football Pyramid; at Tier 1, matches cannot be played on a 3G pitch, whilst existing 3G pitches at Tier 2 must be accredited to the FIFA Recommended Quality performance standard.

In Pendle all three community available 11v11 size 3G pitches are either FA or FIFA certified.

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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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

There is currently no World Rugby compliant 11v11 size pitch in Pendle. However, on the boundary of Borough, near Burnley RUFC there is a pitch at Prairie Sports Village in Burnley. Burnley RUFC has a community use agreement with the site and accesses the pitch on a weekly basis for a training session.

Management

The table below summarises the management of all 11v11 size 3G pitches across Pendle. In Pendle, all three 11v11 size pitches are managed by schools/colleges.

Table 3.3: Summary of 11v11 size 3G pitch management

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management
-	Pendle	-	-
23	Marsden Heights Community College	Brierfield & Reedley	School
25	Nelson and Colne College	Nelson	College
34	Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School	Colne & District	School

In terms of the smaller size pitches in Pendle, both are under Trust management. With the pitch at West Craven High School managed by Pendle Leisure Trust and the Leisure Box pitch under Burnley FC in the Community.

Availability

The availability at each site with an 11v11 size 3G pitch is summarised in the table below. 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.

As seen, availability is generally good for the pitches that are available for community use, with minimal restrictions in place.

Table 3.4: Summary of 11v11 size 3G pitch opening hours in Pendle

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Availability
-	Pendle	-	-
23	Marsden Heights Community College	Brierfield & Reedley	Mon-Fri 17:00 to 21:00 Sat-Sun 09:00 to 17:00
25	Nelson and Colne College	Nelson	Mon-Fri 18:00 to 21:00 Sat-Sun 09:00 to 17:00
34	Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School	Colne & District	Mon-Fri 17:00 to 22:00 Sat-Sun 09:00 to 17:00

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Quality

It is considered that the carpet of a 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 refurbishment beyond this period.

For the 11v11 size 3G pitches in Pendle, there is one good quality pitch and two standard quality pitches, there are no poor quality pitches identified in Pendle. Of the small size 3G pitches, both are assessed as standard quality.

Table 3.5: Age and quality of 3G pitches in Pendle

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Size	Number of pitches	Year installed/ last resurfaced	Quality
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
23	Marsden Heights Community College	Brierfield & Reedley	11v11	1	2021	Good
25	Nelson and Colne College	Nelson	11v11	1	2014	Standard
34	Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School	Colne & District	11v11	1	2017	Standard
42	The Leisure Box	Brierfield & Reedley	Small	1	2018	Standard
48	West Craven High School	West Craven	Small	1	2015	Standard

Ancillary facilities

No significant issues have been identified regarding the ancillary facilities servicing the 3G pitches across Pendle, although as some are located at school sites, the provision is generally not dedicated to the supply. Nevertheless, this is not considered to be a major issue given that most use is for training and recreational football, with users therefore tending to show up ready to play rather than relying on good access to changing rooms.

Smart access

The Premier League, FA and the Football Foundation is seeking to establish a single supplier booking system framework to support its delivery of key products and programmes. For 3G pitches, it is identified that in recent years the industry has seen major innovations and improvements to artificial surfaces (and sports lighting), which has created playing surfaces that replicate a good standard natural turf pitch whilst significantly increasing levels of use. The Foundation has therefore undertaken research with applicants and there is a clear demand for accessing a booking system framework from its historic and future applicants.

3.3: Demand

The 3G pitches currently servicing Pendle are broadly reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This applies not only to midweek capacity but also to weekend capacity on account of four of the 11v11 pitches being FA approved to host competitive matches.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Any spare capacity that remains on the provision is often at times deemed unfavourable by clubs such as on midweek evenings between 17:00 and 18:00, which is difficult to arrange logistically, or on Mondays and Fridays, which are deemed too close to competitive fixtures. Also, any capacity remaining at the weekend is generally outside of peak time for match play such as on Sunday afternoons.

Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related.

Demand is further detailed on a site-by-site basis in the table overleaf, with current usage compared against availability for each 11v11 size 3G pitch. For this, the hours of availability have been multiplied by four for midweek capacity based on most 11v11 size pitches being divided into quarters for training demand, with capacity then considered to exist if at least a quarter of a pitch is currently unused for at least a one-hour slot. Weekend availability is unaltered as 11v11 pitch hire is more likely to be required i.e., for adult and youth 11v11 match play.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 3.6: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch demand site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability in the peak period (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability in the peak period (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)	Comments
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
23	Marsden Heights Community College	72	54	16	12	18 slots remain during midweek (generally between 5-6pm) and four at weekends.
25	Nelson and Colne College	52	52	16	10	All slots booked during, and six hour slots remain at weekends.
34	Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School	72	50	16	14	22 slots remain during midweek (generally between 5-6pm) and two at weekends.

Demand relating to smaller size pitches is not included within the above as insufficient data has been made available to inform this study. Furthermore, the supply is not as capable of accommodate sufficient levels of training and match play demand.

Imported demand

There is no known imported demand into Pendle.

Exported demand

Known exported demand from Pendle is from Burnley Belvedere FC and Burnley RUFC which access the 3G pitch in neighbouring Burnley at Prairie Sports Village. Due to close proximity its home site, this demand does not need re-accommodating as it is likely to continue long-term.

Unmet/latent demand

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

In Pendle, 71% of football clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a relatively high proportion of unmet demand. Over three quarters (87%) of these clubs are currently training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all their teams, or do not have access at preferred times.

The remaining clubs expressing unmet demand (13%) are not training on 3G pitches at all and are instead using sand-based pitches (particularly at Pendle Vale College) or grass pitches, either at their home grounds or elsewhere. In total around 20 teams in Pendle are using sand-based pitches for training.

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, there is currently no future demand for football in Pendle. It is expected that demand for football will remain largely static over the PPOSS period.

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

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

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a sports lit 3G surface, together with priority access for every England Accredited Club through a partnership agreement. As such, it has established a model to calculate the required number of pitches to meet demand, with one 11v11 size pitch being required to service every 38 teams within a local authority.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

This is based on peak time access being Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings (Mondays and Fridays are discounted as it is considered that teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match, and it also allows for other forms of access such as for commercial leagues and recreational play).

For the model, in addition to 11v11 size pitches being included, some smaller sized pitches can also be incorporated as nationally many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. To calculate their contribution, a pitch large enough to cater for youth matches (but not adult) is considered to be the equivalent of half an 11v11 size pitch (0.5 pitches). Any pitch smaller than this is discounted, as are any pitches that are unavailable for community use.

The contribution each pitch makes towards the modelling is summarised in the table below. This then informs the proceeding tables.

Table 3.7: Contribution of 3G pitches in meeting training requirements

Site name	Analysis area	Size (metres)	Comments	11v11 pitch equivalents
Pendle	-	-	-	-
Marsden Heights Community College	Brierfield & Reedley	92x55	11v11 size pitch fully available to the community.	1
Nelson and Colne College	Nelson	92 x 50	11v11 size pitch fully available to the community.	1
Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School	Colne & District	100 x 64	11v11 size pitch fully available to the community.	1
The Leisure Box	Brierfield & Reedley	55 x 37	Enough to support a small level of mini team training demand.	0.25
West Craven High School	West Craven	50 x 30	Enough to support a small level of mini team training demand.	0.25
-	-	-	Total	3.5

No clubs currently report using any of the pitches for training that have been discounted in the table above, further evidencing their unsuitability for this purpose.

Based on 160 teams currently playing on football pitches in Pendle, there is a theoretical need for 4.25 11v11 size 3G pitches (rounded up from 4.21). As there are currently 3.5 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents provided, this means that there is a potential need for 0.75 additional 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet all current training demand.

Table 3.8: Current demand for 3G pitches in Pendle (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current number of teams	3G requirement ¹⁰	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
Pendle	-	-	-
160	4.25	3.5	0.75

¹⁰ Rounded to the nearest 0.25.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

As set out in Part 2 of this report, **based on population change forecasts** there is currently no future demand for football in Pendle. On this basis, the current shortfall is consistent with the future shortfall.

Table 3.9: Future demand for 3G pitches in Pendle (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	3G requirement ¹¹	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
Pendle	-	-	-
160	4.25	3.5	0.75

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 Pendle, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

Table 3.10: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement ¹²	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
Pendle	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	26	0.75 (0.68)	0	0.75
Brierfield & Reedley	27	0.75 (0.71)	1.25	-
Colne & District	45	1.25 (1.18)	1	0.25
Nelson	28	0.75 (0.74)	1	-
West Craven	34	1 (0.89)	0.25	0.75

This shows an overall shortfall of 1.75 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents in Pendle and identifies that there are specific shortfalls in the Barrowford & Western, Colne & District and West Craven analysis areas.

The role of sand/water-based pitches

The above section assumes that all football teams should train on 3G pitches. However, in practice, there is a national need for a proportion of football training demand to be retained on hockey suitable AGPs to maintain the financial and commercial sustainability of such provision. This is especially the case where only minimal hockey demand exists, at which point the provision needs to be protected for hockey use but can require supplementary activity in order to remain viable.

In Pendle, the full size AGP at Pendle Vale College accommodates some hockey demand, however, it also has relatively high football demand.

For further information, please see Part 7: Hockey.

¹¹ Rounded to the nearest 0.25.

¹² Rounded to the nearest 0.5.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Match play demand

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

In Pendle all community available 11v11 size 3G pitches are FA registered to host competitive matches and 17 affiliated teams.

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

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

Rugby union

There is no evidence to warrant the creation of additional World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Pendle. This is due to the usage of Nelson and Colen College for rugby union training but also due to the proximity and use agreement for Burnley RUFC at Prairie Sports Village in Burnley.

Other sports

There is no known usage of 3G pitch provision for any other affiliated sports in Pendle, other than football. Furthermore, there is no known ambitions from clubs to access such provision currently or in the future (e.g., American football and rugby league).

Football usage, outside of affiliated football is predominantly recreationally led. Small sided leagues are popular locally with all 11v11 pitches having records of this activity taking place during off-peak periods (Mondays and Fridays typically).

Burnley FC in the Community also provides specific and free to access walking football sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays on the small sided indoor 3G pitch at The Leisure Box. There is also one known community team: Colne Walking Football Club. These play at Soccer Burnley (Woodland Spa).

3.5: Conclusion

For football, there is a current shortfall of 3G pitches in Pendle to meet requirements, as evidenced through the levels of demand evidenced and with only minimal amounts of spare capacity remaining on the current supply of pitches especially for midweek training. In addition, priority should be set on utilising 3G pitches for match play on weekends on a more regular basis which in turn could support overplay identified on grass football pitches across both authorities.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will identify areas and sites that should be prioritised for provision moving forward, taking into account existing proposals.

Pendle – 3G supply and demand summary

- ▶ **Based on current demand, there is a shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training requirements, and shortfalls are evident within Barrowford & Western, Colne & District and West Craven analysis areas.**

Pendle – 3G supply summary

- ▶ In total, there are three 11v11 size and two smaller size 3G pitches identified, all pitches are available for community use.
- ▶ All of the community available 11v11 size pitches are either FA or FIFA certified.
- ▶ There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches.
- ▶ For the 11v11 size 3G pitches in Pendle, there is one good quality pitch and two standard quality pitches, there are no poor quality pitches identified in Pendle. Of the small size 3G pitches, both are assessed as standard quality.
- ▶ No ancillary facility issues have been identified.

Pendle – 3G demand summary

- ▶ The 3G pitches currently servicing Pendle are broadly reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- ▶ High levels of unmet demand for 3G pitch access is expressed, with 71% of responding football clubs stating that additional provision is required to meet or better cater for their training requirements.
- ▶ No significant exported or imported 3G pitch demand is identified, with the only known exported demand from Burnley Belvedere FC and Burnley RUFC which access the 3G pitch in neighbouring Burnley at Prairie Sports Village.

PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Lancashire Cricket Foundation (LCF) is the main governing and representative body for cricket for Pendle. 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 currently working with the ECB on delivering its Strategy, 'Inspiring Generations', which has been live since 2020.

For adult cricket in both authorities 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)

The County Facilities Strategy (CFS) is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment for cricket; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. It cannot be used in place of a PPS 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.

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, the county cricket boards will establish key stakeholders (clubs, leagues, county sports partnerships, county pitch advisors & Sport England 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)

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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.

Consultation

In total, eight affiliated cricket clubs are identified as playing within Pendle. Five clubs responded to consultation requests resulting in a response rate of 63%. In addition, Pendle District Cricket League was also consulted as part of the consultation process.

Table 4.1: Cricket club response rate

Club name	Club response
Pendle	5/8 (63%)
Barnoldswick CC	-
Barrowford CC	Yes
Burnley Belverdere CC	-
Colne CC	Yes
Earby CC	Yes
Foulridge CC	Yes
Nelson CC	Yes
Pendle Forest Sports Club CC	-

4.2: Supply

In total, there are ten grass wicket squares in Pendle, of which, all are available for community use. There are three community available squares in the Barrowford & Western Analysis Area whilst the Colne & District, Nelson and West Craven analysis areas all have two available squares each. Brierfield & Reedley Analysis Area has only one community available square.

Table 4.2: Summary of grass wicket squares and community availability

Analysis area	No. of community available squares	No. of unavailable squares
Pendle	-	-
Barrowford & Western	3	-
Brierfield & Reedley	1	-
Colne & District	2	-
Nelson	2	-
West Craven	2	-
Total	10	0

Disused squares

Rolls Royce Sports Ground (West Craven Analysis Area) previously had a grass cricket square maintained. The square consisted of seven wickets and has not been maintained since circa 2018, however the site is still actively used for football and rugby league activity.

Edge End Playing Fields (Nelson Analysis Area) formerly provided a single NTP and three grass wicket square that is no longer maintained for use. The site is still actively used for other sports.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Ringstone Playing Fields (Nelson Analysis Area) has a disused NTP located in the middle of the playing fields. The pitch is poor quality and is not utilised for any known demand and therefore considered to be disused.

Future supply

There are no known plans to develop new cricket provision within Pendle.

Ball strike

Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly a development which may prejudice the use of the cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken; further information can be provided by the ECB.

It should be noted that through consultation, there is currently a live issue with ball strike at Earby Cricket Club (Pendle). Planning permission for a development has recently been approved next to the existing ground, which has risen ball strike issues.

Non-turf pitches

A total of five non-turf pitches (NTPs) are identified in Pendle. Of these, three NTPs support existing grass wicket squares, with all others being standalone NTPs. four are available to the community.

Table 4.3: Summary of non-turf pitch locations

Site ID	Site name	Community use	Analysis area	Position
-	-	-	Pendle	-
3	Boundary Playing Fields (Nelson)	Yes	Nelson	Standalone
6	Burnley RUFC	Yes	Brierfield & Reedley	Square
11	Earby Cricket Club	Yes	West Craven	Square
23	Marsden Heights Community College	No	Brierfield & Reedley	Standalone
41	Swinden Playing Fields	Yes	Nelson	Square

In addition to the above, there are disused NTPs located at both Edge End Playing Fields (Pendle) and Ringstone Playing Fields (Pendle).

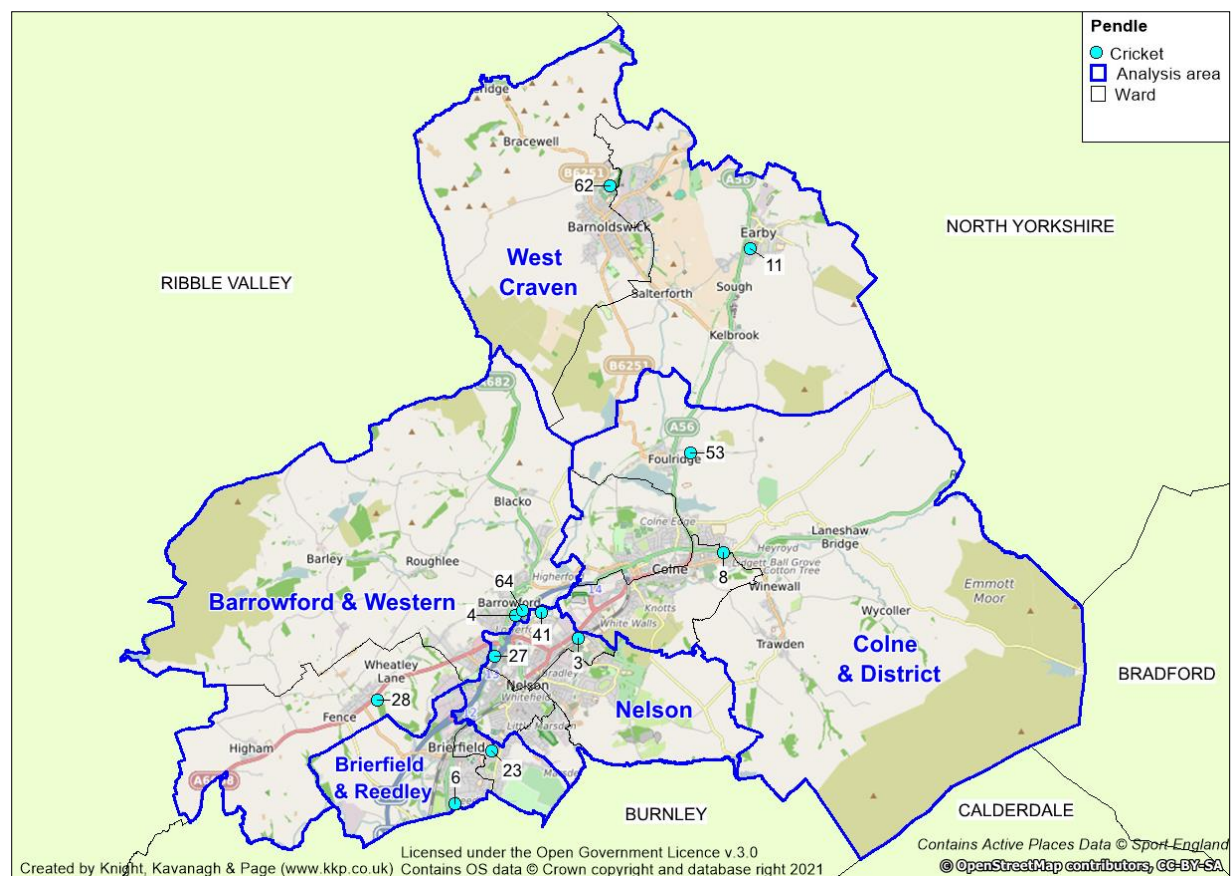
The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs are also frequently used for junior matches, which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets.

The maps below show the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Pendle.

For a key to the map see Table 4.4

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in Pendle



PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.4: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets
-	-	Pendle	-	-	-	-
3	Boundary Playing Fields (Nelson)	Nelson	Yes	1	-	1
4	Bullholme Playing Field	Barrowford & Western	Yes	1	4	-
6	Burnley RUFC	Brierfield & Reedley	Yes	1	7	1
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	Colne & District	Yes	1	10	-
11	Earby Cricket Club	West Craven	Yes	1	9	1
23	Marsden Heights Community College	Brierfield & Reedley	No	1	-	1
27	Nelson Cricket Club	Nelson	Yes	1	15	-
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	Barrowford & Western	Yes	1	6	-
41	Swinden Playing Fields	Nelson	Yes	1	6	1
53	Foulridge Cricket Club	Colne & District	Yes	1	6	-
62	Barnoldswick Cricket Club	West Craven	Yes	1	10	-
64	Barrowford Cricket Club	Barrowford & Western	Yes	1	6	-

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Management and security of tenure

Within Pendle most clubs own or lease their home grounds, with a small number of clubs/league with secure annual rental agreements.

Table 4.5: Summary of security of tenure for clubs

Site ID	Home ground	Club	Agreement	Tenure
-	Pendle	-	-	-
6	Burnley RUFC	Burnley Belverdere CC	Freehold	Secure
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	Colne CC	Freehold	Secure
11	Earby Cricket Club	Earby CC	Freehold	Secure
27	Nelson Cricket Club	Nelson CC	Long term lease agreement from Nelson Town Council	Secure
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	Pendle Forest Sports Club	Annual rolling rental agreement from Parish Council	Secure
41	Swinden Playing Fields	Pendle District Cricket League	Rental agreement from Pendle Borough Council	Secure
53	Foulridge Cricket Club	Foulridge CC	Long term lease agreement from Foulridge Parish Council (10 years remaining)	Secure
62	Barnoldswick Cricket Club	Barnoldswick CC	Long term lease agreement	Secure
64	Barrowford Cricket Club	Barrowford CC	Long term lease agreement from private landowner	Secure

No clubs currently leasing sites report issues with the agreements in place.

Pitch quality

The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%).

For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The audit of grass wicket cricket squares in Pendle found four (40%) to be good quality and six (60%) to be of standard quality. None are assessed as poor. All squares in Pendle are available for community use.

Table 4.6: Quality ratings for grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
-	-	Pendle	-	-
4	Bullholme Playing Field	Barrowford & Western	1	Standard
6	Burnley RUFC	Brierfield & Reedley	1	Standard
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	Colne & District	1	Good
11	Earby Cricket Club	West Craven	1	Good
27	Nelson Cricket Club	Nelson	1	Good
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	Barrowford & Western	1	Standard
41	Swinden Playing Fields	Nelson	1	Standard
53	Foulridge Cricket Club	Colne & District	1	Standard
62	Barnoldswick Cricket Club	West Craven	1	Good
64	Barrowford Cricket Club	Barrowford & Western	1	Standard

PitchPower Assessment

As mentioned in Part 2: Football, The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 for football and re-launched in 2022 with functionality for cricket, rugby league and rugby union pitches, the app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

The web app is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

The functionality of the app for cricket was trialled in 2023 and it set to become more commonly used in 2024. It is also unknown how the PitchPower assessments will be implemented into the PPOSS process moving forward, however, it is likely they will supersede non-technical assessments as they are more comprehensive and can provide detailed strategic recommendations on how facilities can be improved.

As a result, quality scores for cricket and recommendations within the PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan should be reviewed and updated as part of the Stage E process to reflect new technical assessments evidence and information when available.

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 Borough's is varied, with clubs playing at privately managed or sports club sites generally better served than those playing at community managed provision.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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 Pendle determines that two squares (20%) are accompanied by good quality provision, two squares (20%) are accompanied by standard quality provision and six squares (60%) have poor quality supporting ancillary provision.

Table 4.7: Changing room quality (at community available sites with natural turf squares)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Quality
-	-	Pendle	-	-
4	Bullholme Playing Field	Barrowford & Western	1	Good
6	Burnley RUFC	Brierfield & Reedley	1	Poor
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	Colne & District	1	Poor
11	Earby Cricket Club	West Craven	1	Good
27	Nelson Cricket Club	Nelson	1	Standard
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	Barrowford & Western	1	Poor
41	Swinden Playing Fields	Nelson	1	Poor
53	Foulridge Cricket Club	Colne & District	1	Standard
62	Barnoldswick Cricket Club	West Craven	1	Poor
64	Barrowford Cricket Club	Barrowford & Western	1	Poor

Barrowford CC (Pendle) reports that it does not currently meet the facility requirements for the League which it competes in. It reports that it needs covers for the square at Barrowford Cricket Club, which is an immediate requirement. In addition, for the Club to progress up divisions, there is a need to have showers available for players.

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.

Of the nine club/community available sites in Pendle seven (Bullholme Playing Field, Burnley Belvedere FC, Pendle Forest Sports Club, Foulridge Cricket Club, Barnoldswick Cricket Club, Barrowford Cricket Club and Swinden Playing Fields) do not have dedicated fixed net provision.

Where clubs do not have dedicated fixed net provision, they generally make use of mobile nets; these are used for practice utilising both/either of an NTP or grass practice wickets on the respective squares.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.8: Summary of current fixed net training facilities

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Training facility	Quality
-	-	Pendle	-	-
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	Colne & District	2x lane facility	Good
11	Earby Cricket Club	West Craven	2x lane facility	Standard
27	Nelson Cricket Club	Nelson	2x lane facility	Standard

Nelson CC (Pendle) has plans to resurface and replace its existing net provision onsite at Nelson Cricket Club. Although the nets are of a standard quality, they are coming to the end of their lifespan and will need replacing in the next few years.

4.3: Demand

Most clubs in Pendle are large clubs consisting of several senior teams and junior teams at various age groups. In addition to this there is several single team clubs which participate in the Ribble Valley Midweek Cricket League and Pendle District Cricket League.

In Pendle, there are eight clubs as well as the Pendle District Cricket League generating 32 senior men's teams, and 13 junior boys' teams.

Table 4.9: 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
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-
Barnoldswick Cricket Club	West Craven	3	-	3	-
Barrowford Cricket Club	Barrowford & Western	4	-	-	-
Burnley Belverdere CC	Brierfield & Reedley	2	-	-	-
Colne Cricket Club	Colne & District	3	-	3	-
Earby Cricket Club	West Craven	3	-	4	-
Foulridge CC	Colne & District	2	-	-	-
Nelson Cricket Club	Nelson	4	-	3	-
Pendle Forest Sports Club	Barrowford & Western	1	-	-	-
Pendle District Cricket League	-	10	-	-	-
-	Total	32	0	13	0

The biggest clubs (in terms of participation) in Pendle are Nelson CC and Earby CC both with seven teams.

Most teams in Pendle play in the West Craven Analysis Area which accommodates 13 teams (37%), followed by the Colne & District Analysis Area with eight teams (23%). The least number of teams is in the Brierfield & Reedley Analysis Area with two teams (6%).

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.10: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams
Pendle	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	5	-	-	-
Brierfield & Reedley	2	-	-	-
Colne & District	5	-	3	-
Nelson	4	-	3	-
West Craven	6	-	7	-
Total	22	0	13	0

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. There is currently no latent demand which was highlighted through consultation.

Imported/exported demand

Through consultation, no demand was identified as being imported into Pendle.

However, it should be noted that Pendle District Cricket League currently export some demand on Sundays for matches to Cowling Cricket Club (North Yorkshire Council) on an ad hoc basis.

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 Pendle.

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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Population forecasts

Based on population projections to 2040 for Pendle (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand as per the Local Plan), 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 Pendle of 92,531 will increase to 94,634 by 2040. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.11: 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	Peak time for population	Average games for age group	No. of match equivalent sessions per season ¹³
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Men (18-55yrs)	1: 669	0.73	0	Saturday	12	0
Women (18-55yrs)	0	0	0	Sunday	6	0
Boys (7-18yrs)	1:569	0.30	0	Midweek	6	0
Girls (7-18yrs)	0	0	0	Midweek	6	0

As seen in the above, there are no additional teams expected to be generated by population growth alone for Pendle.

Participation increases

Of the responding clubs in Pendle, one quantified its aspirations to increase levels of participation. This equates to a total predicted growth of one junior boys' team.

Table 4.12: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-
Barrowford CC	Barrowford & Western	-	-	1	-
-	Total	0	0	2	2

Future demand summary

Population increases will be taken through into the supply and demand analysis below. This is due to participation increases being seen as more aspirational. The impact of participation increases will be explored in a scenario in the preceding Strategy and Action Plan document.

¹³ 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Additional demand

All Stars cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine cricket clubs in Pendle 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 2023.

Table 4.13: Summary of All Stars and Dynamos participation

Site ID	Site	Club/organisation	All Stars	2022 sign ups	Dynamos	2022 sign ups
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	Colne CC	✓	8	-	0
27	Nelson Cricket Club	Nelson CC	✓	10	-	0
62	Barnoldswick Cricket Club	Barnoldswick CC	✓	25	-	0
-	-	Total	-	43	-	0

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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.

No clubs in Pendle report operating women's softball sections.

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.

Pendle District Cricket League

The Pendle District Cricket League is a South Asian cricket league consisting of ten teams which plays fixtures at numerous sites within Pendle. At present the League has two main sites at Bullhome Playing Field and Swinden Playing Fields. Whilst accessing Barrowford Cricket Club on a regular basis, it also accesses Foulridge Cricket Club and Cowling Cricket Club (North Yorkshire Council) on an ad hoc basis throughout the season.

The League traditionally played 35 over matches (over the course of a season) on Sunday afternoons. However, it reports that in recent years after the loss of access to Edge End Playing Fields and Victory Park (both squares of which are no longer maintained) it has had to change to a T20 format. It has ten teams, playing back to back fixtures across three sites on a Sunday afternoon at 12pm and 3.30pm.

The League wishes to revert to the 35 over format, however, reports that it requires at least five venues on a weekly basis in order to cater for all the demand on Sunday afternoons. In addition, it also suggests that it has interest to increase the number of teams in the league to fourteen. If it was to remain in its current format this would mean it requires at least one additional venue on a weekly basis to cater for such demand.

Representative cricket demand

Representative cricket for both Lancashire cricket county age groups and league representative teams takes place across Lancashire throughout the season. A high number of matches are played both during the day midweek and on Sundays. At present Pendle has no representative cricket played within the Borough.

Local school demand

Based on consultation feedback from schools and LCF it is noted that there is limited cricket played within local education settings.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for cricket across three distinct time periods which are Saturdays, Sundays, and Midweek (Monday to Friday).

Saturday is classified as peak time for senior men's cricket across Pendle where at present there is demand for 11 teams in Pendle to play within this period. It should be noted that the Lancashire Cricket League first and second divisions play matches on Sundays as standard and therefore most senior men's demand for Nelson and Colne (Pendle) cricket clubs are on Sunday afternoons. All three clubs also have senior demand on Saturday afternoons through their third- and fourth-men's senior teams.

Sundays also accommodates for both senior men's cricket and senior women's match play whether this is hardball or softball and some junior matches. On Sundays in Pendle there is demand for eight men's senior teams whilst junior teams generally access pitches on Sunday mornings and therefore this does not affect the availability of squares for senior cricket which is played in the afternoon. In Pendle there are four junior boys' teams reported to have demand on Sunday mornings.

Midweek is when most junior matches are played, as well as all club training, senior men's T20 matches and ECB initiatives All Stars and Dynamos cricket typically take place. In Pendle, there are nine junior boys and three senior midweek teams which all have demand for midweek play.

4.4: 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.

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

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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 4:15 in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and Midweek).

Table 4.14: 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 4.15: Capacity analysis of community available grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Analysis area	Users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Pitch 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
-	-	-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Bullholme Playing Field	1208413	Barrowford & Western	Pendle District Cricket League	Secure	1	Standard	5	20	22	2	Yes	No	Yes
6	Burnley RUFC	1208414	Brierfield & Reedley	Burnley Belverdere CC	Secure	1	Standard	7	28	23	5	No	Yes	Yes
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	1208425	Colne & District	Colne CC	Secure	1	Good	10	50	55	5	Yes	No	Yes
11	Earby Cricket Club	1208417	West Craven	Earby CC	Secure	1	Good	9	45	54	9	No	Yes	Yes
27	Nelson Cricket Club	1041396	Nelson	Nelson CC	Secure	1	Good	15	75	55	20	Yes	No	Yes
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	6004189	Barrowford & Western	Pendle Forest Sports Club	Secure	1	Standard	6	24	9	15	Yes	Yes	Yes
41	Swinden Playing Fields	1208421	Nelson	Pendle District Cricket League	Secure	1	Standard	6	24	22	2	Yes	No	Yes
53	Foulridge Cricket Club	-	Colne & District	Foulridge CC Pendle District Cricket League	Secure	1	Standard	6	24	30	6	No	Yes	Yes
62	Barnoldswick Cricket Club	-	West Craven	Barnoldswick CC	Secure	1	Good	10	50	49	1	No	Yes	Yes
64	Barrowford Cricket Club	-	Barrowford & Western	Barrowford CC Pendle District Cricket League	Secure	1	Standard	6	24	44	20	No	Yes	Yes

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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.

There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand on Saturdays in Pendle at two sites. These two sites can accommodate two additional teams in total.

Table 4.16: Sites with actual spare capacity to accommodate senior Saturday cricket

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of additional teams	Actual spare capacity
-	-	Pendle	-	-
27	Nelson Cricket Club	Nelson	1	12
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	Barrowford & Western	1	12

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 12 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.

There is actual spare capacity to accommodate additional match play demand on Sundays in Pendle at one site. The site can accommodate one additional team in total.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.17: Sites with actual spare capacity to accommodate senior Sunday cricket

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of additional teams	Actual spare capacity
-	-	Pendle	-	-
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	Barrowford & Western	1	12

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. 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 on Sundays in Pendle at two. These two sites can accommodate four additional teams in total.

Table 4.18: Sites with actual spare capacity to accommodate midweek cricket

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of additional teams	Actual spare capacity
-	-	Pendle	-	-
27	Nelson Cricket Club	Nelson	2	12
28	Pendle Forest Sports Club	Barrowford & Western	2	12

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 Pendle, 36 wickets are overplayed across five sites equating to 42 match equivalent sessions a season.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.19: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
-	-	Pendle	-
4	Bullholme Playing Field	Barrowford & Western	2
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	Colne & District	5
11	Earby Cricket Club	West Craven	9
53	Foulridge Cricket Club	Colne & District	6
64	Barrowford Cricket Club	Barrowford & Western	20
-	-	Total	42

4.5: 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.

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 4.20: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for senior cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Pendle	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	12	22	10
Brierfield & Reedley	-	-	0
Colne & District	-	11	11
Nelson	12	-	12
West Craven	-	9	9
Total	24	42	18

There is a current overall shortfall of 18 match equivalent sessions per season on grass wicket squares in Pendle on Saturdays. Shortfalls are currently evident in the Barrowford & Western, Colne & District and West Craven analysis areas. However, there is spare capacity of 12 match equivalent sessions per season in the Nelson Analysis Area. As there is no future demand from population growth for senior teams in Pendle, there is no expected change in demand for the future.

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 12 based on the average number of matches played by existing Sunday teams.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.21: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for Sunday cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Pendle	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	12	22	10
Brierfield & Reedley	-	-	0
Colne & District	-	11	11
Nelson	-	-	0
West Craven	-	9	9
Pendle Total	12	42	30

There is a current overall shortfall of 30 match equivalent sessions per season on grass wicket squares in Pendle on Saturdays. Shortfalls are currently evident in the Barrowford & Western, Colne & District and West Craven analysis areas. As there is no future demand from population growth for senior teams in Pendle, there is no expected change in demand for the future.

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.

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 4.22: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares for junior cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	12	22	10	-	10
Brierfield & Reedley	-	-	0	-	0
Colne & District	-	11	11	-	11
Nelson	12	-	12	-	12
West Craven	-	9	9	-	9
Total	24	42	18	0	18

There is a current overall shortfall of 30 match equivalent sessions per season on grass wicket squares in Pendle on Saturdays. Shortfalls are currently evident in the Barrowford & Western, Colne & District and West Craven analysis areas. As there is no future demand from population growth for junior teams in Pendle, there is no expected change in demand for the future.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

4.6: Conclusion

Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity on natural turf cricket squares to meet current demand for club cricket at a Borough wide level on Saturdays, Sundays and Midweek whilst in Pendle. As there is no future demand from population growth for senior and junior teams in Pendle, there is no expected change in demand for the future.

Table 4.23: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares summary

Peak time period	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
Saturday	24	42	18	-	18
Sunday	12	42	30	-	30
Midweek	24	42	18	0	18

Pendle - cricket 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 on Saturdays, Sundays and midweek.
- No future demand for cricket is identified through population changes through to the Local Plan period.

Pendle - cricket supply summary

- In total, there are ten grass wicket squares in Pendle, all of which, are available for community use.
- There are five non turf pitches (NTPs) in Pendle. Three accompany existing squares at club sites and two are located as standalone facilities at Boundary Playing Fields (Nelson) and Marsden Heights Community College.
- A natural turf square was formerly provided at Rolls Royce Sports Ground however has not been maintained since circa 2018. Edge End Playing Field formerly provided a three natural turf square and an NTP which has also come out of us. Finally, there is a disused NTP situated at Ringstone Playing Field.
- All community clubs playing within Pendle have secure tenure at their respective home sites.
- The audit of grass wicket cricket squares in Pendle found four (40%) to be good quality and six (60%) to be of standard quality. None are assessed as poor.
- The audit of ancillary facilities at community available grass pitch cricket sites in Pendle determines that two squares (20%) are accompanied by good quality provision, two squares (20%) are accompanied by standard quality provision and six squares (60%) have poor quality supporting ancillary provision.

Pendle - cricket demand summary

- In Pendle, there are eight clubs as well as the Pendle District Cricket League generating 32 senior men's teams, and 13 junior boys' teams.
- Locally, just Barrowford CC identify specific aspirations to increase the number of teams it provides. This growth equates to one junior team.
- Three clubs partake in ECB participation programme "All Stars" (Colne, Nelson and Barnoldswick cricket clubs). On this basis, it may be the case that these clubs see an increase in formal activity at junior level.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body and is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. Club developers, coach developers, club volunteers and teachers deliver programmes in schools and clubs across Pendle.

The RFU governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as The Touch Union 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.

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

Consultation

There are two community rugby union clubs playing in Pendle. As seen in the table below, one club (Colne & Nelson RUFC) responded to consultation requests, resulting in a 50% response rate.

It should be noted that Burnley RUFC is considered to be a Pendle based club due to its site location which technically lies in Pendle but is situated very close to the Burnley Borough Council boundary.

Table 5.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Pendle	-
Burnley RUFC	No
Colne & Nelson RUFC	Yes

5.2: Supply

Within Pendle, there are four rugby union pitches, all of which are available for community use. Provision is identified in only two analysis areas across the Borough, as seen in the table below, Brierfield & Reedley and Colne & District analysis areas which both have two pitches each.

Table 5.2: Supply of all rugby union pitches across Pendle

Analysis area	Number of rugby union pitches available for community use	Number of rugby union pitches unavailable for community use	Total
Pendle	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	-	-	0
Brierfield & Reedley	2	-	2
Colne & District	2	-	2
Nelson	-	-	0
West Craven	-	-	0
Total	4	0	4

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches that are serviced by goalposts. However, nationally, there are some additional marked 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, particularly at sites used by clubs. This is the case across Pendle as no dedicated age grade pitches are supplied.

It should also be noted that Clitheroe RFC is currently in discussions with the Council on changing use of a football pitch on Roefield Pitches to a senior rugby union pitch with posts installed.

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

Table 5.3: 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

Please see the figures below for the location of the pitches. For a key to the map, see Table 5.8.

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

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Pendle



Security of tenure

In Pendle, Burnley RUFC owns its home ground and therefore tenure is secure. Tenure is also considered secure for Colne & Nelson RUFC with the Club having a long term lease agreement in place from the Council.

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 5.4: 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

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether or not drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Table 5.5: 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 5.6: 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 Pendle, two are assessed as standard quality and two are assessed as poor quality. None are good quality.

Table 5.7: Quality of pitches available for community use

Senior pitches		
Pendle		
Good	Standard	Poor
-	2	2

All unavailable pitches are also assessed as good or standard quality. A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in the table overleaf.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 5.8: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Quality score	Quality rating
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Burnley RUFC	1208414	BB10 2LE	Brierfield & Reedley	Sport Club	Yes	Senior	Yes	M1 / D2	Standard
6	Burnley RUFC	1208414	BB10 2LE	Brierfield & Reedley	Sport Club	Yes	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
18	Holt House Playing Fields	1208418	BB8 9SF	Colne & District	Sport Club	Yes	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
18	Holt House Playing Fields	1208418	BB8 9SF	Colne & District	Sport Club	Yes	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Pendle have access to changing room provision for home games.

In Pendle, there is one site accompanied by poor quality provision (at Burnley RUFC) and one by standard quality provision (at Holt House Playing Fields).

Table 5.9: Ancillary facilities offered at each rugby club's home ground

Site ID	Site name	Club	Overall quality
-	Pendle	-	-
6	Burnley RUFC	Burnley RUFC	Poor
18	Holt House Playing Fields	Colne & Nelson RUFC	Standard

At Holt House Playing Fields, Colne & Nelson RUFC aspires to develop its function area. In recent years the changing facilities have had some investment, however, to improve the overall ancillary facilities, the Club wishes to modernise and update the function space.

At Burnley RUFC the main clubhouse and changing rooms require improvement. Although the main changing rooms are large enough, they require an update and modernising, whilst the second set of changing rooms are too small. The Club also wishes to modernise its showers and install cubicles as at present it is an open shower block.

5.3: Demand

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

Competitive demand

There are two clubs based in Pendle, collectively providing a total of 22 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of five senior men's, seven age grade boys', one aged grade girls' and nine mini teams.

This is summarised club-by-club in the following table.

Table 5.10: Summary of number of teams

Club	Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burnley RUFC	Brierfield & Reedley	3	0	7	1	5
Colne & Nelson RUFC	Colne & District	2	-	-	-	4
Total		5	0	7	1	9

In Pendle, Burnley RUFC is the largest club, with 16 teams, whilst Colne & Nelson RUFC is the smallest club with six teams. Both Burnley RUFC and Colne & Nelson RUFC previously accommodated a senior women's team, but due to poor facilities this folded.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 5.11: Summary of demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of teams				
	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	-	-	-	-	-
Brierfield & Reedley	3	0	7	1	5
Colne & District	2	-	-	-	4
Nelson	-	-	-	-	-
West Craven	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	0	7	1	9

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 Pendle only one pitch is serviced by permanent sports lighting at Burnley RUFC. In addition, there is a dedicated training area at Holt House Playing Fields for Colne & Nelson RUFC which has sports lighting.

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

Site ID	Site	Club	Training demand	No. of MES on grass pitches
-	Pendle	-	-	-
6	Burnley RUFC	Burnley RUFC	Sports lit pitch is used for training, accommodating four match equivalent sessions per week. The Club also accesses Prairie Sports Village 3G pitch located over the road from the Club for two hours per week for weekly training demand.	4
18	Holt House Playing Fields	Colne & Nelson RUFC	Sports lit training area is used for training midweek for two hours. Whilst the Club also accesses John Fisher and Thomas More High School 3G pitch for skill work training once a week. No training activity takes place on match pitches.	-

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby (WR) 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.

As mentioned previously, there are no WR compliant pitches in Pendle. However, Burnley RUFC exports demand outside of Pendle to the neighbouring borough of Burnley, where it accesses the Prairie Spirts Village WR compliant 3G pitch for training demand during the week.

It should also be noted that although no contact rugby union takes place, Colne & Nelson RUFC accesses the John Fisher and Thomas More High School 3G pitch for skill training on a weekly basis.

Additional demand

Burnley RUFC also operates a touch rugby session every week.

Exported/imported demand

There is no known imported demand into Pendle. Burnley RUFC exports demand to the neighbouring borough of Burnley, where it accesses the Prairie Spirts Village World Rugby compliant 3G pitch for training demand during the week. However, on a local level this is not considered to be an issue as provision is located across the street from the Club's site.

Unmet/latent demand

No unmet or latent demand is identified from clubs within Pendle. None report any issues with fielding their demand at present.

Future demand

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

Participation growth

Across Pendle, one of the clubs (Colne & Nelson RUFC) reports growth aspirations, with this amounting to a potential increase of three boy's teams.

Table 5.13: Summary of future demand expressed in teams

Club	Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mixed
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colne & Nelson RUFC	Colne & District	-	-	3	-	-
-	Total	0	0	3	0	0

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2040 for Pendle (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand as per the Local Plan), 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 Pendle of 92,531 will increase to 94,634 by 2040. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

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 ¹⁵
Pendle	-	-	-	-
Men (19-45yrs)	1:3,018	0.11	-	0
Women (19-45yrs)	0	0	-	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:503	0.16	-	0
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:3,418	0.02	-	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:842	0.20	-	0

As seen, there is no predicted growth within either Pendle. Any generated demand is likely to be encompassed into existing squads and teams.

However, it should also be referenced that 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 particularly likely given current RFU aspirations and due to the upcoming 2025 Rugby World Cup.

Club participation demand is considered to be more theoretical and aspirational and will not be included within the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section. However, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are realised.

The proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will also contain housing growth scenarios that can be used to estimate additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments across Pendle.

The peak period

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

¹⁵ 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

5.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch 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 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 5.15: 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 5.16 overleaf for the site by site capacity analysis.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 5.16: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Pendle

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Pitch type	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	Comments
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Burnley RUFC	Brierfield & Reedley	Yes	Sport Club	Senior	Yes	M1 / D2	Standard	2.5	1.5	4	3	Pitch is overplayed by 3 match equivalent sessions per week.
6	Burnley RUFC	Brierfield & Reedley	Yes	Sport Club	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	2	3.25	-	1.25	Pitch is overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week.
18	Holt House Playing Fields	Colne & District	Yes	Sport Club	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1.5	1.5	-	0	Pitch is played to capacity.
18	Holt House Playing Fields	Colne & District	Yes	Sport Club	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor	0.5	0.5	-	0	Pitch is played to capacity.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Actual spare capacity

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

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

In total, there is no actual spare capacity identified on grass rugby union pitches in Pendle.

Overplay

There are two pitches across one site in Pendle that is overplayed by a total of 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 5.17: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of overplayed pitches	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
-	Pendle	-	-	-
6	Burnley RUFC	Brierfield & Reedley	2	4.25

All overplay in Pendle is situated within the Brierfield & Reedley Analysis Area.

Table 5.18: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
Pendle	-
Barrowford & Western	-
Brierfield & Reedley	4.25
Colne & District	-
Nelson	-
West Craven	-
Total	4.25

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 as well as in Pendle for rugby union based on match equivalent sessions. There is no future demand predicted via population growth.

As seen, in Pendle there is a current shortfall of 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week, with this emanating from overplay within the Brierfield & Reedley Analysis Area.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 5.19: Current supply and demand analysis in match equivalent sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Pendle	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	-	-	0
Brierfield & Reedley	-	4.25	4.25
Colne & District	-	-	0
Nelson	-	-	0
West Craven	-	-	0
Pendle Total	0	4.25	4.25

5.6: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of rugby union capacity in Pendle, and this is evident in the Brierfield & Reedley Analysis Area (Pendle).

Of the two clubs in Pendle, Burnley RUFC's pitches are overplayed, however, Colne & Nelson RUFC pitches are played to capacity, with midweek training demand taking place on the training area onsite.

The priority for rugby union in Pendle is to ensure maintenance programmes are enhanced at all club sites to improve quality of pitches to alleviate the overplay and create spare capacity to meet potential future demand. There are also alternatives to this such increasing the presence of sports lighting, increasing pitch stock or training areas and also increasing access to World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. These will be further explored in the proceeding strategy document.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Pendle – rugby union supply and demand summary

- ◀ Of all the rugby union pitches in Pendle, no pitches offer any spare capacity.
- ◀ There are two pitches across Burnley RUFC which are collectively overplayed by a total of 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 4.25 match equivalent sessions per week on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand.
- ◀ There is no identified need for WR 22 compliant 3G pitches to be provided in Pendle (despite identified shortfalls).

Pendle – rugby union supply summary

- ◀ Within Pendle, there are four rugby union pitches, all of which are available for community use. Provision is identified in only two analysis areas across the Borough, as seen in the table below, Brierfield & Reedley and Colne & District analysis areas which both have two pitches each.
- ◀ Burnley RUFC owns its home ground and therefore tenure is secure. Tenure is also considered secure for Colne & Nelson RUFC with the Club having a long term lease agreement in place from the Council.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches in Pendle, two are assessed as standard quality and two are assessed as poor quality. None are good quality.
- ◀ In Pendle, there is one site accompanied by poor quality provision (at Burnley RUFC) and one by standard quality provision (at Holt House Playing Fields).

Pendle – rugby union demand summary

- ◀ There are two clubs based in Pendle, collectively providing a total of 22 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of five senior men's, seven age grade boys', one aged grade girls' and nine mini teams.
- ◀ Pitches at Burnley RUFC are used to accommodate training demand, whilst Colne & Nelson RUFC accesses a separate sports lit training area at Holt House Playing Fields.
- ◀ There is no imported, latent or unmet demand identified.
- ◀ However, there is exported demand from Pendle, with Burnley RUFC exporting demand outside to the neighbouring borough of Burnley, where it accesses the Prairie Spirts Village WR compliant 3G pitch for training demand during the week.
- ◀ There is no predicted growth from population growth within Pendle.
- ◀ Colne & Nelson RUFC has future demand aspirations to field a further three junior boys' teams.

PART 6: RUGBY LEAGUE

6.1: 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 as 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

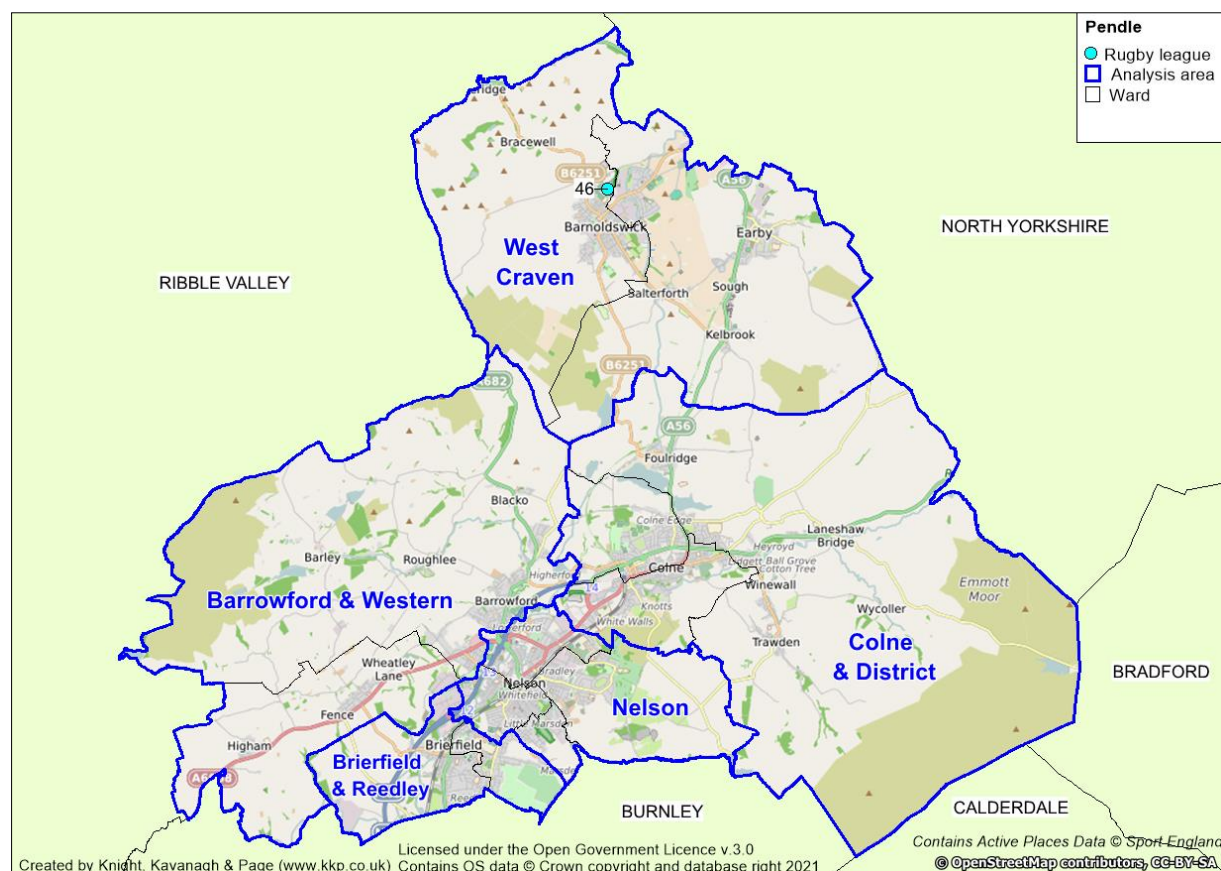
There is one rugby league club located within the Pendle Borough, West Craven Warriors which responded to consultation requests.

6.2: Supply

There is one dedicated rugby league pitch identified within Pendle, the pitch is located at Victory Park (West Craven Analysis Area).

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 6.1: Location of rugby league pitches within Pendle



West Craven Warriors ARLFC has a lease on its site at Victory Park from Barnoldswick Town Council, which expires in 2028. It plans on entering talks to extend the lease in the near future, in order to secure use of the site on a long-term basis. It should be noted that as part of the lease agreement the Club has access to additional land onsite, which could be utilised as a training area, however at present is left unused.

Pitch quality

The quality of the rugby league pitch in Pendle has been assessed via a combination of site visits, carrying out non-technical assessments as determined by the RFL all pitches, 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 a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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.

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

Table 6.1: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Tenure	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Quality rating
46	Victory Park	West Craven	Yes	Secure	1	Senior	No	Standard

Ancillary provision

At present, there is an onsite clubhouse/ancillary provision at Victory Park which is rated as standard quality, with the changing and toilet facilities currently on offer considered to be suitable, the Club reports remedial work is required to improve the quality. The Club report that it shares the pavilion with a local football club, with both Club's having access to their own half of the building. In addition, the Club also reports of aspirations to develop an indoor training facility, with it currently looking into the feasibility of such a development.

The Club does not have a bar or social facility for its senior players, with players often leaving after matches for post-match social activities elsewhere. In the long term it wishes to explore the feasibility of developing a small bar and social space to generate revenue for the Club and allow players and supporters to socialise at the site after matches and training.

6.3: Demand

There is a single affiliated rugby league club located in Pendle, West Craven Warriors ARLFC. The Club fields one senior men's team and one junior girls' team and three primary teams. All training takes place at Victory Park on the senior pitch with senior men's training takes place on Wednesday evenings from 6.30 to 8pm with matches on Saturday afternoons. The junior and mini teams also train on Wednesdays from 5.30 to 6.30 pm and have matches on Sundays (training if no matches).

The Club's total demand equates to 3.75 match equivalent sessions per week on the grass pitch at Victory Park.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Future demand

Population increase

Based on population projections to 2040 for Pendle (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.

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 6.2: 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 session ¹⁶
Men (19-45yrs)	1:15,091	0.02	0	-
Women (19-45yrs)	0	0	0	-
Boys (13-18yrs)	0	0	0	-
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:4,040	0.02	0	-
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:2,106	0.07	0	-

As seen in the table above, no future demand from population growth would be predicted.

The Club reports that it has tried to have some women's training sessions during the 2023 season, however, has not been able to establish a full team, over the coming years it aspires to establish a full senior women's team.

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. There is currently no latent demand which was highlighted through consultation.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

As the rugby league pitch at Victory Park is assessed as standard quality it has a capacity of two match equivalent sessions per week.

Based on demand equating to 3.75 match equivalent sessions per week, West Craven Warriors RLFC is currently overplaying the pitches by 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week. This is primarily due to the pitch being used for both match and training demand.

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.

6.5: Conclusion

There is currently considered insufficient supply for rugby league in Pendle. However, although the pitch is overplayed by 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week, it should be noted that two match equivalent sessions per week of training demand is currently placed on the pitch. As the Club currently has access to additional land onsite, which could be utilised as a training area there is scope to see training demand removed off the pitch, which would then have 0.25 of spare capacity.

Pendle - rugby league supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is one dedicated rugby league pitches in Pendle, located at Victory Park. The pitch is assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ There is a single affiliated rugby league club located in Pendle, West Craven Warriors RLFC. It currently fields one senior men's team and one junior girls' team and three mini teams.
- ◀ West Craven Warriors RLFC currently overplays the pitch at Victory Park resulting in a shortfall 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

PART 7: HOCKEY

7.1: 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 7.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Playing Level Essential	Playing Level Desirable
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 2¹⁷, 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.

¹⁷ <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day, providing that it 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 is one affiliated hockey club based in Pendle which responded to consultation requests, resulting in a 100% response rate.

Table 7.2: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Pendle	-
Pendle Forest HC	Yes

7.2: Supply

Full size pitches

There is one full size hockey suitable AGP in Pendle which is serviced by sports lighting and available for community use. It is located within the Nelson Analysis Area.

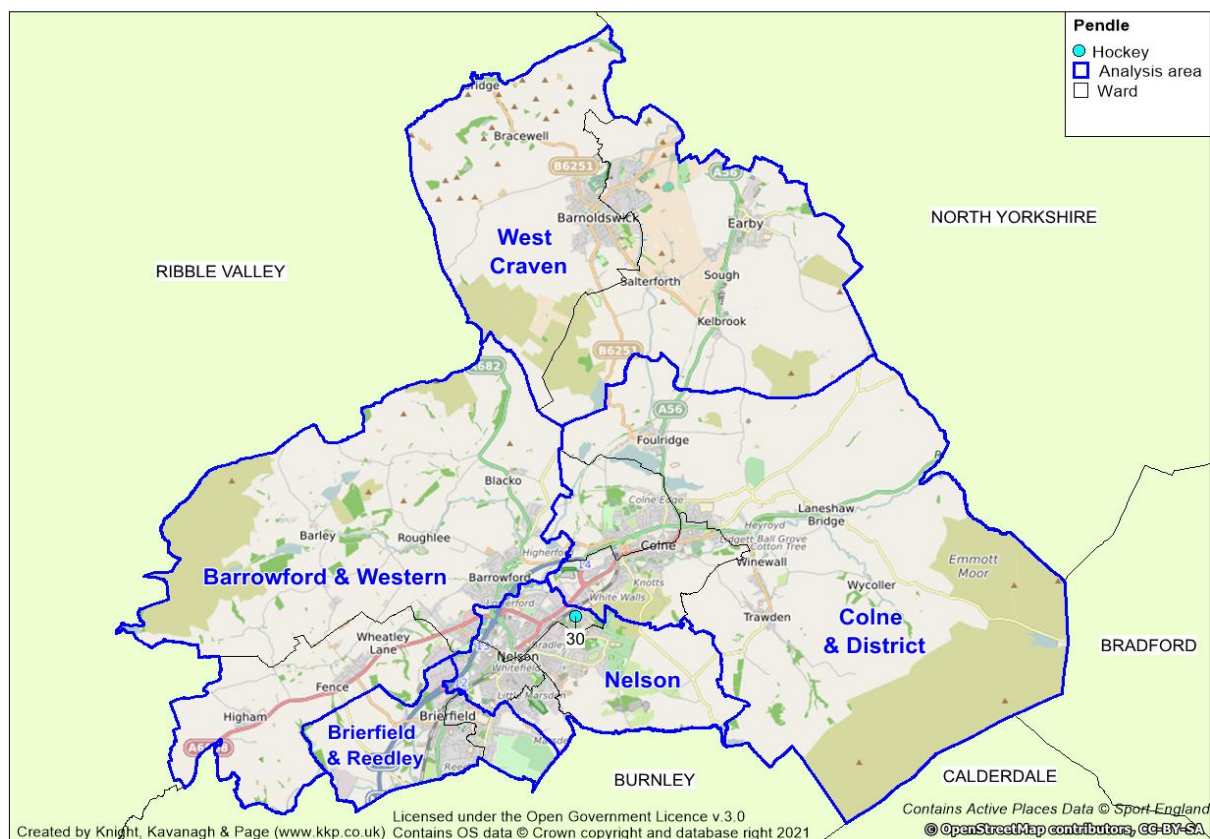
Table 7.3: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Analysis area	Community available pitches	Unavailable pitches
Pendle	-	-
Barrowford & Western	-	-
Brierfield & Reedley	-	-
Colne & District	-	-
Nelson	1	-
West Craven	-	-
Total	1	0

The supply of full size hockey pitches are shown and summarised site-by-site in Figure 7.1 and 7.2 below, followed by Table 7.4.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 7.1: Location of full size hockey suitable AGPs within Pendle



PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR STRATEGY

Table 7.4: Full size hockey suitable AGPs in Pendle

Site ID	Site name	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Surface	Size (metres) ¹⁸	Sport lighting?	Community use?	Hockey use?
-	Pendle	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
30	Pendle Vale College	6004510	BB9 8LF	Nelson	Sand Filled	100 x 62	Yes	Yes	Yes

Smaller size pitches

In addition to the full size hockey suitable AGPs identified above, there are also two smaller size pitches in Pendle. These are summarised in the following table.

Table 7.5: Smaller size hockey suitable pitches in Pendle

Site ID	Site name	Active Places Site ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Size (metres) ¹⁹	Sport lighting?	Community use?	Hockey use?
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	6004519	BB18 6JG	West Craven	38 x 20	Yes	Yes	No
33	Sacred Heart RC Primary School (Colne)	30010025	BB8 7JR	Colne & District	20 x 15	Yes	No	No

¹⁸ Including run offs

¹⁹ Including run offs

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Although too small to host competitive matches, smaller size pitches can be used to accommodate some hockey training demand if they are of a large enough size, available to the community and serviced by sports lighting.

Potential loss of provision

There are no known plans for any of the hockey suitable AGPs to be lost in Pendle.

Management and security of tenure

Of the full size hockey suitable AGPs in Pendle all are managed by the respective schools.

Table 7.6: Summary of management of 11v11 size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Management
-	Pendle	-
30	Pendle Vale College	School

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). This provides total peak time amounting to 18 hours during the week and 16 hours at weekends.

Using the peak time modelling, the availability at each site providing a full size pitch in Pendle is summarised in the table below. 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 7.7: Availability and usage of community available 11v11 size hockey suitable AGPs across Pendle

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Hockey club users	Availability	Midweek availability in the peak period (hours)	Weekend availability in the peak period (hours)
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
30	Pendle Vale College	1	Pendle Forest HC	Mon to Fri – 17:00 – 22:30 Saturday - 09:00 - 17:00 Sunday– 09:00 - 11:00	13	10

The smaller size pitches that are available for community use are also available throughout most of the peak periods.

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 pitch has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The following table indicates when each hockey suitable AGP in Pendle was installed or last resurfaced, together with the quality ratings assigned.

Table 7.8: Summary of hockey suitable AGP quality

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Date of installation / last resurface	Quality
-	Pendle	-	-	-
30	Pendle Vale College	Yes	2008	Poor
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	Yes	2002	Poor
33	Sacred Heart RC Primary School (Colne)	No	2018	Good

Two pitches in Pendle are assessed as poor quality, mainly due to age and not being resurfaced in over 10 years. Therefore, issues at these sites include signs of wear and tear, worn line markings, poor grip underfoot and unsafe fencing.

Ancillary provision

In Pendle all full size hockey suitable AGPs are located at school sites. Access to ancillary facilities at school sites can often be restricted or limited for security reasons, especially where changing rooms are located in the main school building or where there is a lack of staffing to open and manage access. Schools also often have limited budget amongst other competing requirements for investment to make any qualitative improvements to changing provision.

No issues arose during consultation at any of the community available sites with full size AGPs.

It should be noted that Pendle Forest HC reports that due to the level of hockey being played by its 1st team, it requires dugouts on the pitch side at Pendle Vale College. At present it does not have these and is looking to have them installed from the 2024/25 season, however, it also requires a space to store these during the week. The Club also reports not currently having a social space onsite due to it being a school, and therefore, as previously mentioned, is exploring its future site options.

7.3: Demand

There is one hockey club based in Pendle producing ten teams.

Table 7.9: Summary of team numbers

Name of club	Analysis area	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	Other	Total
Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pendle Forest HC	Nelson	-	4	6	-	10
Total		0	4	6	0	10

Pendle Forest HC in total has four senior women's and six junior teams. These all play in the Nelson Analysis Area at Pendle Vale College.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Additional demand

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 with Back to Hockey include:

- ◀ More members
- ◀ More casual players
- ◀ Additional income
- ◀ Extra publicity
- ◀ New volunteers

In Pendle no clubs operate Back to Hockey sessions.

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 Pendle there are currently no 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.

No Hockey Heroes sessions currently operate in Pendle.

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.

In Pendle there are no In2Hockey teams currently.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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 Pendle 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 Pendle.

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 are currently no walking hockey sessions operating in Pendle.

Imported/exported demand

There is no imported or exported demand identified within Pendle.

It should be noted although there is no dedicated exported demand, Pendle Forest HC does not currently offer men's hockey. It is expected that men will travel further to play to clubs in other authorities.

Latent/unmet demand

No latent or unmet demand for hockey has been identified in Pendle.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition.

Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years, meaning that it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.

7.4: Capacity analysis

When assessing the capacity of hockey pitches, all usage needs to be taken into account. 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The table below details the usage at all sites providing full size hockey suitable pitches in Pendle. It compares availability during peak time against hockey use and other activity as well as taking into consideration any remaining spare capacity. Peak time for senior hockey matches is Saturday, whilst it is Sunday for junior hockey matches. For training, it is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, with Mondays and Fridays generally not considered as teams do not want to train in such close proximity to weekend matches.

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 7.10: Summary of full size hockey suitable pitch usage

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Availability in the peak period (hours)	% of hockey usage	% of other usage (e.g., football)	Hockey club users	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)	Capacity summary
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Pendle Vale College	1	23	43%	22%	Pendle Forest HC	Used by Pendle Forest HC and local football clubs. Hockey training takes place on Tuesdays 18:00-20:30.	Used solely by Pendle Forest HC. Junior matches are held Sunday mornings 09:00-11:00, whilst senior matches take place on Saturdays 10:30-15:00.	Limited spare capacity during the week for an increase in training demand, with capacity only really existing on Mondays and Thursday. Spare capacity for matches on Saturdays.

In summary, the full size pitch has some level of spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey usage. The pitch at Pendle Vale College has have limited spare capacity on Saturdays for match play demand.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

7.5: Supply and demand analysis

Match play analysis

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

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there are currently four community available pitches in Pendle, there is theoretical capacity to accommodate up to eight hockey teams.

Table 7.11: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for match play

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Potential capacity (teams)	Actual capacity (teams)	Comments
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-
30	Pendle Vale College	Nelson	1	8	8	Full availability.
-	-	Total	1	8	8	-

It is determined that the Pendle Vale College pitch is fully available and therefore can cater for up to eight hockey teams. As seen in the table below, Pendle has spare capacity to accommodate a further four teams at Pendle Vale College.

Table 7.12: Match play capacity by analysis area (in match equivalent sessions per week)

Analysis area	Current capacity (teams)	Current demand (teams)	Supply and demand balance (teams)
Pendle	-	-	-
Barrowford & Western	0	0	0
Brierfield & Reedley	0	0	0
Colne & District	0	0	0
Nelson	8	4	4
West Craven	0	0	0
Total	8	4	4

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

Training analysis

In terms of capacity for training Pendle Vale College is close to capacity during midweek, with the hockey demand competing for booking slots with football activity and other users. However, both are currently being adequately accommodated, suggesting that supply is sufficient.

In addition, if the supply of 3G pitches is increased in line with Part 3 of this report, this should free up additional midweek capacity on sand-based pitches for hockey demand.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

This is because some existing football users will likely transfer demand to the more preferential surface type.

7.6: Conclusion

Overall, there is enough full size hockey suitable AGPs to meet current and future demand for hockey in Pendle. However, it should be noted that the quality provision is poor, predominately due to age. The pitch is therefore likely to need resurfacing within the lifespan of this PPOSS and if not could become unusable.

If access was lost to Pendle Vale College, Pendle Forest HC would be displaced and need to seek alternative available venues, which at present do not exist in Pendle.

Pendle – hockey supply and demand summary

- Overall, there is a sufficient quantity of full size hockey suitable AGPs to meet current and future demand for hockey in Pendle.
- For Pendle Forest HC, priority should be placed on protecting the pitch at Pendle Vale College.

Pendle – hockey supply summary

- There is one full size hockey suitable AGP in Pendle which is serviced by sports lighting and available for community use. It is located within the Nelson Analysis Area.
- There are also two smaller size sand-based pitches in Pendle across two sites, with one of these available for community use and both serviced by sports lighting.
- The full size pitch at Pendle Vale College is currently the only pitch in use for community hockey.
- Pendle Forest HC reports that although Pendle Vale College suits them at present, it is currently working on developing its own pitch. At present it is looking into potential options however, it suggests that due to being at a school site, after matches it must go elsewhere for refreshments and social events. The Club would prefer to have a site where all activities can take place.
- The pitch at Pendle Vale College is owned and managed by the school.
- The pitch at Pendle Vale College is assessed as poor quality.
- Changing provision at Pendle Vale College is good quality.

Pendle – hockey demand summary

- There is one hockey club based in Pendle.
- Pendle Forest HC in total has four senior women's and six junior teams. These all play in the Nelson Analysis Area at Pendle Vale College.
- There is no imported or exported demand within Pendle.
- All community available pitches have some level of spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey usage, and the pitch at Pendle Vale College has spare capacity for up to four additional teams on a Saturday.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

PART 8: TENNIS

8.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Pendle. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

The LTA provides recommended and minimum dimensions per tennis court and depending on how many courts are provided. The recommended court size for one court is 36.57m x 18.29m and the minimum court size is 34.75m x 17.07m. More sizes can be found on the LTA website²⁰

Consultation

There is one tennis club in Pendle: Craven TC. The Club was responsive to consultation attempts.

Table 8.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Club response
Pendle	1/1 (100%)
Craven TC	Yes

8.2: Supply

There are 22 tennis courts across seven sites in Pendle, all of which, are available for community use. Most of this provision is in the Nelson Analysis Area (12 courts) with courts also located in the Colne & District Analysis Area (six courts) and Brierfield & Reedley and West Craven analysis areas (two courts each). There are no tennis courts in the Barrowford & Western Analysis Area.

Table 8.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

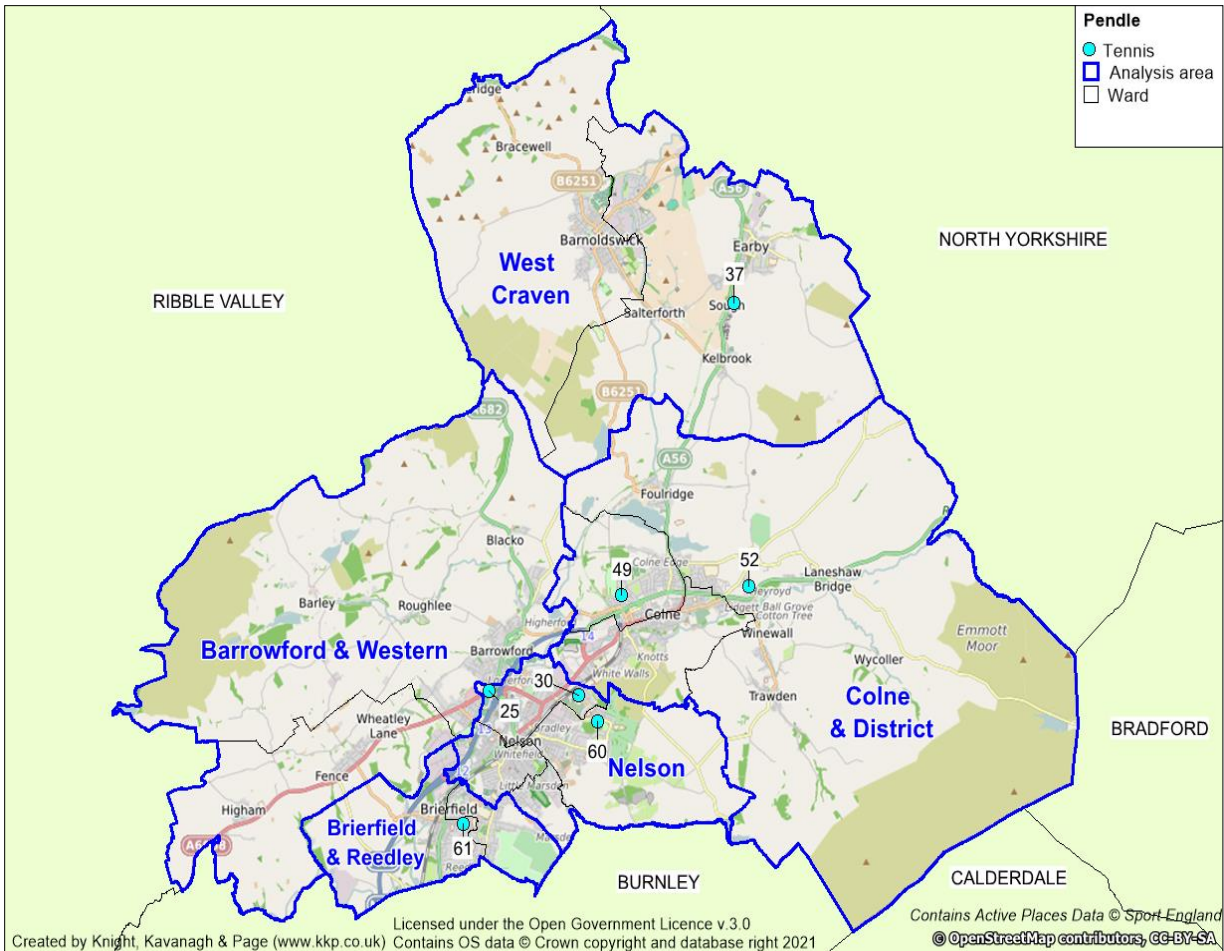
Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
Pendle	-	-
Barrowford & Western	-	-
Brierfield & Reedley	2	-
Colne & District	6	-
Nelson	12	-
West Craven	2	-
Total	22	-

In total across both authorities there are 49 community available courts and six courts that are unavailable for community use.

²⁰<https://www.lta.org.uk/support-centre/venue-support/facilities-and-funding/facilities-support/what-are-the-lta-recommended-court-dimensions/>

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 8.1: Location of tennis courts in Pendle



PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

Table 8.3: Tennis courts in Pendle

Site ID	Site name	Active Places ID	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	Users	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
-	-	-	-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Nelson and Colne College	1203438	BB9 7YT	Nelson	Education	Yes	-	1	No	Macadam	Good
30	Pendle Vale College	6004510	BB9 8LF	Nelson	Education	Yes	-	3	Yes	Polymeric	Standard
30	Pendle Vale College	6004510	BB9 8LF	Nelson	Education	Yes	-	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
37	Sough Park	6006038	BB18 6SY	West Craven	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Standard
49	Alkincoats Park	-	BB8 9QQ	Colne & District	Council	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Standard
52	Craven Tennis Club	-	BB8 7AA	Colne & District	Sports club	Yes	Craven TC	2	No	Clay	Standard
60	Marsden Park	1043261	BB9 8BQ	Nelson	Council	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Poor
61	Heyhead Park	1043262	BB9 5BW	Brierfield & Reedley	Council	Yes	-	1	No	Macadam	Good
61	Heyhead Park	-	BB9 5BW	Brierfield & Reedley	Council	Yes	-	1	No	Macadam	Poor

Disused provision

In Pendle there are eight disused tennis courts across three sites, specifically, Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School, Rolls Royce Sports Ground and Marsden Park. Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School (Colne & District Analysis Area) has four disused macadam courts which are currently used for additional car parking. Similarly Rolls Royce Sports Ground (West Craven Analysis Area) has two disused macadam courts which are used for car parking due to a lack of demand for tennis. Finally, Marsden Park, in addition to its four active tennis courts, has two single macadam courts that are no longer in use.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Indoor tennis

There are no dedicated indoor tennis courts in Pendle.

Management

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Pendle.

Most community available courts in Pendle, 12 courts or 55%, are operated by the council's (Sough Park, Alkincoats Park, Marsden Park and Heyhead Park), followed by education sites with 36% or eight courts. The remaining two courts are located at Craven Tennis Club and are internally managed by Craven TC.

Table 8.4: Number of tennis courts by management type

Community use?	Education	Council	Trust	Sports club
Pendle	-	-	-	-
Available	8	12	-	2
Unavailable	-	-	-	-
Total	8	12	0	2

All council courts, in both authorities, are readily available and open for public access. Courts located on educational sites are currently unused by the public with no known community use agreements in place. The courts located at club sites are run and managed by the individual tennis club and are members only clubs, the courts are only accessible for players which pay a membership and join the club structure.

Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts, whether they are available or unavailable for community use, across Pendle (17/22) have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

The remaining five courts in Pendle are either clay (two courts at Craven Tennis Club) or have an artificial surface, with three of these provided Pendle Vale College.

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-sport 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 lights allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In Pendle, seven of the 22 community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 32% of the provision. All of these courts are located at Pendle Vale College.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Without sports lighting, many of the providers state that making them available for lettings would not be financially viable as usage would be limited, although the LTA does offer solutions to help overcome this including initiatives such as Clubspark and Gate Access (detailed further on).

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for more usage of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. To that end, it must be noted that only Craven TC in Pendle is the only club in the two authorities which is not serviced by sports lit provision.

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme

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.
- ◆ Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an .

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

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.

Table 8.5: Quality of tennis courts in Pendle

Community use?	Good	Standard	Poor
Pendle			
Available	2	15	5
Unavailable	-	-	-

Of the courts in Pendle, two are assessed as good quality (9%), 15 as standard quality (68%) and five as poor quality (23%).

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Craven TC indicates the quality of the courts at Craven Tennis Club have improved due to the Club using a different, more refined clay.

Pendle Borough Council reports plans to refurbish the active double courts at Marsden Park in late 2023 or early 2024. Improving such courts is currently a national priority for the LTA, with a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so. This is especially the case if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and sports lighting, whereby a sustainable tennis programme could be supported.

The courts assessed as poor quality are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Marsden Park x4 (Pendle)
- ◀ Heyhead Park x1 (Pendle)

Issues recorded at these sites during assessments include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel, with maintenance also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of these sites. This leads to further deterioration in quality.

Renovation fund²¹

The LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public 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.

Ancillary provision

Craven TC reports its ancillary provision to be standard quality, however, there are specific qualitative issues with its changing rooms and social area which is deemed to be poor. It also states, due to its location, it is extremely limited on car parking.

For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most of the other 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.

²¹ [Link to Renovation fund](#)

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

8.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There is one formal and competitive tennis club in Pendle, Craven TC. The Club has a modest membership within 14 members registered at the time of consultation.

Table 8.6: Current tennis demand by club

Club	Senior members	Junior members	Total
Pendle			
Craven TC	14	-	14

Craven TC reports membership varies on an annual basis; however, it has generally increased over the previous five years. It indicates, in addition to its 14 members, it has several pay and play users which it does not actively monitor.

Informal and parks tennis

No court providers report high levels of community access, including the various education providers. Whilst this usage can be difficult to quantify, it is generally at its highest during summer months, especially following events such as Wimbledon where demand is likely to increase for recreational pay and play. It is believed by many that a lack of demand is a direct result of quality issues and/or a lack of sports lighting, as well as other courts being available for cheaper.

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.
- ◆ 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.

Rally

Rally 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.

Rally 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.

Whalley TC reports looking into installing a gate access system at its site, however, has not been able to yet as it is proving too expensive.

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.

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.

There are no designated parks tennis league in Pendle with the closest operating in the nearby authorities of Burnley or Hyndburn.

LTA Youth Programme

The LTA coordinate courses for children aged 4 – 18, consisting of fun games and dynamic training. Specialist coaches make sure every child has the best start to their tennis journey in a safe and inclusive environment. Sessions cater to all abilities.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Youth stages:

- ◀ Blue Stage (Age 4-6)
- ◀ Red Stage (Age 6-8)
- ◀ Orange Stage (Age 8-9)
- ◀ Green Stage (Age 9-10)
- ◀ Yellow Stage (Age 10+)

Key points:

- ◀ There are assigned ages to each stage, but this only serves as a guide.
- ◀ Young people want to play in groups and with their friends, and so whatever stage they start at, all kids will see progression.
- ◀ In every LTA Youth stage, young people will be active, having fun and developing skills.

LTA Youth Start

This is the fun starter course for children who have never played the sport before or may have played very little. Packed full of fun games and training drills, it also gives parents the chance to join in too. For £34.99, kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

There are no LTA Youth Start programmes operating in Pendle.

Free Parks Tennis (replaces Tennis for Free)

The LTA is 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.

Future consideration should be given to offer Free Parks Tennis in Parks across Pendle.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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.

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 Pendle are currently host or are scheduled to host a Big Tennis Weekend.

Mini tennis

Mini tennis 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 three levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ♦ Red (Stage 3): 4-8 year olds – serve, rally and score
- ♦ Orange (Stage 2): 8-9 year olds – develop a rounded game
- ♦ Green (Stage 1): 10 year olds – put skills to the test

No dedicated mini tennis courts have been identified in Pendle.

Padel

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. Padel is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities, as it is not power dominant. 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.

One of the fastest growing sports across Europe, it has also been integrated into the LTA and is now recognised as a format of tennis. This has provided a platform to facilitate the growth of the sport, with tennis venues throughout Great Britain exploring the potential opportunities it can bring to a facility.

There are currently no padel tennis courts in Pendle; however, given its increasing popularity, demand for provision is likely to exist or may in the future.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of courts for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match court 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. There is currently no latent demand which was highlighted through consultation.

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.
- ✦ 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.

Craven TC indicates that if its members aspire to play tennis in the winter months, it will travel into Ribble Valley to use facilities at Clitheroe Cricket Club (Clitheroe TC). It reports this exported demand is minimal and is not problematic.

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 1,579 people within Pendle. This equates to approximately 0.2% of each Borough's population which is below to the national average of 1.8%.

Future demand

In Pendle, Craven TC reports it does not have any active plans to increase demand and chooses to grow organically.

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 local authority courts.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

For club-based tennis, the LTA suggests that a non-sports lit court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas court 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.

Table 8.7: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club users	No. of courts	No. of courts with sports lighting	Current demand (members)	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance	Future demand	Future capacity balance
-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
52	Craven Tennis Club	Colne & District	Craven TC	2	No	14	80	66	-	66

As shown, in the table above, current supply is broadly sufficient to meet club-based demand for Craven TC.

Away from clubs, as no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it could be suggested that supply is sufficient to meet demand. However, this is unlikely to be case given the amount of unmet and latent demand that is evidenced both nationally. It is also noted that there are no courts situated within the Barrowford and Western Analysis Area. Precedence should therefore be placed on improving the supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users, with particular focus on publicly available sites that accommodate or can accommodate multiple courts and adequate ancillary facilities.

8.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, where known through consultation, there is sufficient capacity in Pendle to facilitate club demand.

It should be noted that within the Barrowford & Western has no tennis provision. On this basis no residents have immediate access to tennis court provision within their respective areas and must travel further afield to participate in the sport.

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 two authorities. There is instead a clear need to improve the supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users. This should include improving the current quality and accessibility of provision in addition to enhancing levels of sports lighting.

Pendle - Tennis supply and demand summary

- ◆ **Current supply is sufficient for clubs in Pendle.**
- ◆ **There is a need to improve the quality and accessibility of non-club courts to attract more users. The LTA evidence an unmet/latent demand for improved provision locally.**
- ◆ **There are no padel courts situated in Pendle. The sport is seeing an upsurge in demand nationally and over the lifespan of the PPOSS demand for the sport may arise.**

Pendle - tennis supply summary

- ◆ There are 22 courts across seven sites in Pendle all of which are available for community use.
- ◆ There are disused courts in Pendle located at Saints John Fisher and Thomas More RC High School, Rolls Royce Sports Club and Marsden Park.
- ◆ There are no dedicated indoor courts in Pendle.
- ◆ Most community available courts in Pendle, 12 courts or 55%, are operated by the Council (Sough Park, Alkincoats Park, Marsden Park and Heyhead Park), followed by education sites with 36% or eight courts.
- ◆ Most outdoor tennis courts, whether they are available or unavailable for community use, across Pendle (17/22) have a macadam surface.
- ◆ In Pendle, seven of the 22 community available tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 32% of the provision.
- ◆ Of the courts in Pendle, two are assessed as good quality (9%), 15 as standard quality (68%) and five as poor quality (23%).

Pendle - tennis demand summary

- ◆ Craven TC has 14 members. It does not report any active plans to increase demand and choses to grow organically.
- ◆ The LTA reports an unmet/latent demand for recreational tennis opportunities.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

PART 9: BOWLS

9.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in Pendle 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. More locally the sport is run and administered by County Bowling associations and clubs generally affiliate to the Lancashire County Crown Green Bowling Association (LCGBA).

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

In total there are 12 clubs identified as playing bowls in Pendle. The response rate achieved was 75% of all clubs. Details of respondents are in the table below.

Table 9.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Response?
Pendle	9/12 (75%)
Alkincoats BC	Yes
Barrowford BC	Yes
Brierfield BC	Yes
Colne Cricket BC	No
Colne Legion BC	Yes
Earby Memorial BC	Yes
Foulridge BC	No
Marsden Park BC	Yes
Rolls BC	Yes
Thomas Street BC	Yes
Trawden Forest BC	No
Westfield BC	Yes

9.2: Supply

There are 15 bowling greens across 12 sites in Pendle, all of which, are available for community use. Most of this provision is in the Colne & District Analysis Area (six greens).

Table 9.2: Summary of community available greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of bowling greens
Pendle	-
Barrowford & Western	1
Brierfield & Reedley	1
Colne & District	6
Nelson	5
West Craven	2
Total	15

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The figures below show the location of the greens servicing both Pendle For a key to the map, see Table 9.3.

Ownership/management

As seen in the table below most bowling greens are owned and managed by the Local Authority, private ownership or the respective sports club.

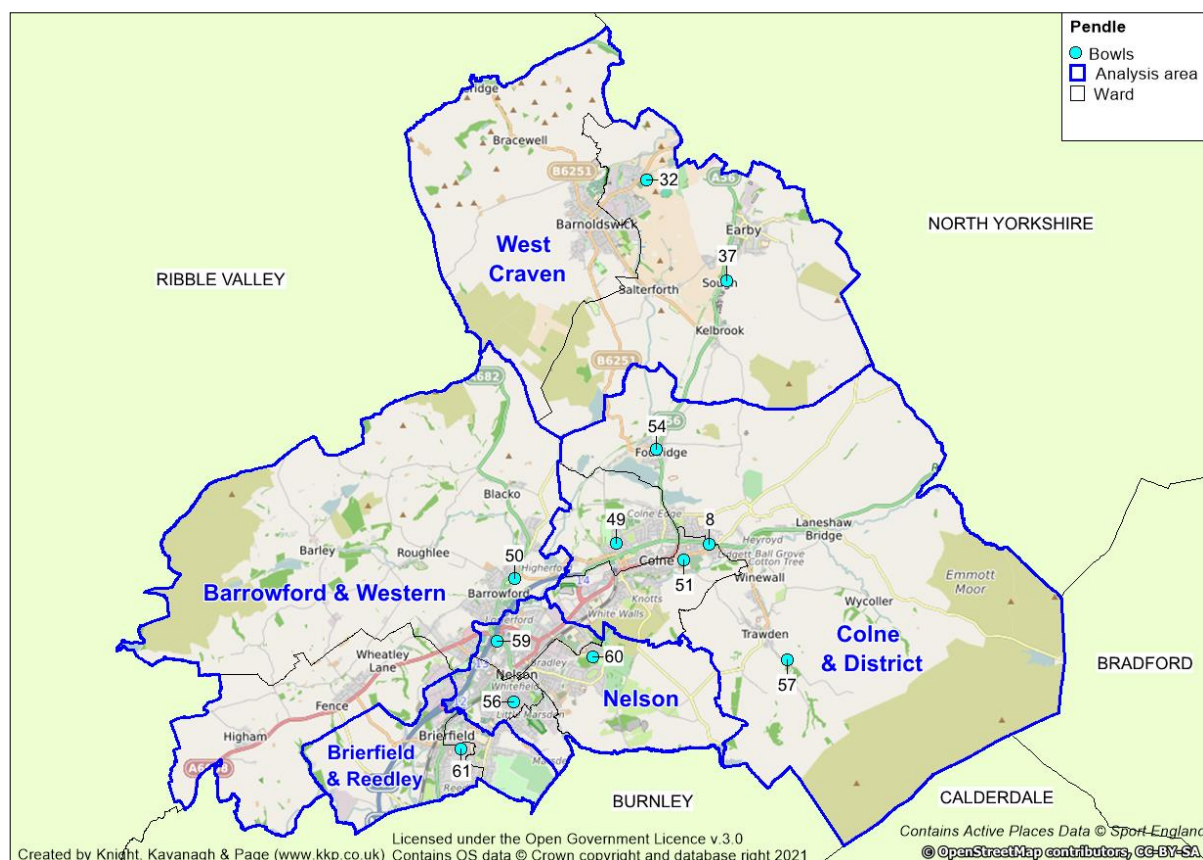
Table 9.3: Breakdown of bowling greens in Pendle

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	User(s)	No. of greens	Management
-	-	Pendle	-	-	-	-
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	Colne & District	BB8 0RF	Colne Cricket BC	1	Freehold
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	West Craven	BB18 6JG	Rolls BC	1	Rented from Rolls Royce
37	Sough Park	West Craven	BB18 6SY	Earby Memorial BC	1	Lease from Council
49	Alkincoat Park	Colne & District	BB8 9QQ	Alkincoats BC	2	Lease from Colne Town Council
50	Barrowford Memorial Park	Barrowford & Western	BB9 6EW	Barrowford BC	1	Freehold
51	Colne Royal British Legion	Colne & District	BB8 0JL	Colne Legion BC	1	Freehold
54	Foulridge Social Club	Colne & District	BB8 7PL	Foulridge BC	1	Freehold
56	Thomas Street	Nelson	BB9 9BY	Thomas Street BC	2	Lease from Council
57	Trawden Forest Bowling Club	Colne & District	BB8 8TJ	Trawden Forest BC	1	Freehold
59	Westfield Bowling Club	Nelson	BB9 7UE	Westfield BC	1	Freehold
60	Marsden Park	Nelson	BB9 8BQ	Marsden Park BC	2	Lease from Council
61	Heyhead Park	Brierfield & Reedley	BB9 5BW	Brierfield BC	1	Lease from Council

Figure 9.1 and 9.2 below highlights the location of all outdoor bowling greens in Pendle. For a key to the map, see Table 9.3.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Figure 9.1: Location of bowling greens in Pendle



Quality

Non-technical assessment of greens in Pendle have been cross referenced with the findings against club consultation to generate a quality score. T

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 9.4: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of greens	Quality of green
-	-	Pendle	-	-
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	Colne & District	1	Standard
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	West Craven	1	Good
37	Sough Park	West Craven	1	Good
49	Alkincoat Park	Colne & District	2	Good
50	Barrowford Memorial Park	Barrowford & Western	1	Standard
51	Colne Royal British Legion	Colne & District	1	Standard
54	Foulridge Social Club	Colne & District	1	Standard
56	Thomas Street	Nelson	2	Good

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of greens	Quality of green
57	Trawden Forest Bowling Club	Colne & District	1	Good
59	Westfield Bowling Club	Nelson	1	Good
60	Marsden Park	Nelson	2	Standard
61	Heyhead Park	Brierfield & Reedley	1	Standard

In Pendle, a total of eight greens (53%) are assessed as good quality with the remaining seven being standard quality (47%). Even though most greens across Pendle are good quality, they still require substantial levels 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.

The greens at Barrowford Memorial Park, Colne Cricket & Bowling Club, Colne Royal British Legion, Foulridge Social Club, Marsden Park and Heyhead Park are all standard quality. These greens all have issues with the evenness of the green and length of grass, with certain areas of wear and tear. These greens require a more rigorous maintenance regime to improve the quality.

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 range from purpose built brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters.

In Pendle, three sites are accompanied by good quality facilities, with six sites having standard quality facilities and three sites having poor quality facilities.

Table 9.5: Summary of ancillary provision quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of greens	Ancillary quality rating
-	-	Pendle	-	-
8	Colne Cricket & Bowling Club	Colne & District	1	Poor
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	West Craven	1	Good
37	Sough Park	West Craven	1	Poor
49	Alkincoat Park	Colne & District	2	Good
50	Barrowford Memorial Park	Barrowford & Western	1	Standard
51	Colne Royal British Legion	Colne & District	1	Standard
54	Foulridge Social Club	Colne & District	1	Standard
56	Thomas Street	Nelson	2	Standard
57	Trawden Forest Bowling Club	Colne & District	1	Standard
59	Westfield Bowling Club	Nelson	1	Good
60	Marsden Park	Nelson	2	Poor
61	Heyhead Park	Brierfield & Reedley	1	Standard

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Alkincoats BC reports that is currently working with Colne Town Council on a plan to replace its pavilion onsite at Alkincoat Park. The Club is currently looking to undertake a feasibility study to better understand the current position and help plan for the future of the site. This could include the development of an all-weather artificial bowling green.

Marsden Park BC reports that it is currently in talks with Pendle Borough Council as it plans to work on securing the safety and security of the greens. The Club reports high levels of vandalism and unauthorised use of its green in recent years and suggests the greens need protecting in order to maintain the quality.

No other issues or future plans for ancillary provision were highlighted through consultation with clubs.

Sports lighting

In Pendle, three greens are serviced by sports lighting at the following sites (only one green at Thomas Street has sports lighting):

- ✦ Rolls Royce Sports Ground
- ✦ Trawden Forrest Bowling Club
- ✦ Thomas Street

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 two authorities therefore considered to be comparatively high.

9.3: Demand

Current demand

There are 12 bowling clubs identified as playing in Pendle although only nine have responded to consultation requests to date and given membership figures. Membership of the responsive clubs where known totals 399, resulting in an average of 44 members, broken down by club in the table below.

Table 9.6: Membership for bowls clubs across Pendle

Club name	Senior males	Senior females	Juniors (U18)	Total
Pendle	-	-	-	-
Alkincoats BC	85	35	6	126
Barrowford BC	32	3	-	35
Brierfield BC	12	9	2	23
Colne Cricket BC	-	-	-	-
Colne Legion BC	32	7	1	40
Earby Memorial BC	38	9	-	47
Foulridge BC	-	-	-	-
Marsden Park BC	27	11	-	38
Rolls BC	30	22	-	52
Thomas Street BC	35	-	6	41
Trawden Forest BC	-	-	-	-
Westfield BC	35	3	-	38
Pendle Total	291	99	9	399

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The largest club according to known membership in Pendle is currently Alkincoats BC, with 126 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 Pendle, four clubs highlight plans to increase membership. These aspirations total 92 additional members.

Table 9.7: Future demand aspirations for club in Pendle

Club name	Senior	Junior (U18)	Total
Pendle	-	-	-
Alkincoats BC	50	20	70
Earby Memorial BC	8	-	8
Brierfield BC	6	-	6
Marsden Park BC	6	2	8

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 Tool²² 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 166 people who would like to participate in the sport within Pendle. This represents approximately 0.18% of Pendle's population compared to a national average of 0.16%.

Notwithstanding the above, none of the bowling clubs in Pendle are reported as operating at capacity, with all clubs willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within Pendle who would like to start participating, could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

9.4: 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.

²² See Appendix 2

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 9.8: Bowling green supply vs demand analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Users	No. of greens	Total members	Current capacity	Future members	Future capacity
-	-	Pendle	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Rolls Royce Sports Ground	West Craven	Rolls BC	1	52	8	-	8
37	Sough Park	West Craven	Earby Memorial BC	1	47	13	8	5
49	Alkincoat Park	Colne & District	Alkincoats BC	2	126	6	70	76
50	Barrowford Memorial Park	Barrowford & Western	Barrowford BC	1	35	25	-	25
51	Colne Royal British Legion	Colne & District	Colne Legion BC	1	40	20	-	20
56	Thomas Street	Nelson	Thomas Street BC	2	41	79	-	79
59	Westfield Bowling Club	Nelson	Westfield BC	1	38	22	-	22
60	Marsden Park	Nelson	Marsden Park BC	2	38	82	8	74
61	Heyhead Park	Brierfield & Reedley	Brierfield BC	1	23	37	6	31

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The table above shows that all but one club is currently operating within a “sustainable” capacity range within Pendle. There is one club (Akincoats BC) operating above BCGBA guidelines. However, the Club didn’t specifically mention a need for an additional bowling green as a way to accommodate existing or further demand.

Clubs with high memberships play both competitive matches and recreational matches throughout a full week to offer something for everyone within their respective membership bases, and to that end, peak time pressures are reduced for this reason.

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.

9.5: Conclusion

Although all current demand is being accommodated, Akincoat BC in Pendle is operating above recommended capacity levels and therefore needs to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.

Total membership for the eight responsive clubs equates in Pendle to 352. Therefore, the average bowls club membership in Pendle is 49 members. Of these clubs, three in Pendle highlight aspirations to increase membership. These clubs all suggest that future demand can adequately be accommodated on their existing greens.

Pendle - bowls supply and demand summary

- ▶ **One club within Pendle (Akincoat BC) is operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.**
- ▶ **In general, future demand expressed can be accommodated on existing greens.**

Bowls supply summary

- ▶ There are 15 bowling greens across 12 sites in Pendle, all of which, are available for community use. Most of this provision is in the Colne & District Analysis Area (six greens).
- ▶ Most bowling greens are owned and managed by the Local Authority, private ownerships or the respective sports club.
- ▶ Most greens (8 or 53%) are rated as good quality, with seven greens (47%) rated as standard quality. No greens in Pendle are rated as poor quality.

Bowls demand summary

- ▶ There are 12 bowling clubs identified as playing in Pendle although only eight have responded to consultation requests to date and given membership figures. Membership of the responsive clubs where known totals 399, resulting in an average of 44 members.
- ▶ The largest club according to known membership in Pendle is currently Alkincoats BC, with 126 members. The smallest club is Brierfield BC with only 23 members.
- ▶ Of responding clubs in Pendle, three clubs highlight plans to increase membership. These aspirations total 84 additional members.

PART 10: OTHER SPORTS

10.1: American football

Introduction

The British American Football Association (BAFA) is responsible for the governance of the sport which is continuing to grow in popularity in the UK. There are now hundreds of clubs and thousands of players competing regularly across the Country.

The American football season in England generally runs from May until August. Teams play either the full contact version of the sport or a version known as flag football, which follows the same principles but with the removal of a players' flag constituting a tackle. This makes it more suitable for younger players and beginners.

Consultation

There are two American football clubs in Pendle, known as the Pennine Panthers and Burnley Tornados. Attempts have been made to consult with the Clubs; however, this has been unsuccessful.

Supply

At present, there are no dedicated American football pitches within Pendle.

Pennine Panthers and Burnley Tornados are partner clubs with both utilising a rugby union pitch at Holt House Playing Fields which is home to Colne & Nelson RUFC.

The quality of the pitch at Holt House Playing Fields is standard with no significant issues identified. Nationally many American football pitches are dual use (often for rugby union) which is the case at Holt House Playing Fields. This can result in added wear and tear and a lack of post-season remedial work. It is unknown if this is the case here.

Ancillary facilities

Onsite ancillary facilities are also accessible at the site for both training and matchdays. This includes changing rooms and toilets.

Demand

Pennine Panthers field one team in total which is a men's senior team. The team play 11-a-side full contact having moved up from 8-a-side and are currently recruiting players aged 18+. Despite this, the team does not currently compete in a league but do play friendly matches against other teams. The Club is in the process of applying for the associate league.

Alternatively, the Burnley Tornados offer youth and junior American flag football for those aged between 8-18.

During the summer months, Pennine Panthers and Burnley Tornados carry out all its training sessions at Holt House Playing Fields on a Sunday morning. During the winter both clubs train at Burnley College on its 3G pitch.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Supply and demand analysis

In isolation, the provision at Holt House Playing Fields is sufficient to cater for the current needs of American football in Pendle given no competitive fixtures take place at present. However, it must also be noted that the site is predominately used for rugby union, and whilst the seasons do not clash, the dual use nature of the provision is likely to be impacting on post-season remedial work. More information will therefore be known once the rugby union supply and demand assessment are complete (Winter 2024). Should this be realised quality improvements or access to a dedicated American football pitch may be required.

10.2: Rounders

Introduction

Rounders England is the NGB for the sport of rounders in England. Its key role is to co-ordinate a development network, working through local delivery partners that provide a pathway and opportunities for aspiring players to progress to whatever level of play is right for them. In addition, it provides information about the game, runs coaching and umpiring courses, tournaments, sell resources, and promotes the sport at all levels.

The mission of Rounders England is to 'Connect People through Rounders' and get more people from any background playing rounders, more often.

Supply

There are currently six rounders diamonds identified across four sites in Pendle, none of which, are available for community use.

Table 10.1: Summary of rounders diamonds in Pendle

Site ID	Site	Post code	Community use?	No. of pitches
23	Marsden Heights Community College	BB9 0PR	No	2
30	Pendle Vale College	BB9 8LF	No	2
40	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	BB18 5EN	No	1
48	West Craven High School	BB18 5TB	No	1

Demand

No formal rounders club demand currently exists in Pendle; however, a significant number of clubs are identified in neighbouring Burnley which also accommodates a league at Townley Park run by Burnley Leisure, demand from Pendle is likely to travel to access this league and formal rounders demand. In Pendle all present demand is seemingly school based.

Supply and demand analysis

As there is no rounders clubs in Pendle it is considered no community facilities are currently required. All demand from within Pendle is likely to travel to neighbouring authorities to access competitive rounders leagues.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Other sports – Supply and demand summary

- ◆ In isolation, the provision at Holt House Playing Fields is sufficient to cater for the current needs of American football in Pendle given no competitive fixtures take place at present. However, the site is shared with rugby union and dedicated provision may be required should Pennine Panthers enter the association league.
- ◆ The current level of supply rounders is seemingly sufficient enough to meet community demand in Pendle, with the community available facilities able to adequately cater for any potential future demand given that there is a league format in Burnley.

Other sports – Supply summary

- ◆ At present, there are no dedicated American football pitches within Pendle. Instead, a rugby pitch at Houlst Hurst Playing Fields is used which is home to Colne & Nelson RUFC.
- ◆ There are currently six rounders diamonds identified across four sites in Pendle, two of which are available for community use.

Other sports – Demand summary

- ◆ Pennine Panthers field one team in total which is a men's senior team. The team play 11-a-side full contact. Alternatively, the Burnley Tornados offer youth and junior American flag football for those aged between 8-18. No competitive fixtures are played, only friendlies.
- ◆ No formal rounders club demand currently exists in Pendle, however, a significant number of clubs are identified in neighbouring Burnley.

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 Media Culture 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 make 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 (updated 2023)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It 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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Time for Change: The FA Strategy (2020-2024)

The new FA strategy aims to take the FA and English football forward with bold leadership and ambitious targets to build on the progress of the last four years. It identifies six Game Changer objectives and eight Serve the Game objectives which demonstrate its determination to substantially change the fabric of the game and address key societal issues.

The Game Changer objectives are:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Serve two million + through a transformed digital platform
- ◀ Equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Deliver 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free from discrimination
- ◀ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and Women's Super League

These are underpinned by its eight Serve the Game objectives, which are:

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

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 cricket's 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

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

- ◀ 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

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

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- ◀ **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**
 - There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- ◀ **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**
 - The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.
- ◀ **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

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

Rugby Football League Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021

The RFL's most recent strategy aims to establish rugby league as "a growing sport, available throughout the country, that is recognised as providing positive experience for all participants and spectators, in environments that are welcoming, inclusive, vibrant, safe and comfortable - encouraging people to return again and again, featuring:

- ◀ Financially viable and sustainable professional clubs creating stable employment opportunities, showcasing local, national and international playing talent, and leading the sport's development - and making a difference - in their own communities;
- ◀ Welcoming community clubs, putting players first, offering recreational enjoyment for children and adults alike in a safe and inclusive environment;
- ◀ A central organisation that stands out for excellence, innovation, mutual respect, integrity and inclusion that understands its role in servicing the wider sport;
- ◀ A sports that lives its values in all its decisions and actions.

This vision is underpinned by 13 core principles, including:

- ◀ **An integrated whole sport.** Each constituent part of the sport will have a responsibility to ensure the good health of the entire game;

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

- ✦ **Return on investment.** Investment will be targeted to ensure the sustainability of member clubs, and growth in the number and quality of players thus seeking an effective return for the game;
- ✦ **Financial parameters.** Financial distributions will be undertaken to ensure the whole of the game will move forward together;
- ✦ **Geographic expansion.** Geographic expansion of the sport should be carried out in a proportionate and sustainable manner.

Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021's ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ✦ Creating welcoming environments
- ✦ Encouraging participation growth
- ✦ Building community engagement
- ✦ Cultivating further investment

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA has a vision of 'Tennis Opened Up' – aiming to grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. We want tennis to be open to as many people as possible, across the whole of Britain. Linked to this is the emergence and growth of padel, a new showing a huge multi-sport, all age group appeal.

Key elements connected to growing participation include:

- ✦ Widening the appeal of tennis through inclusion of flexible formats of the game
- ✦ Emergence of padel.
- ✦ Improving the customer journey by making it easier to find a court, book it, and find somebody to play with
- ✦ Develop more relevant and enjoyable competitions at grass roots level for all abilities and ages
- ✦ Support community facilities & schools to provide more opportunities to play
- ✦ Help clubs grow & retain members
- ✦ Create more opportunities for children to play at school
- ✦ Facilitate partnerships to further increase rate of participation in parks
- ✦ Support venues to provide a welcoming and enjoyable experience
- ✦ Increase awareness of affordability.

Parks Tennis

- ✦ The majority of participation in the UK takes place in a park environment
- ✦ The park environment is the most common place where new participants will start their tennis journey. For those that don't play, the majority of people who have expressed an interest in playing would see the park environment as their first option for play.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

- ◀ Participation in parks is often less frequent and generally aligns with the seasonal participation peaks in the summer months. This trend is not helped by the lack of floodlit provision that currently exists in the park environment.
- ◀ Park players are generally more interested in recreational play and are less reliant on organised activity.
- ◀ Park players are most dissatisfied with the condition of the courts, the number of courts available and the journey from booking a court to the actual play. The LTA in partnership with the government are upgrading 4500 park courts to enable greater levels of participation within park environments.
- ◀ The LTA has successfully implemented technology that improves the customer journey to court. This involves the use of an access gate with key pad entry which is connected to the Clubspark venue management system. When a booking is made an automated code is generated and sent to the customer, thus allowing access to the court during the allocated booking time. Where implemented, the system has been successful in increasing participation rates, whilst also generating income that helps to improve the financial sustainability of a venue.
- ◀ The LTA is looking to significantly increase the number of gate access systems that are installed national as part of the Digital Participation Pathway.
- ◀ Padel is still very early in development in parks, however the LTA is keen to see this development and see this as a natural offer alongside multi-sport and tennis provision.

Club Tennis

- ◀ The club environment is a very important sector for participation.
- ◀ Whilst the level of participation is higher in parks, the regularity of play generally increases in the club market.
- ◀ The club market has a higher focus on organise activity both via coaching and competition.
- ◀ There has an increase in the number of clubs that are looking to implement online booking systems and the gate access technology. This not only offers the ability to increase the amount of court usage at a venue but acts as a key marketing tool locally in the quest to attract more users to a venue initially and create a higher level of exposure locally.
- ◀ A clear environment for the further development of padel, working alongside existing tennis provision.
- ◀ Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ◀ Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment sheet

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)									
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No		Section total		
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		

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Rugby union pitch non-technical assessment sheet

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.									

Cricket non-technical assessment

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Element	Rating				Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield						
Grass coverage	Good		Acceptable		Poor	<80% falls below the ECB basic standard
Length of grass	Good		Acceptable		Poor	Ideally 42mm - 25mm
Evenness	Even				Uneven	Ball should run without deviation or ramp
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	Play also wish to refer to more survey. If yes, refer to annual/site manager
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. Play also wish to refer to more survey. If yes, refer to annual/site manager
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None		Yes		Immediate action required	eg from vehicles/animals - rabbits, cattle and horses etc may also wish to refer to more survey
Artificial wickets						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes				No	There should be no trip points
Evenness of wicket	Even				Uneven	There should be no contours in surface levels
Stump holes	Yes				No	Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes				No	There should be none
Rips or surface lifting	Yes				No	If "yes" annual site manager
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes				No	If "yes" annual site manager
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes				No	
Grass wickets						
Presence of line markings	Yes				No	
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes				No	
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes				No	3mm or more wicket/42mm oval of square
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes				No	
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes				No	<80% falls below the ECB basic standard
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes				No	
Changing/ Pavilion						
Umpires provision	Yes				No	
Toilets	Yes				No	
Hot/cold water	Yes				No	
Heating	Yes				No	
Condition of building	Good		Acceptable		Requires attention	
NTP						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes				No	
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even				Uneven	
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes				No	
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes				No	
No rips or surface lifting	Yes				No	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes				No	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes				No	
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes				No	
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes				No	
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes				No	
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes				No	
Is appropriate safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes				No	

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS 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+					

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Rugby league pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Quality Assessment - Rugby League									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID(s)						
Number of rugby league pitches on site			Pitch size	(Senior, Junior, Primary)					
Availability?			Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?						
Community Use - Good, Community Use - Good, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Weather at time 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	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments	Scores	
Playing surface									
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor	>90% Good <80% Poor		0	
Size of pitch	Preferred size		Meet minimum size		Not adequate	See RFL Pitch Size Guidance: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk		0	
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Good		Adequate		Poor			0	
Length of grass	Good		Adequate		Poor	20mm - 60mm: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/		0	
Evenness of pitch	Flat		Moderate		Severe			0	
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots			0	
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots			0	
Typical weekly usage (match equivalent sessions)	6 or less		7 - 9		10 plus	Refer to club surveyor & other information gathered		0	
Does the maintenance schedule meet RFL requirements?	Yes		In part		No	See RFL Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/		0	
Pitch ancillary facilities								Section total	0
Are goalposts safe?	Yes		No					0	
Is the site secure at night?	Secure		Open					0	
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No					0	
Is the pitch enclosed by perimeter fence?	Yes		No					0	
Is there a training area separate to match pitch(es)?	Yes		No					0	
Is there a covered stand?	Yes		No					0	
Ancillary facilities								Section total	0
Is there a clubhouse on site?	Yes		No					0	
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No					0	
Adequacy of changing accommodation (exterior)?	Good		Adequate		Poor			0	
Adequacy of changing accommodation (interior)?	Good		Adequate		Poor			0	
Is there an officials room?	Yes		No					0	
Is there a dedicated medical room?	Yes		No					0	
Are accessible facilities provided?	Yes		No					0	
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No					0	
								Section total	0

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Tennis court non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Courts												
KKPref												
Site name:												
Number of courts -	Tennis		Netball		Basketball		Five-a-side					
General Playground or specific sports court area?												
Court surface					Management					Community Use?		
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale					Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School						
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						Comments					
About the courts												
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					
Surrounding fencing	Good			Adequate			Poor					
Size of courts	Yes - fully			No- but adequate			No - not adequate					
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully			No- but adequate			No - not adequate					
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate		Severe			
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots					
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None			Yes - some			Yes - lots					
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good			Adequate			Poor					
Changing Accomodation												
Changing Accomodation	Yes			No								
About the equipment												
Posts and net	Good			Adequate			Poor					
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes			No								
Practice wall	Yes			No								

PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Bowling green non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green									
KKPref									
Site name:									
Number of greens									
Flat/crown		Community Use?							
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						Comments		
About the greens									
Grass cover	Over 70%		40-69%		less than 40%				
Evenness of surface	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Signs of wear and tear	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Condition of ditches/boardings	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes		No						
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Ancillary facilities									
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No						
Toilets	Yes		No						
Car parking	Yes		No						
General comments about the site:									