



HIGH PEAK PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

JULY 2017

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OAN	Objectively Assessed Need
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PCC	High Peak Borough Council
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under
YFC	Youth Football Club

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

High Peak Borough Council, in partnership with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to deliver a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for both authorities. The following report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and other outdoor sports facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy.

The guidance, which has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between local supply and demand, details a stepped approach to developing a PPS. These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

Whilst the project has been jointly commissioned, this document relates only to High Peak, although cross-boundary activity with Staffordshire Moorlands and other local authorities is included. For supply and demand related solely Staffordshire Moorlands, a separate report has been produced.

The project compiles one document as part of a wider inter-related strategy for sport and recreation that also includes an Open Spaces Strategy. The inter-relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS use open space areas for informal and casual use.

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the PPS is being developed

The primary purpose of the PPS is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor sports facilities meet the local needs of existing and future residents within High Peak. The Strategy will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future provision throughout the Borough.

The production of the PPS will also support the following areas, identified as imperative to the project.

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Aims

- ◀ Support the High Peak Borough Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019: To help create a safer and healthier environment for residents to live and work (key priority: The provision of high quality leisure facilities).
- ◀ To ensure a strategic approach to outdoor sports provision.
- ◀ Provide direction and set priorities for included sports.

Contribution to Planning Policy

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- ◀ Help to update the open space, sport and recreation evidence base in support of the adopted High Peak Local Plan.
- ◀ Provide a basis for establishing new facility requirements arising from new housing developments or improvements to existing supply where demand can be satisfied by increasing capacity.
- ◀ Inform land use decisions in respect of the future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing pitches.
- ◀ Contribute to the evidence base used to inform assessment of development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities (in line with national planning policy).

Contribution to Operational Effectiveness

- ◀ Help improve current asset management, resulting in more efficient use of resources.
- ◀ Highlight locations where quality of provision can be enhanced.

Contribution to sports development

- ◀ Improve current asset management, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.

Sports development

- ◀ Help identify where community use of school sports facilities is most needed.
- ◀ Provide better information to residents and others around sports facilities available for use.
- ◀ Promote sports development and help unlock latent demand by identifying where any lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams/community activities.

Support for external funding bids

- ◀ Provide a robust evidence of need for capital funding and support grant applications.
- ◀ Prove the need for developer contributions towards provision.

Meeting Sport England PPS Requirements

- ◀ To support improving health and well-being as well as increasing participation in sport.
- ◀ Sports development programmes and changes in how the sports are played.
- ◀ The need to provide evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision and where needed, provide new provision.
- ◀ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ◀ Potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites.
- ◀ To review budgetary pressures and ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- ◀ To develop a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- ◀ To prioritise internal capital and revenue investment.
- ◀ To provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

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

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cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 73 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 73 and 74 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraph 76 and 77 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

High Peak Local Plan (2016-2031)

The Local Plan was adopted in April 2016 and sets out the Council’s vision and strategy for the Borough until 2031. It provides the development strategy, strategic and development management policies and land designations for the parts of High Peak that lie outside of the Peak District National Park.

The document covers a wide range of topics, including:

- ✦ **Housing** – setting the scale, distribution and mix of housing to be developed to support a changing population, identifying sufficient land to meet requirements and supporting policies.
- ✦ **Business** – supporting the economy by providing sites for existing and new businesses and supporting the sustainability of town centres and specifying policies that address changing business needs.
- ✦ **Environment** – helping to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects and conserving the natural and historic environment.
- ✦ **Health and wellbeing** – supporting the needs of local people by enabling opportunities for leisure and recreation.
- ✦ **Infrastructure** – enabling the provision of new infrastructure such as education, transport, health care and water supplies.

The Local Plan also highlights the following key issues:

- ✦ Protecting and enhancing the character and distinctiveness of the towns and villages in the plan area.
- ✦ Managing the impact of development on the Peak District National Park.
- ✦ Addressing the challenges of climate change.
- ✦ Diversifying and strengthening the rural economy and responding to the legacy of the industrial past.
- ✦ Maintaining and strengthening the vitality and viability of town centres.
- ✦ Enhancing tourism and visitor management.
- ✦ Meeting local housing needs.
- ✦ Managing travel demand and improving accessibility.
- ✦ Protecting and enhancing community infrastructure and local services.
- ✦ Improving leisure and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.

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These key issues are grouped together into three main themes that the Local Plan seeks to address:

- ◀ Protecting Peak District character
- ◀ Promoting healthy and sustainable communities.
- ◀ Enhancing prosperity.

The vision of the Local Plan builds on the Sustainable Community Strategy visions and looks beyond it to 2031. The overriding challenge is to achieve the sustainable development that delivers the housing, employment, retail and community facilities that High Peak needs whilst ensuring distinctive natural assets, built heritage and character are conserved and enhanced.

Peak District National Park Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2011-2026)

The Strategy sets out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the National Park and includes core policies to guide development and change up to 2026. The key challenges identified broadly fall into seven closely related themes:

- ◀ Landscapes and conservation
- ◀ Recreation and tourism
- ◀ Climate change and sustainable building
- ◀ Homes, shops and community facilities
- ◀ Supporting economic development
- ◀ Minerals
- ◀ Accessibility, travel and traffic

The vision of the Strategy is for:

“A conserved and enhanced Peak District, where the natural beauty and quality of its landscapes, its biodiversity, tranquillity, cultural heritage and the settlements within it continue to be valued for the diversity and richness.

“A welcoming Peak District, where people from all parts of our diverse society have the opportunity to visit, appreciate, understand and enjoy the National Park’s special qualities.

“A living, modern and innovative Peak District, that contributes positively to vibrant communities for both residents and people in neighbouring urban areas, and demonstrates a high quality of life whilst conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park.

“A viable and thriving Peak District economy, that capitalises on its special qualities and promotes a strong sense of identity.”

Agreed scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the Assessment Report and Strategy:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches (3G AGPs)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Rugby league pitches

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- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Athletics tracks

It should be noted that for the non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, bowls and athletics) included within the scope of this study the supply and demand principles of Sport England methodology: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) are followed to ensure the process is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This is less prescriptive than the PPS guidance. Thus, where applied, the approach to assessing non-pitch sports is a supply/demand assessment based on more a 'light touch' approach.

Management arrangements

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

Further to this, the Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from both High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands councils, Sport England and NGBs.

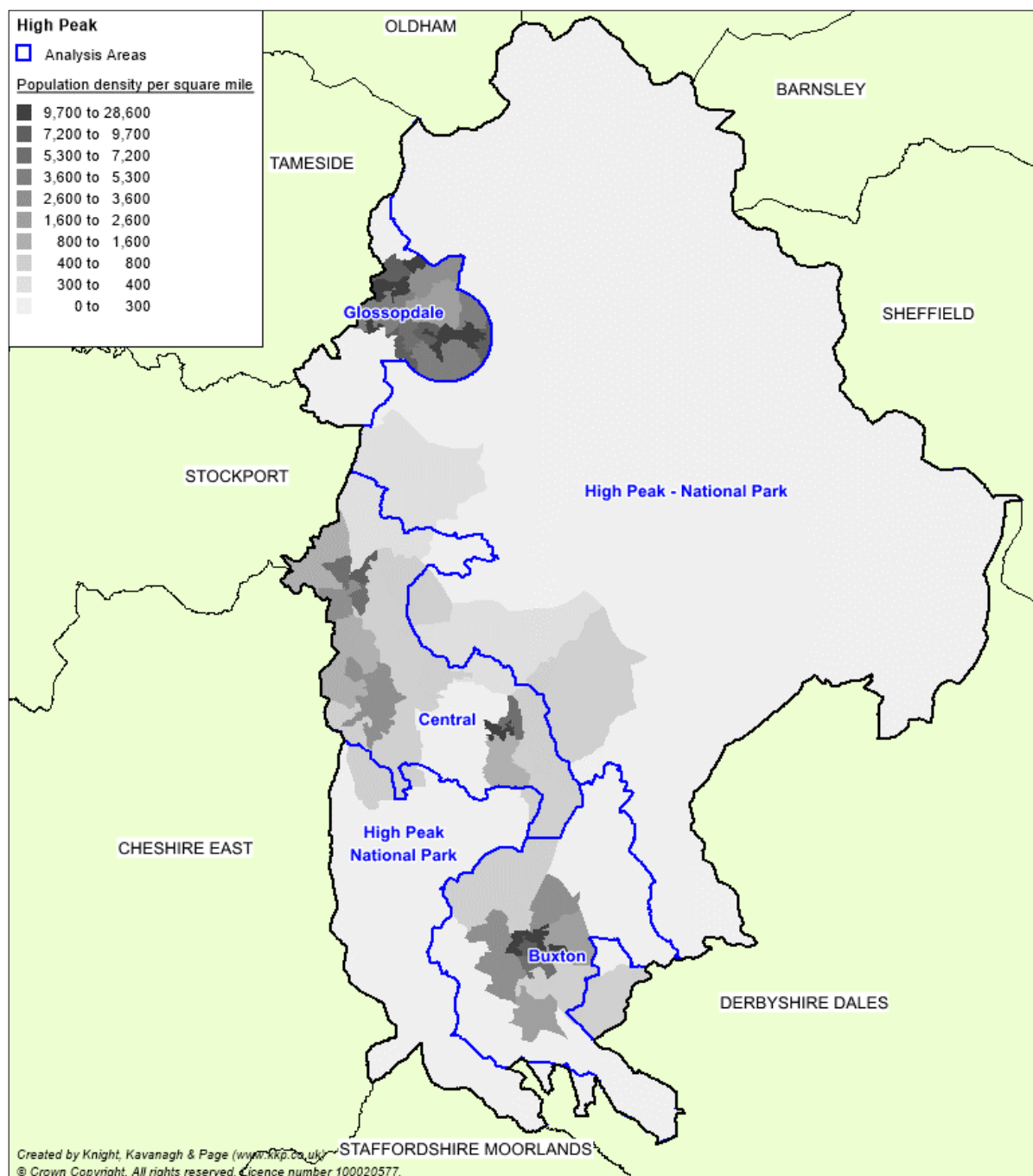
Study area

The study area is the High Peak administrative area. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. For this reason, High Peak is divided into the following four analysis areas, based on planning boundaries (as seen in Figure 1.1 overleaf):

- ◀ National Park
- ◀ Glossopdale
- ◀ Central
- ◀ Buxton

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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



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

A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in High Peak needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is achieved through consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that they inform the subsequent strategy. It informs current demand, adequacy, usage, future demand and strategies for maintenance and investment for outdoor sports facilities in High Peak.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of outdoor sports facilities

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.¹

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

Although the statutory definition of a playing field is the whole of a site with at least one pitch of 0.2ha or more, this PPS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, 5v5 mini football pitches. This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the outdoor sports facilities within High Peak; however, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where facilities have not been recorded within the report they remain as facilities and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusion of provision does not necessarily mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site, the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied as an electronic file):

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of outdoor sports facilities

¹. www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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Accessibility

Not all outdoor sports facilities 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** - provision in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - provision that is available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - provision which as a matter of policy or practice is not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club sites along with some semi-professional club sites where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was more than five years ago (these fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England's policy to protect playing fields).

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site. This refers to pitches in community use and not lapsed/disused sites.

Quality

The capacity of outdoor sports facilities 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 its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the outdoor sports facility 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 outdoor sports facilities identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each outdoor sports facility. 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 (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

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Gather demand information and views

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

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

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

Current and future demand for outdoor sports facilities is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

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

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation. 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.

The response rates of such consultation are as follows:

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	30	20	66%	Face to face/online survey/telephone
Football teams	140	127	91%	
Cricket clubs	14	14	100%	Online survey
Rugby union clubs	3	3	100%	Face to face/telephone
Hockey clubs	1	1	100%	Face to face
Tennis clubs	5	4	80%	Online survey
Bowls clubs	18	11	61%	Online survey
Athletics clubs	1	1	100%	Online survey
Colleges	2	2	100%	Telephone
Secondary schools	5	5	100%	Face to face
Primary schools	46	21	46%	Online survey/telephone

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Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for outdoor sports facilities can be met. Using population projections, and proposed housing growth an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Population growth

The resident population in High Peak is recorded as 91,496 (based on ONS 2015 mid-year estimates). By 2031 (in line with the Local Plan), the Borough's population is projected to increase to 98,802 (ONS 2015-based projections 2016-2031).

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for outdoor sports facilities that may arise from any population change in the study area.

Future demand for provision is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the ONS population increases in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the TGRs (unless otherwise stated) and is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

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

Housing growth

The NPPF expects the overall level of growth in a Local Plan to be based on the 'Objectively Assessed Need' (OAN) for market and affordable housing. The OAN for High Peak has been determined through the preparation (in May 2015) of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). This estimates population growth of 7,334 and an annual housing requirement of 350 dwellings per year (2011-2031), equating to 7,000 new homes over the 20-year period.

Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

In line with Sport England's Playing Pitch Guidance Stage C, an in-depth understanding of outdoor sports provision has been developed using the supply and demand information and by assessing views from stakeholders in light of local and national information. This stage should:

- ◀ Provide a clear understanding of the provision and management of outdoor sports facilities at individual sites.
- ◀ Develop the current and future picture of provision.
- ◀ Identify the key findings and issues

Understand the situation at individual sites

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Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each playing pitch is assessed against the recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) can be accommodated. This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows:

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

For non-pitch sports, capacity is generally not determined by the amount of activity per week (or per season) but rather by membership.

Develop the current picture of provision

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

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

Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future. Scenario testing occurs in the strategy report and therefore does not form part of the assessment report.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in High Peak. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section D).

The following sections summarise the local administration of the included outdoor sports facilities in High Peak. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plan (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in High Peak is Derbyshire FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches) which are the preferred artificial grass pitch (AGP) surface type for football. In the future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Consultation

In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs playing in High Peak after contact details were provided by Derbyshire FA. Consultation (either via survey or face to face interview) represents a 66% club response rate and 91% team response rate. The following clubs were met with face to face:

- ◀ Buxton FC
- ◀ Glossop North End FC
- ◀ Glossop North End AFC Juniors
- ◀ New Mills FC
- ◀ New Mills Juniors FC
- ◀ Hayfield Juniors FC

The results of such consultation are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a current total of 61 grass football pitches in High Peak across 40 sites. Of these pitches, 53 are available for community use across 35 sites, as presented in Table 2.1.

In total, four schools (totalling six pitches) do not allow community use of their pitches, with the majority of these being otherwise suitable for mini or youth football. Sites not allowing community use are featured below:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ◀ All Saints Catholic Primary School | ◀ Duke of Norfolk Primary School |
| ◀ Gamesley Primary School | ◀ New Mills School |

The reasons for not allowing community use include staffing issues, health and safety issues, a lack of profitability and quality issues. New Mills School is a prominent example of the latter as it does not allow community use of its substantial playing field space due to issues with drainage. The School highlights that it has aspirations to allow community use but is reluctant to do so because of the detrimental effect it would have on pitch quality.

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Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	Available for community use					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Glossopdale	9	3	-	1	-	13
Central	10	-	3	2	-	15
Buxton	12	1	2	2	-	17
National Park	5	-	3	-	-	8
High Peak	34	4	8	5	-	53

The Buxton Analysis Area contains the most community available pitches (17); the National Park Analysis Area contains the least amount (eight).

It should be noted that the distinct lack of both mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches is a direct relation to the prominence of the High Peak Junior League, which plays all fixtures on the 3G pitch at Glossopdale Community College. This is used as a central venue site and, as a result, the League and its participating clubs do not require access to grass pitches. In fact, only seven mini teams in High Peak use grass pitches.

As seen, there are a large number of adult pitches identified in High Peak when compared to other pitch sizes, which reflects that the majority of teams use adult pitches. It should be noted, however, that nationally many youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, which may in part be due to a lack of dedicated youth 11v11 pitches rather than a preference for adult pitches.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, u17s and u18s can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91x55 metres for u16s and u15s, 82x50 metres for u14s and u13s and 73x46 metres for u12s and u11s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches (u10s and u9s) is 55x37 metres and for 5v5 pitches (u8s and u7s) it is 37x27 metres.² It should be additionally noted that each pitch type requires adequate safety margins

In High Peak, 46 youth 11v11 (u13-u16) teams currently use adult pitches. The following sites contain adult pitches that are used by youth 11v11 teams:

- ◀ Bank Vale Road Recreation Ground, Hayfield
- ◀ Chinley Recreation Ground
- ◀ Ollersett Avenue, New Mills
- ◀ West Drive, Tintwistle
- ◀ Chapel Leisure Centre
- ◀ Memorial Park – Whaley Bridge
- ◀ Sterndale Moor

Disused sites

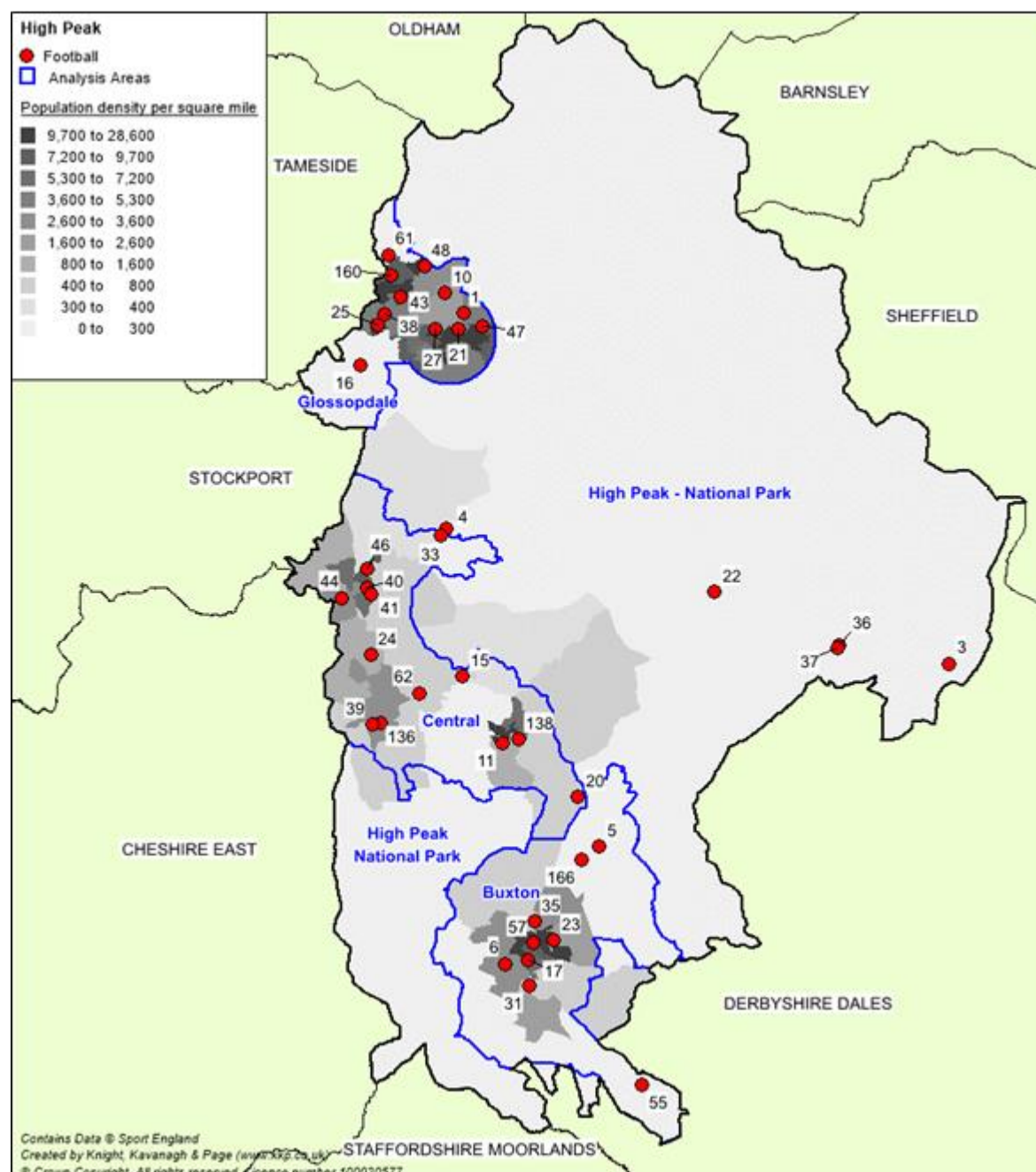
Bakehurst Recreation Ground, New Mills is the only site identified as being disused in High Peak. The site previously contained one adult football pitch but had no accompanying changing provision and as such is now unused.

²<http://www.thefa.com/my-football/football-volunteers/runningaclub/yourfacilities/technicalstandards.aspx>

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Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing High Peak, regardless of amount of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 2.11.

Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in High Peak



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Future provision

Glossopdale College is currently in the process of becoming a single school site. The School current operates across two centres which are known as the Hadfield site and the Talbot Road site. The former site, Talbot Road, is set for closure in 2017/18 with all students decanting to the Hadfield site upon completion of building work. As part of the redevelopment of the Hadfield site, pitches which were lost due to building work will be reinstated. There will two adults, one youth 9v9 and four mini pitches at the site with the pitches likely to be back in use by 2020.

It should however be recognised that existing playing field land at the Talbot Road site will no longer be utilised once all students have moved to the Hadfield site. The site does not contain any dedicated playing pitches, but does contain a poor quality redgra surface in addition to generic grass playing field.

Glossop North End AFC Juniors has aspirations to develop a site within the Glossop area and is currently considering options that would allow it to develop a new home base. It is expected that once the Club has chosen a location it will look to invest into the creation of grass football pitches.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in High Peak have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. It is likely that pitches which receive little to no on-going repair or post-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 that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than council parks and playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. The maintenance of council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation as well as NGB information.

The table overleaf summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in High Peak. In total, 37 pitches are assessed as standard quality, 11 pitches as poor quality, and just five pitches as good quality.

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Table 2.2: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
3	25	8	2	7	3	-	5	-

All sites managed by the Borough Council receive a basic level of maintenance. This regime is restricted to regular grass cutting and seeding with no aeration or weed killing undertaken, although it is noted that pitches can receive additional treatment such as fertilisation when required, but on an individual basis and it is not a regular part of the Council's maintenance programme.

The majority of pitches within schools also receive basic maintenance, which in most cases consists of cutting and lining on a semi regular basis. For example, this is the case at Buxton School where grass pitch maintenance is undertaken by Derbyshire County Council. The School was, however, awarded Football Foundation funding in 2012 and as a result the pitches receive a good non-technical assessment score.

Maintenance of pitches at club sites varies; some clubs hire dedicated ground staff whilst others depend on remedial work by volunteers that is often limited by cost and a lack of specialised equipment.

In general, club consultation indicates varying degrees of change in pitch quality over the previous three years. Of responding clubs, 37% report no significant difference, compared to 47% that report worsening pitch quality and 16% per cent that report improving pitch quality.

The most common factors attributed to pitch improvements are an investment in drainage work and more frequent maintenance, whilst the opposite is true for pitches that are worsening in quality. Specific comments relating to pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table below. The comments are a combination of club feedback and site assessment information.

Table 2.3: Site specific comments

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Comments
4	Bank Vale Road Recreation Ground	National Park	Pitches are on a harsh slope and drain poorly.
10	Cemetery Road Fields	Glossopdale	Drainage is particularly poor and pitches can become unplayable for months during the winter period.
24	Furness Vale Recreation Ground	Central	Poor drainage and issues regarding lack of maintenance at the site.
27	Glossop North End FC	Glossopdale	Issues with drainage has begun since housing developments started adjacent to the site.
46	Ollersett Avenue	Central	Poor drainage has resulted in the pitch being played on just six times in two football seasons by New Mills FC. The Club also reports issues with moles.

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Comments
47	Pyregrove Recreation Ground	Glossopdale	Pitches are on a slope and are prone to waterlogging when there is inclement weather.
62	Western Lane	Central	Pitch has a steep gradient and a poor playing surface.

Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

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 FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP). As part of the PIP, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) and recommendations are made in regards to improving the standard. At present, no clubs in High Peak have expressed an interest in having a PIP report undertaken.

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini pitches may be marked onto senior pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch. In High Peak, there is just one pitch identified as being over marked, this is located at Bank Vale Road Recreation Ground, Hayfield, which has a youth 9v9 pitch over marked on to an adult pitch.

Ancillary facilities

Consultation with clubs suggests that in general, clubs are relatively satisfied with ancillary facilities accompanying playing pitches in High Peak. The assessment of ancillary facilities generally includes the condition of clubhouses, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, car parking and boundary fencing.

However, Blazing Rag (2000) FC states that changing provision at Cote Heath Recreation Ground, Buxton, is of particularly poor quality. The Club specifically highlights that there are no toilet or shower facilities for players at the site and that it's inadequate for the needs of the Club.

Hayfield Juniors FC has future aspirations to develop a small clubhouse facility on its home site, Bank Vale Recreation Ground. The Club states it would like to create a social area, changing rooms and kitchen facility to allow for a better environment to be created for parents, in addition to allowing the Club to begin to turn over a small revenue from snacks and drinks. Presently, no plans have been created for this venture.

Similarly, Glossop North End AFC Juniors has aspirations to develop a site within the Glossop area and is currently considering its options, whilst working in partnership with a consultancy to better understand the feasibility of each site. Should this occur, the Club also has aspirations to provide a clubhouse that will accompany the creation of grass pitches.

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Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in High Peak is generally secure i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years, with most sites ensuring community use is available. It should be noted that there is a mixed range of providers in High Peak, including both the local authority and parish councils which it is assumed will provide its playing pitches for the foreseeable future. Many clubs have annual and long-term lease arrangements in place through these providers, for example, Glossop North End FC has an 80-year lease agreement in place with High Peak Borough Council for its ground.

An exception to this is found at schools and academies that state their own community use policies. In High Peak seven schools are available for community use. Some schools that do provide community availability do so without providing security of tenure, meaning they can stop the external use at any point devoid of any warning. An example of this is at the aforementioned New Mills School, which previously offered community use but no longer does so, leaving some teams without a home venue. To prevent this happening at other sites, it is recommended that club users enter long-term community use agreements with the schools that they access.

Football pyramid demand

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The system has a 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.

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground 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 requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

In High Peak, there are four clubs identified as playing in the football pyramid, as identified in the table below.

Table 2.4: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Buxton FC	Evo Stick Northern Premier	Step 3
Glossop North End FC	Evo Stick North Division 1	Step 4
New Mills FC	North West Counties Division 1	Step 6
Whaley Bridge Athletic FC	Cheshire Football League	Step 7

All clubs are currently able to meet their league requirements, although improvements may be needed in some instances for clubs to progress.

A common issue for clubs entering the pyramid is changing facilities. For Step 7 football (ground grading H), changing rooms must be a minimum size of 18-square metres, exclusive of shower and toilet areas. The general principle for clubs on the football pyramid is that they have to achieve the appropriate grade by July 31st of their first season after promotion, which

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therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. This, however, does not apply to clubs being promoted to Step 7 (as they must meet requirements immediately).

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 140 teams were identified as playing within High Peak. This consists of 34 men's teams, two women's teams, 58 youth boys' teams, seven youth girls' teams and 39 mini soccer teams.

Table 2.5: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in High Peak – brackets denote women's/girls teams

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Glossopdale	10 (1)	21 (3)	8 (1)	14	13	66
Central	13	14	5 (1)	4	3	39
Buxton	11 (1)	8 (2)	4	3	1	27
National Park	2	2	3	1	-	8
High Peak	36	45	20	22	17	140

The majority of teams play in Glossopdale Analysis Area (66 teams), with the fewest number of teams playing in National Park (eight teams). Usually, the most prevalent type of football being played is adult, however, this is not the case in High Peak as youth 11v11 teams (45) outweigh the number of adult teams (36).

As previously mentioned, despite 22 mini 7v7 and 17 mini 5v5 teams playing in High Peak, only seven of these use grass pitches, with the remaining accessing 3G.

Clubs that responded to consultation were asked whether there had been a change in the number of teams over the previous three years. The response rates for those that answered this question can be seen in the table below.

Table 2.6: Change in the number of teams over the previous three years

Team type	Clubs response		
	Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Adult	8%	15%	77%
Youth	30%	30%	40%
Mini	38%	24%	38%

The highest increase in teams is seen at mini soccer and youth level, with a third of clubs reporting an increase over the last three years in both formats, whereas only 8% of clubs report an increase in adult teams.

The way in which people want to play football is changing, especially for adult men. There is generally a trend of players opting to play small sided versions of the game as people want to be able to fit it into busy lifestyles. Shorter versions of the sport allow players to do this and if this trend continues there is likely to be demand for more access to 3G pitches.

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Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already 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 growth.

New Mills Juniors FC reports that due to a lack of pitches within its immediate locality it is fearful that it may have to reduce the number of teams it operates. The Club highlights this as an issue because it is not able to access pitches at New Mills School (as it is unavailable for community use) and because the adult pitch at Ollersett Avenue is poor quality. This leads to limited options to play fixtures, resulting in the Club having a requirement to play the majority of junior fixtures away at rival clubs.

Latent demand

During the consultation process a number of clubs identify that if more pitches were available, at their home ground or in the local area, they could develop more teams in the future (latent demand). Glossop North End AFC Juniors highlights that for the 2016-2017 season it had to turn away around 60 children who wanted to join the Club and it expects a similar number to be turned away for the 2017–2018 season as none can be accommodated on available pitches. This figure could not be quantified into teams but it should be noted that this latent demand exists.

Furness Vale FC states that if more pitches were available to the Club, it would create three additional youth teams and one additional adult team. This demand equates to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and 1.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches in the Central Analysis Area.

In addition, the following clubs stated that if more pitches were available, they would operate more teams, but none could quantify potential growth:

- ◀ Buxton Town FC
- ◀ Chapel Town JFC
- ◀ Blazing Rag (2000) FC

Furthermore, the following four clubs indicate that they would field more teams if more or better training facilities were available:

- ◀ Tintwistle Athletic FC
- ◀ Furness Vale FC
- ◀ Blazing Rag (2000) FC
- ◀ Chapel Town JFC.

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for their home fixtures outside of the area in which they are registered, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met.

Currently, teams from both Tintwistle Athletic FC and UK Sport FC are identified as accessing pitch provision outside of High Peak. It is often the case that clubs and teams export demand outside of the local authority area due to a perceived better pitch quality, cheaper pitch hire or a more convenient location for players and coaches; however, this is not the case for the

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abovementioned clubs. Instead, they play competitive fixtures in Stockport at central venue sites and as such have no desire to play within High Peak as this is their preferred league.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to teams that currently access pitches for home fixtures outside of their local authority, onto pitches in the study area. There is no identified imported demand in High Peak.

Future demand

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

Population increases

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2031) based on population growth. As can be seen in the table below, it is expected that population growth will generate one additional youth boys team, however growth will be divided across the whole local authority and as such it is likely that any future increase in teams will be included through clubs aspirational growth.

Table 2.7: Team generation rates (2031)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams ³	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (16-45)	15,812	42	1:376	15,535	41.3	0
Senior Women (16-45)	15,881	3	1:5294	15,090	2.9	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	1,939	30	1:65	2,024	31.3	1
Youth Girls (12-15)	2,024	4	1:506	2,030	4.0	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	1,022	20	1:51	997	19.5	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	943	2	1:472	976	2.1	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	2,075	21	1:99	1,947	19.7	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	2,019	18	1:112	1,922	17.1	0

Participation increases

A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the clubs which quantify their potential increase, there is a predicted growth of 12 teams equating to five adult, four youth and three mini teams.

³ Age group team numbers differ from Table 2.6 as forecasts are based on age rather than playing format. U17 and U18 teams affiliate as juniors, however generally play on adult pitches and are considered by age boundaries to be in the adult age group

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Table 2.8: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand (teams)	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁴
New Mills FC	Central	2 x adult	-	1
Glossop North End FC	Glossopdale	1 x adult	-	0.5
Hayfield Juniors FC	National Park	1 x adult	-	0.5
Buxton Town FC	Buxton	1 x adult	-	0.5
Tintwistle Athletics FC	Glossopdale	1 x youth	Youth 11v11	0.5
		1 x mini	Mini 5v5	-
Chapel Town JFC	Central	2 x youth	Youth 11v11	0.5
			Youth 9v9	0.5
		2 x mini	-	-
Whaley Bridge FC	Central	1x Youth	Youth 11v11	0.5

The total future demand expressed amounts to 4.5 match equivalent sessions which as a breakdown equates to 2.5 adult match sessions and two youth match sessions. Please note that mini teams included in the above table have been discounted from this calculation as it is expected that they will utilise 3G provision rather than grass pitches.

Table 2.9: Future demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)		
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9
Glossopdale	0.5	0.5	-
Central	1	1	0.5
Buxton	0.5	-	-
National Park	0.5	-	-
High Peak	2.5	1.5	0.5

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

⁴ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Table 2.10: Pitch ratings against actual levels of weekly play

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

Table 2.11 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity at such sites will need to be adjusted. This adjustment is generally dependent on the amount of play carried out and also the number of pitches on site. 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.

For High Peak, pitch capacity at primary schools, secondary schools, academies and colleges has been adjusted by a single match equivalent session per pitch to account for curriculum use.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In High Peak, peak time for adult and youth football is considered to be Sunday AM.

Mini football throughout High Peak is played on both Saturday and Sunday mornings on 3G pitches at central venue sites and therefore no peak demand for mini grass pitches is deemed to exist.

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Table 2.11: Football pitch capacity analysis (Community available)

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Type of tenure ⁵	Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Ancillary provision quality	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁶ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period	Comments
3	Bamford With Thornhill Recreation Ground	Yes	Secure	Community Trust	National Park	Adult		Standard	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
3	Bamford With Thornhill Recreation Ground	Yes	Secure	Community Trust	National Park	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	No actual spare capacity exists.
4	Bank Vale Road Recreation Ground, Hayfield	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	National Park	Adult		Standard	1	N/A	1	2	1	0	No actual spare capacity exists.
4	Bank Vale Road Recreation Ground, Hayfield	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	National Park	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	2	N/A	1	2	1	0	One pitch is over marked on adult pitch and therefore capacity reflects that of one pitch. No actual spare capacity exists.
5	Batham Gate Road Football Ground	Yes-unused	Secure	Sports Club	Buxton	Adult		Standard	2	Standard	-	4	4	2	No recorded play on site.
6	Buxton Community School	Yes	Secure	School	Buxton	Adult		Standard	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	No recorded play on pitch. One match session added for curricular use.
6	Buxton Community School	Yes	Secure	School	Buxton	Youth	(9v9)	Good	2	Standard	4	6	2	2	Match session added for curricular use for each pitch. Actual spare capacity exists.
10	Cemetery Road Fields, Glossop	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Glossopdale	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	3	Standard	9	3	6	0	Site significantly overplayed.
11	Chapel Leisure Centre	Yes	Secure	Commercial	Central	Adult		Poor	2	Standard	6	2	4	0	Dual use site with Chapel-en-le-Frith School. Two match sessions added for curricular use.
15	Chinley Recreation Ground	Yes	Secure	Parish Council	Central	Adult		Standard	1	Standard	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity exists.
15	Chinley Recreation Ground	Yes	Secure	Parish Council	Central	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
16	Church Fold, Charlesworth	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Glossopdale	Adult		Standard	1	N/A	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity exists.
17	Cote Heath Recreation Ground	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Buxton	Adult		Standard	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
20	Dove Holes Cricket Club	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Central	Adult		Standard	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
22	Edale Playing Fields	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation	National Park	Adult		Poor	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
23	Fairfield Youth Centre	Yes	Secure	Community Organisation	Buxton	Adult		Standard	4	Poor	1.5	8	6.5	4	Actual spare capacity exists.
24	Furness Vale Rec	Yes	Secure	Community Trust	Central	Adult		Poor	1	N/A	0.5	1	0.5	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
27	Glossop North End Football Club	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Glossopdale	Adult		Good	1	Standard	1	3	2	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to Glossop North End FC not allowing additional community use.
31	Harpur Hill Primary School	Yes – unused	Unsecure	School	Buxton	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	N/A	-	4	4	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to being on an unused education site.
33	Hayfield Primary School	Yes	Unsecure	School	Central	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	N/A	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
35	Hogshaw, Buxton	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Buxton	Adult		Poor	1	N/A	-	1	1	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
36	Hope Sports Club	Yes-unused	Secure	Sports Club	National Park	Adult		Standard	1	Standard	-	2	2	1	No recorded play on site.
37	Hope Valley College	Yes-unused	Secure	College	National Park	Adult		Standard	1	Standard	-	2	2	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to being on an unused education site.

⁵ Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

⁶ Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

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Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Type of tenure ⁵	Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Ancillary provision quality	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁶ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period	Comments
38	Gamesley FC	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Glossopdale	Adult		Standard	1	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
39	Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Central	Adult		Standard	1	Standard	4	2	2	0	Pitch overplayed.
39	Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Central	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
40	New Mills AFC	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Central	Adult		Good	1	Standard	2	3	1	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to New Mills FC not allowing additional community use.
43	Newshaw Lane Rec, Hadfield	Yes - unused	Secure	Local Authority	Glossopdale	Adult		Poor	1	N/A	-	1	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
44	Newtown Recreation Park	Yes	Secure	Town Council	Central	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
46	Ollersett Avenue, New Mills	Yes	Secure	Parish Council	Central	Adult		Poor	1	N/A	3	1	2	0	Pitch overplayed.
47	Pyegrove Rec, Glossop	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Glossopdale	Adult		Standard	2	N/A	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
48	Roughfields, Glossopdale	Yes	Secure	Local Authority	Glossopdale	Adult		Poor	1	N/A	-	1	1	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
55	Sterndale Moor	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Buxton	Adult		Standard	1	Standard	2	2	-	0	Pitch played to capacity.
55	Sterndale Moor	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Buxton	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	Standard	-	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
55	Sterndale Moor	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Buxton	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity exists.
57	The Silverlands (Buxton FC)	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Buxton	Adult		Good	1	Standard	3	3	-	0	Pitch played to capacity.
61	West Drive, Tintwistle	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Glossopdale	Adult		Standard	2	Poor	5.5	2	3.5	0	Pitches overplayed.
62	Western Lane, Buxworth	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Central	Adult		Standard	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
136	Whaley Bridge Primary School	Yes - unused	Secure	School	Central	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	N/A	-	4	4	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to being on an unused education site.
138	Rowton Park, Chapel-en-le Frith	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Central	Adult		Standard	1	N/A	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity exists.
160	St Charles' Catholic Primary School, Hadfield	Yes-unused	Secure	School	Glossopdale	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	N/A	-	4	4	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to being on an unused education site.
166	Wormhill Parish Council Playing Fields	Yes	Secure	Parish Council	Buxton	Adult		Standard	1	N/A	0.5	1	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity exists.

Table 2.12: Football pitch capacity analysis (No community use)

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Type of tenure ⁷	Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Ancillary provision quality	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁸ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period	Comments
1	All Saints Catholic Primary School, Glossop	No	Unsecure	School	Glossopdale	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	N/A	0	4	4	0	Unavailable for community use.
21	Duke of Norfolk CE Primary School, Glossop	No	Unsecure	School	Glossopdale	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	N/A	0	4	4	0	Unavailable for community use
25	Gamesley Community Primary School	No	Unsecure	School	Glossopdale	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	N/A	0	4	4	0	Unavailable for community use
29	Glossopdale College – Hadfield	No	Unsecure	School	Glossopdale	Adult		Standard	2	Standard	0	4	4	0	Pitches unavailable during school reconstruction.

⁷ Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

⁸ Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

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Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Type of tenure ⁷	Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Ancillary provision quality	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁸ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period	Comments
25	Gamesley Community Primary School	No	Unsecure	School	Glossopdale	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	Poor	0	2	2	0	Unavailable for community use
41	New Mills School Business and Enterprise College (Sports Field)	No	Unsecure	School	Central	Adult		Standard	2	Standard	0	4	4	0	Unavailable for community use

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Actual spare capacity

The table below highlights the pitches that are available at peak time and that have actual spare capacity in High Peak. Please note that this does not include pitches that have had spare capacity discounted.

Table 2.13: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
3	Bamford With Thornhill Recreation Ground	High Peak – National Park	Adult	1	1.5
5	Bantham Gate Road Football Ground	Buxton	Adult	2	4
6	Buxton School	Buxton	Adult	1	1
			Youth 9v9	2	2
15	Chinley Recreation Ground	Central	Adult	1	1
			Youth 9v9	1	1
16	Church Fold, Charlesworth	Glossopdale	Adult	1	1.5
17	Cote Heath Recreation Ground	Buxton	Adult	1	1.5
20	Dove Holes Cricket Club	Central	Adult	1	1
23	Fairfield Youth Centre	Buxton	Adult	4	6.5
33	Hayfield Primary School	Central	Mini 7v7	1	2
38	Gamesley FC	Glossopdale	Adult	1	1.5
39	Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge	Central	Youth 9v9	1	1.5
44	Newtown Recreation Park	Central	Youth 9v9	1	1
47	Pyegrove Rec	Glossopdale	Adult	2	3
55	Sterndale Moor	Buxton	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
			Mini 7v7	1	4
62	Western Lane, Buxworth	Central	Adult	1	1
138	Rowton Park, Chapel-en-le-Frith	Central	Adult	1	1
168	Wormhill Parish Council Playing Fields	Buxton	Adult	1	1.5

The table shows a total of 23.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across High Peak with the most expressed on adult pitches in Buxton Analysis Area.

Table 2.14: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Glossopdale	2.5	-	-	-	-
Central	3.5	-	2	1	-
Buxton	9	0.5	2	1	-
National Park	2	-	-	-	-
High Peak	17	0.5	4	2	-

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Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). In High Peak, nine pitches are overplayed across five sites by a total of 13.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.15: Overplay on pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
10	Cemetery Road Playing Fields	Glossopdale	Youth (11v11)	3	6
11	Chapel Leisure Centre	Central	Adult	2	4
39	Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge	Central	Adult	1	2
46	Ollersett Avenue, New Mills	Central	Adult	1	2
61	West Drive, Tintwistle	Glossopdale	Adult	2	3.5

The majority of overplay occurs on adult pitches (7.5 match equivalent sessions) with no recorded overplay on mini or youth 9v9 pitches.

Table 2.16: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Glossopdale	1.5	6	-	-	-
Central	8	-	-	-	-
Buxton	-	-	-	-	-
National Park	-	-	-	-	-
High Peak	9.5	6	-	-	-

2.6: Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any latent/ displaced demand) in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based solely on club growth aspirations as TGRs did not forecast any new teams being created.

Table 2.17: Spare capacity/ overplay of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Glossopdale	2.5	3.5	1	-	0.5	1.5
Central	3.5	8	4.5	0.5	1	6
Buxton	9	-	9	-	0.5	8.5
National Park	2	-	2	-	0.5	1.5
High Peak	17	11.5	5.5	0.5	2.5	2.5

⁹ In match equivalent sessions

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There is an overall adequate supply of adult pitches in High Peak to accommodate both current and future demand; however, when looking at individual analysis areas, it is evident there is a shortfall of pitches in the Central Analysis Area. This is the case for both current and future demand.

Table 2.18: Spare capacity/ overplay of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁰	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Glossopdale	-	6	6	-	0.5	6.5
Central	-	-	-	1.5	1	2.5
Buxton	0.5	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
National Park	-	-	-	-	-	-
High Peak	0.5	6	5.5	1.5	1.5	8.5

The table above shows that for youth 11v11 pitches in High Peak there is an overall shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week to accommodate current demand. When factoring in future demand, there is a shortfall totalling 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This can be attributed to the Central and Glossopdale analysis areas, with the Buxton Analysis Area showing spare capacity and the National Park Analysis Area played to capacity.

In addition, please note that a further 23 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions (46 youth 11v11 teams) are recorded as taking place on adult pitches. As such, there is a clear need for an increase in youth 11v11 provision in order for this play to be transferred on to the correct pitch size without overplay being exacerbated.

Table 2.19: Spare capacity/ overplay of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹¹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Glossopdale	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central	2	-	2	-	0.5	1.5
Buxton	2	-	2	-	-	2
National Park	-	-	-	-	-	-
High Peak	4	-	4	-	0.5	3.5

The current picture shows that there is current overall spare capacity on 9v9 pitches amounting to four match equivalent sessions. When future demand is considered, there still remains an adequate amount of provision with High Peak. No analysis areas are considered to be overplayed either currently or when accounting for future demand.

Supply and demand analysis for mini pitches

¹⁰ In match equivalent sessions

¹¹ In match equivalent sessions

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Demand for both mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches in High Peak is minimal due to the prominence of the High Peak Junior Football League, which uses a central venue site located at Glossopdale College with all fixtures played on the 3G pitch. Additionally, there are well established junior football leagues based in both Stockport and Tameside which teams from within High Peak are identified as competing in.

In total, 74% of all mini teams in High Peak play on the 3G pitch at Glossopdale College. Of the remaining teams, most play on the 3G pitch located at Buxton Community School, with only seven identified as utilising grass pitches. As no existing grass mini pitches are overplayed and as many have actual spare capacity, it is expected that any residual demand for such provision can be accommodated in High Peak through the current supply.

For supply and demand analysis of mini demand on 3G pitches, please see Part 3: Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches.

Football – grass pitch summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a current total of 61 grass football pitches within High Peak across 40 sites. Of these, 53 pitches are available for community use across 35 sites.
- ◀ In addition, there is one site identified as being disused at Bakehurst Recreation Ground, New Mills.
- ◀ In total, five pitches are assessed as good quality, 37 as standard and 11 as poor.
- ◀ Issues are highlighted with ancillary provision at both Cote Heath Recreation Ground, Buxton and Rowton Park, Chapel-en-le-Frith.
- ◀ There are four clubs in High Peak that play within the non-league football pyramid.
- ◀ A total of 140 teams are identified as playing within High Peak. This consists of 34 men's, two women's, 58 youth boys', seven youth girls' and 39 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ There is latent demand equating to 0.5 adult and 1.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Currently there are eight clubs registered in High Peak that have teams playing outside of the Borough; however, none of these clubs' state that they wish to move venue.
- ◀ Team generation rates (2031) predict a growth of one youth team, although it is expected that this growth will be incorporated through club growth aspirations.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by seven clubs amounting to the growth of 12 teams.
- ◀ There is a total of 17 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across High Peak with most identified on adult pitches and in the Buxton Analysis Area.
- ◀ There are nine pitches overplayed across five sites by a total of 17.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall spare capacity exists on adult pitches, although a shortfall is evident in the Central and Glossopdale Analysis Area.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches equating to 5.5 match equivalent sessions, which can be attributed to the Central and Glossopdale analysis areas.
- ◀ Overall spare capacity exists on youth 9v9 pitches with no shortfalls evident in any of the analysis areas.
- ◀ It is expected that any residual demand for grass mini pitches can be accommodated in High Peak through the current stock provided that the 3G stock remain capable of hosting matches.

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

3.1 Introduction

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

Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby regulation 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football, able to be used for low level curricular hockey.

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

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FA or FIFA certified and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play at mini soccer and youth level. The recommended FA dimensions for a full sized 3G pitch are 100 x 64 metres with additional run off areas of three metres required on each side. Minimum playing area dimensions to meet performance standard criteria for competitive football are 90 x 45 metres (or 100 x 64 metres for FIFA sanctioned international matches), with additional run off areas of three metres required on each side. FIFA 3G pitch certification is required to host competitive adult match play at Step 3 and below, whilst for teams playing at Steps 1 or 2 pitches are required to have FIFA Pro standard certification, further information on which is included later in the section. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

It should be noted that the FA refers to 3G pitches as 3G football turf pitches (3G FTPs), though this term is not adopted throughout this PPS as 3G pitches can be and are used for other sports including rugby union, rugby league, lacrosse and American football, amongst others.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for Artificial Grass Pitches for Rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allow matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place. All full size World Rugby compliant 3G pitches feature on the RFU register, including expiry dates of certification¹². Upon registration, World Rugby compliancy is valid for two years before renewal and retesting is required.

¹²<http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/club-support/facilities-kit-and-equipment/artificial-surfaces/artificial-grass-pitches>

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Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the RFL to meet its Performance Standard for Synthetic Turf Pitches. 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, consequently World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements and are deemed suitable for rugby league use subject to passing an additional exclusive RFL performance standard test.

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

3.2: Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 70 metres including run offs). As such, there is just one full size 3G pitch in High Peak, located at Glossopdale College in the Glossopdale Analysis Area. It is fully floodlit and is on the FA register. The carpet is short pile (40mm) as it was built with the purpose of accommodating school hockey demand albeit it is no longer used for this purpose as it is no longer considered hockey suitable.

In addition, there are also two smaller sized pitches servicing High Peak. Such pitches are generally not suitable for adult match play but can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches provided they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with adequate run-off areas which is the case at Buxton Community School.

The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football (including u17s and u18s) is 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s and 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches is 54 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches, it is 37 x 27 metres. All pitch sizes should also include a three-metre safety run-off area.

Both smaller sized 3G pitches within High Peak are available and used for community use. Both pitches are predominately used to accommodate training demand from both Buxton Juniors FC and Whaley Bridge Juniors FC with the pitch at Buxton Community School able to accommodate some match play, given it's on the FA register.

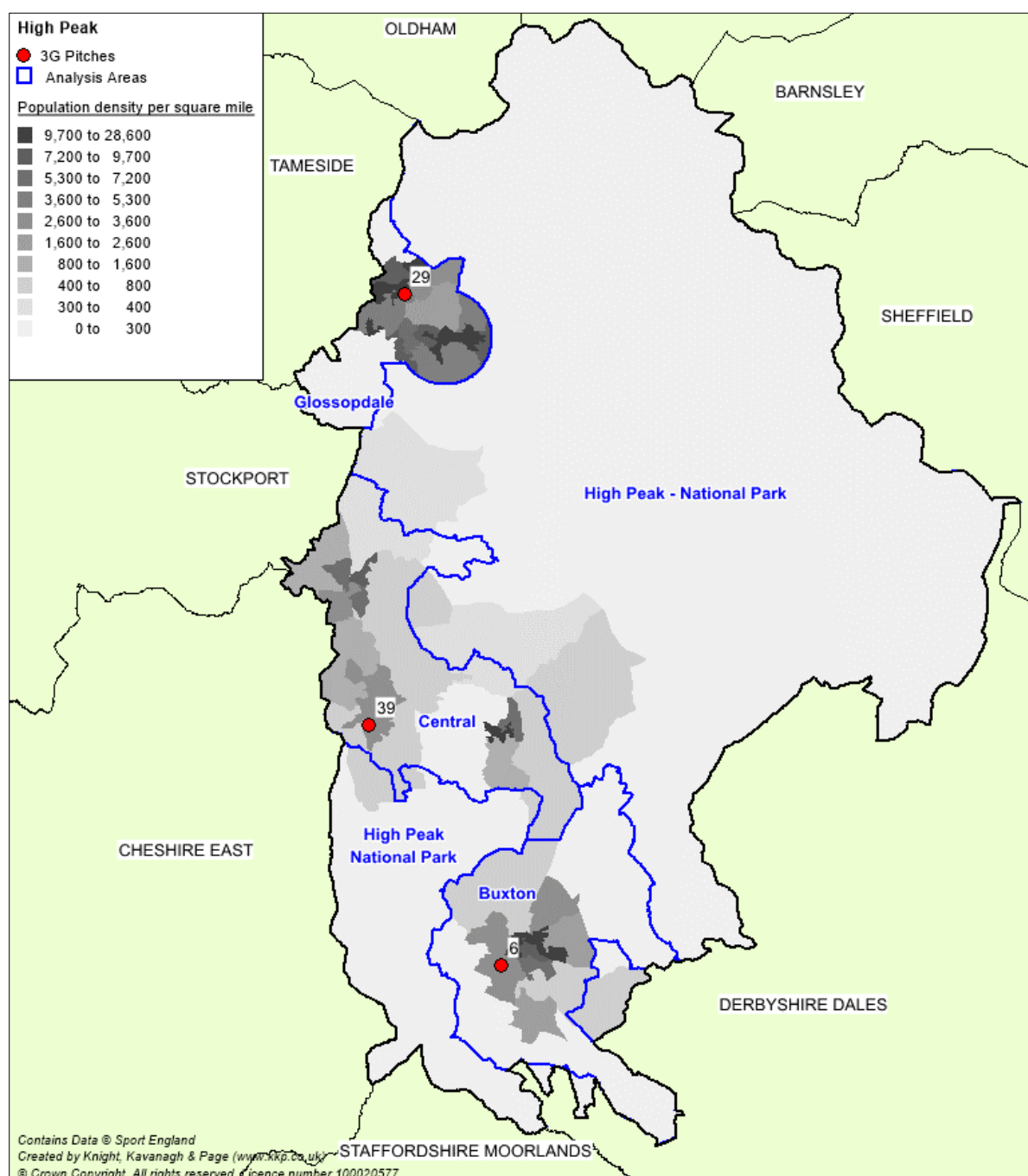
Table 3.2: Additional supply of 3G pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
6	Buxton Community School	Buxton	1	Yes	Yes	51 x 33
39	Memorial Park	Central	1	Yes	Yes	40 x 33

Figure 3.1 overleaf shows the location of all 3G pitches within High Peak.

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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in High Peak



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FA/FIFA approved pitches

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 pitch register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.

Pitches undergo FIFA testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch (previously FIFA One Star) or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch (previously FIFA Two Star), with pitches commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. This comes after FIFA announced changes to 3G performance in October 2015 following consultation with member associations and licenced laboratories. The changes are part of FIFA's continued ambition to drive up performance standard in the industry and the implications are that all 3G pitches built through the FA framework will be constructed to meet the new criteria.

The changes from FIFA One Star to FIFA Quality will have minimal impact on the current hours of use guidelines, which suggests that One Star pitches place more emphasis on the product's ability to sustain acceptable performance and can typically be used for 60-85 hours per week with a lifespan of 20,000 cycles. In contrast, pitches built to FIFA Quality Pro performance standards are unlikely to provide the hours of use that some FIFA Two Star products have guaranteed in the past (previously 30-40 hours per week with a lifespan of 5,000 cycles). Typically, a FIFA Quality Pro pitch will be able to accommodate only 20-30 hours per week with appropriate maintenance due to strict performance measurements.

Clubs playing in the football pyramid on 3G pitches meeting FIFA One Star or Two Star guidelines will still be expected to certify pitches annually, however, if any pitch replacement takes place the Club will need to meet the new FIFA performance criteria of FIFA Quality/Quality Pro. Pitches below the national league pyramid require FA testing every three years.

In High Peak, the 3G pitch at Glossopdale College and the smaller sided 3G pitch at Buxton Community School are both FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. To sustain usage, it is imperative that the pitches are re-tested every three years and that the quality is sustained to a level that ensures continued certification.

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability. The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA.

Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with the above specification and must be re-tested every two years to maintain its World Rugby compliance. No 3G pitches in High Peak are World Rugby compliant and the Borough is not considered to be a target area for one to be supplied in the future. Nevertheless, the RFU would welcome the opportunity to input into 3G development in order to explore options for training shortfalls, especially at Glossop Rugby Club.

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Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 3.3: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Size	Analysis area	Availability
6	Buxton Community School	Small	Buxton	Available to the community from 17:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 17:00 on Saturdays and Sundays
29	Glossopdale College	Full sized	Glossopdale	Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Thursday. 18:00 – 21:00 Friday, 10:00 – 17:00 Saturday and 09:00 – 20:00 Sunday.
39	Memorial Park	Small	Central	Available to the community from 09:00 until 21:30 Monday to Sunday.

Quality

The carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place to enable long term sustainability, on-going repairs and future refurbishment beyond this time period.

The pitch at Glossopdale College was installed in 2008 and is therefore nearing the end of its expected lifespan. A non-technical assessment of the pitch found that the pitch has been poorly repaired in places and is worn in high traffic areas. As such, the pitch was assessed as poor quality.

Considering both the age and condition of the pitch, it is unlikely that it will pass an FA register re-test. Derbyshire FA highlights that it is working closely with the School to support it in resurfacing the pitch and is keen to ensure it remains on the FA register. Currently, the pitch accommodates match play for 30 teams, in addition to 19 hours of midweek training time. It is therefore the intention that the School will be given a grace period to allow it to remain on the FA register until resurfacing can take place, which is likely to begin in Spring 2018 if a funding application through the Football Foundation is successful.

Both smaller sized 3G pitches at Buxton School and Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge are assessed as standard quality.

Ancillary facilities

Both pitches on the FA register (Glossopdale College and Buxton Community School) are accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate and no issues were raised during consultation or via site assessments.

3.3: Demand

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Both 3G pitches on the FA register currently servicing High Peak are reported as operating at or close to capacity during midweek at desirable times, especially during the winter when teams are more likely to train on a floodlit AGP as opposed to grass pitches.

Both pitches are well used with Glossopdale College pitch being utilised for 95% of its capacity midweek and 90% of its capacity on a weekend. Similarly, the pitch at Buxton Community School is heavily utilised midweek with only the undesirable 17:00-18:00 pm midweek slots available. Memorial Park is deemed to have capacity during the day but is heavily utilised Tuesday – Thursday to accommodate training demand of local clubs.

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for football use. Primarily such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly 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 floodlit facilities.

Of clubs responding to consultation, seven report that they require access or additional access to 3G pitch provision. Many clubs currently access sand-based AGPs or indoor sports halls, whilst others do access 3G pitches but do so at undesirable times or do so outside of High Peak.

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week. Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match.

Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or into quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers it is therefore estimated that 42 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training.

As there are 140 teams currently playing in High Peak this means there is a demand for three full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 3.3 due to the provision of a smaller sized 3G pitch on the FA register). This means that there is a current shortfall of two full sized pitches.

When considering future demand (152 teams including population increases and future demand expressed by clubs) demand for 3G pitches stays the same, with three full sized pitches (rounded down from 3.6) required to accommodate demand. The figure is rounded down to offset teams which do not train, and to allow for some appreciation of teams utilising sand based pitches.

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Alternatively, the table overleaf considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. For this, please note that the 3G requirement is rounded up to ensure that every team is accommodated. That said, this approach may not be sustainable and any development beyond the number of pitches required for High Peak as a whole must have robust business plans to justify further provision.

Table 3.4: Current demand for 3G pitches in High Peak (42 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G pitch requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall	Future number of teams	Future shortfall
Glossopdale	66	2	1	1	69	1
Central	39	1	-	1	46	2
Buxton	27	1	-	1	28	1
National Park	8	1	-	1	9	1
High Peak	140	5	1	4	152	5

Although a current shortfall of four 3G pitches and a future shortfall of five 3G pitches is identified, given the rural characteristics of High Peak, it is not recommended that this number of 3G pitches are provided. For example, the minimal demand in the National Park Analysis Area is not considered enough to warrant the installation of a 3G pitch as such a development would not be sustainable. It is also considered that the smaller sized 3G pitch at Buxton Community School is likely to be able to accommodate both current and future demand for the Buxton Analysis Area.

In contrast, enough demand is considered to exist for a 3G pitch to be provided in the Central Analysis Area, despite it currently being serviced by a smaller sized pitch. Additionally, consideration could be given to increasing the 3G pitch stock in the Glossopdale Analysis Area due to the high number of teams playing within it.

Moving match play to 3G pitches

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

In the Strategy document that follows this report, scenarios will be run to determine how many full size 3G pitches are required to satisfy certain levels of match play demand. Currently, there are nine teams recorded as playing on the two FA registered pitches provided.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is limited spare capacity on the current supply of 3G pitches when teams require access for training purposes, leading to seven clubs reporting a need for increased provision. The FA model suggests that to meet training demand there is a current and future need for an additional two full size community available pitches. As such, there is a clear need for more

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3G pitches to be developed and the priority locations for these developments should be the Central and Glossopdale analysis areas given the large shortfalls identified.

Given an identified oversupply of sand-based AGPs for hockey purposes (See Part 6) consideration should be given to converting the sand based AGP at Chapel Leisure Centre to a 3G surface as this is generally a more cost-effective way to reduce shortfalls given that the surrounding infrastructure will be in place. This, however, should be reviewed on a site by site basis and only considered after approval from England Hockey.

Conversion from hockey suitable AGP surface types

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way to replace a worn sand or water based carpet and generate increased revenue from hiring out a 3G pitch to football and rugby clubs and commercial football providers. This has often come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams consequently displaced from their preferred local authority.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and the applicants will need to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

A 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

3G summary

- ◀ There is one full sized 3G pitch in High Peak located at Glossopdale College.
- ◀ In addition, there are two smaller sized pitches located at Buxton Community School and the Memorial Park, Whaley Bridge.
- ◀ Pitches at Glossopdale College and Buxton Community School are on the FA register.
- ◀ Having been installed in 2008, Glossopdale College is assessed as poor-quality due to a mixture of surface quality and low-quality repair work.
- ◀ Both 3G pitches on the FA register are nearing full capacity.
- ◀ In order to satisfy current and future training demand, there is a need for three full size 3G pitches meaning a current shortfall of two.
- ◀ Priority should therefore be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches in order to reduce shortfalls, particularly in the Glossopdale and Central analysis areas.

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PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

Derbyshire Cricket Board (DCB) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within Derbyshire County, under which High Peak falls. DCB works closely with the ECB and has four core roles and responsibilities: strategic planning, programme management, performance management, and effective governance. DCB is responsible for participation, club accreditation, club members, coaching roles, volunteer roles and player development.

The DCB is currently working with the ECB on delivering its new five-year plan, Cricket Unleashed. Its success will be measured by the number of people who support, play and follow the whole game and is based upon five key areas (More play, great teams, inspired fans, good governance and social responsibility and strong finance and operations).

Senior cricket is typically played in leagues on Saturday afternoons in High Peak. The youth league structure tends to be club based matches which are played mid-week, meaning there is usually no conflict with access to squares, with matches generally played on various nights (Monday-Friday).

Consultation

The following 14 cricket clubs are identified as playing in High Peak, all of which, responded to consultation requests.

- ◀ Birch Vale and Thornsett CC
- ◀ Buxton CC
- ◀ Buxworth CC
- ◀ Chapel-en-le-Frith CC
- ◀ Charlesworth and Chisworth CC
- ◀ Dinting CC
- ◀ Doveholes CC
- ◀ Glossop CC
- ◀ Hadfield St Andrews CC
- ◀ Hayfield CC
- ◀ New Mills CC
- ◀ Old Glossop CC
- ◀ Tintwistle CC
- ◀ Whaley Bridge CC

4.2: Supply

In total, there are 15 grass wicket cricket squares in High Peak located across 15 sites. All of these are located on club sites and are available to and used by the community. There are no cricket pitches located on school sites or any standalone non-turf pitches (NTPs).

Table 4.1: Summary of grass wicket squares available for community use

Analysis area	Number available for community use
Glossopdale	6
Central	7
Buxton	2
National Park	-
High Peak	15

Most cricket squares are spread between the Central and Glossopdale analysis areas with seven and six respectively, in comparison to there being no squares in the National Park Analysis Area and just two in Buxton Analysis Area.

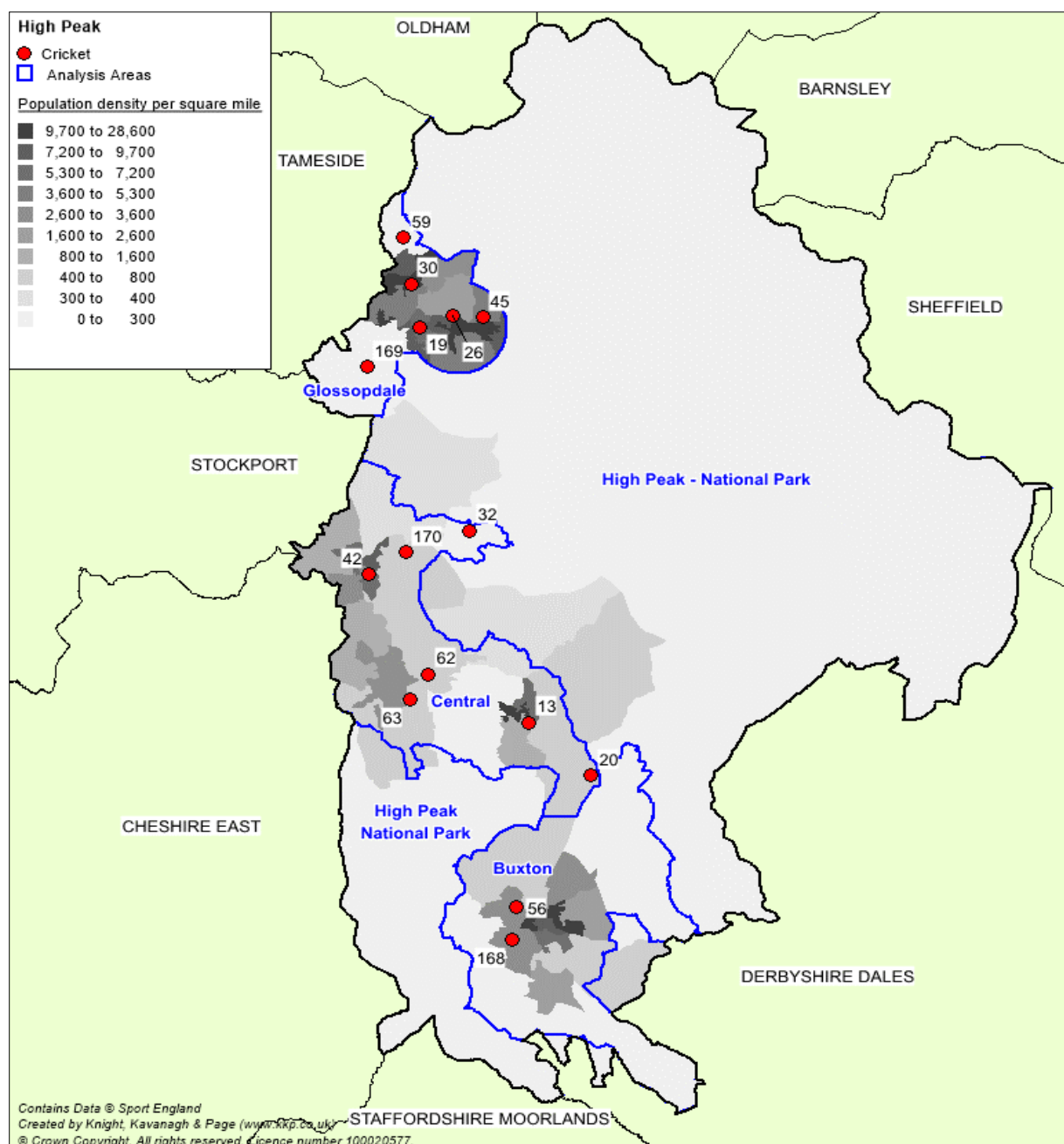
Non turf pitches (NTPs)

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs not only assist with training (with the aid of mobile nets) but they are also frequently used for junior matches, which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets. There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at the following sites:

- ◀ The Park (Buxton Cricket Tennis and Bowls Club)
- ◀ The Green, Buxton

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Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in High Peak



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Table 4.2: Summary of cricket squares in High Peak

Site ID	Site	Club users (where different from site name)	Analysis area	No. of squares	Community use?	Number of wickets	
						Grass	Non-turf
13	Chapel-en-le-Frith Cricket Club		Central	1	Yes	11	-
19	Dinting Cricket Club		Glossopdale	1	Yes	8	-
20	Dove Holes Cricket Club		Central	1	Yes	8	-
26	Glossop Cricket Club		Glossopdale	1	Yes	9	-
30	Hadfield St Andrew's Cricket Club		Glossopdale	1	Yes	8	-
32	Hayfield Cricket Club		Central	1	Yes	7	-
42	New Mills Sports Club	New Mills CC	Central	1	Yes	9	-
45	Old Glossop Cricket Club		Glossopdale	1	Yes	8	-
56	The Park (Buxton Cricket Tennis and Bowls Club)	Buxton CC	Buxton	1	Yes	9	1
59	Tintwistle Cricket Club		Glossopdale	1	Yes	8	-
62	Western Lane	Buxworth CC	Central	1	Yes	8	-
63	Whaley Bridge Cricket Club		Central	1	Yes	14	-
168	The Green, Buxton.	Buxton CC	Buxton	1	Yes	6	1
169	Charlesworth & Chisworth Cricket Club		Glossopdale	1	Yes	12	-
170	Birch Vale & Thornsett Cricket Club		Central	1	Yes	12	-

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Security of tenure

The majority of clubs that responded to consultation in High Peak own their home grounds (nine clubs), with the remainder all having long term leases in place.

Table 4.3: Summary of ownership in High Peak

Owned	Leased
Buxworth CC Chapel-en-le-Frith CC Charlesworth and Chisworth CC Glossop CC Hadfield St Andrews CC Hayfield CC New Mills CC Old Glossop CC Tintwistle CC Whaley Bridge CC	Birch Vale & Thornsett CC Buxton CC Dinting CC Dove Holes CC

All four clubs that lease their home grounds have long term security tenure (i.e. 25 years or more); however, the lease on the Park (Buxton Cricket Tennis and Bowls Club) from the Council is for 25 years compared to the remaining three clubs which have 99 years leases in place. Birch Vale & Thornsett CC leases its ground from New Mills Town Council, with Dinting CC and Dove Holes CC leasing from trustees and the community respectively.

Further to the above, Buxton CC also leases a second square from Buxton Hockey Club at Green Lane to accommodate its third team. This lease arrangement has 23 years remaining.

Quality

As part of the PPS Guidance, there are three levels to assessing the quality of cricket pitches: good, standard and poor. 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. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

It should also be noted that clubs in High Peak have access to the Derbyshire Groundsman's Association (DGA) through the DCB. The DGA allows clubs to obtain, at reduced cost, pitch care and maintenance products and free advice and guidance from ECB pitch advisors to assist with any issues.

The non-technical assessments carried out on grass cricket squares in High Peak found the majority of squares to be standard quality (15) and just one, Hayfield Cricket Club, to be good quality. No squares were assessed as poor quality.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.4: Individual site quality scores

Site ID	Site name	Non-technical assessment quality rating	Club quality ratings
13	Chapel-en-le-Frith Cricket Club	Standard	Standard
19	Dinting Cricket Club	Standard	Good
20	Dove Holes Cricket Club	Standard	Good
26	Glossop Cricket Club	Standard	Good
30	Hadfield St Andrew's Cricket Club	Standard	Standard
32	Hayfield Cricket Club	Good	Good
42	New Mills Sports Club	Standard	Standard
45	Old Glossop Cricket Club	Standard	Good
56	The Park (Buxton CC)	Standard	Good
59	Tintwistle Cricket Club	Standard	Standard
62	Western Lane (Buxworth CC)	Standard	Standard
63	Whaley Bridge Cricket Club	Standard	Good
168	The Green (Buxton CC)	Standard	Good
169	Charlesworth & Chisworth CC	Standard	Good
170	Birch Vale & Thornsett CC	Standard	Standard

Although the non-technical site assessments assess most squares as being standard quality, most responding clubs report their squares to be overall good quality (eight) with the remaining five clubs agreeing with the standard quality rating.

That said, of those reporting overall good pitch quality, two clubs report drainage issues on the outfield (Old Glossop CC and Dove Holes CC) and one club (Buxton CC) reports that, due to public access on its site (the Park), dog fouling/litter is a regular issue affecting quality. Further to this, the Club also reports that maintenance of the site/pitch (by the Council) can be an issue with infrequent grass cutting, hedges being uncut and railings needing repair.

Eight clubs report uneven outfields including Buxworth CC which suggests that its outfield quality would be much improved with a good mower, which it hopes to find funds to have in readiness for next season.

Dinting CC reports that there are several medium-term projects it would like to embark on, including; improving the car park and additional drainage works on the pitch.

In addition to the above quality aspects, three clubs report that their outfields are undersized for senior cricket. These are Birch Vale & Thornsett, Old Glossop and Hadfield St Andrews cricket clubs.

Ancillary facilities

Quality and access to required match day and preparatory facilities varies between clubs in High Peak. The extent of facilities that are required also differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide refreshments, whereas for junior and senior matches played midweek this is often not required and more emphasis is on access to suitable changing facilities.

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During consultation, clubs were asked to rate the quality of their ancillary facilities. The only club which raised a specific issue is Tintwistle CC which identifies a capital investment initiative for a new pavilion as its current pavilion has reached the end of its lifespan and is in need of replacement in order to secure the Club's future sustainability.

Further to this, Dinting CC reports it would like to update the women's toilets as one of its medium-term projects.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Of responding clubs, only Chapel-en-le-Frith CC identifies not having cricket net facilities but reports demand for access to nets on site. However, eight clubs identify demand for further improvements to existing training provision as follows:

Table 4.5: Training facility needs

Club/site	Comment
Charlesworth and Chisworth CC	Nets require replacing
Buxton CC	Mobile cage required
Dove Holes CC	Mobile cage required
Hadfield St Andrews CC	Artificial nets required
Tintwistle CC	The Club has two NTP practise wickets which are 17 years old. These are in desperate need of replacement due to the age of the surfaces and cage netting.
New Mills CC	Artificial net needs replacing.
Dinting CC (Holy Trinity CC)	The practice nets need updating with full length matting and netting.
Chapel-en-le-Frith CC	Non-turf practice nets required.

Access to indoor nets during the winter can be problematic for clubs in High Peak. Circumstantial evidence suggests that some clubs are priced out of using facilities, whilst others cannot get access at desirable times as the majority of sports halls are dominated by football use.

4.3: Demand

In total, there are 14 affiliated clubs competing in High Peak generating 82 teams, which equates to 29 senior men's and 53 junior boys' teams. There are no senior women's or junior girls' teams playing competitively in High Peak.

Table 4.6: Summary of teams

Club name	No. of competitive teams			
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Birch Vale and Thornsett CC	2	-	3	-
Buxton CC	3	-	8	-
Buxworth CC	2	-	3	-
Chapel-en-le-Frith CC	2	-	3	-
Charlesworth and Chisworth CC	2	-	3	-

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Club name	No. of competitive teams			
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Dinting CC	2	-	4	-
Doveholes CC	2	-	3	-
Glossop CC	2	-	5	-
Hadfield St Andrews CC	2	-	6	-
Hayfield CC	2	-	4	-
New Mills CC	2	-	4	-
Old Glossop CC	2	-	3	-
Tintwistle CC	2	-	2	-
Whaley Bridge CC	2	-	2	-
Total	29	-	53	-

The vast majority of clubs playing in High Peak provide two senior men's teams with the exception of Buxton CC which provides three.

The picture in relation to junior cricket is somewhat mixed. Although all clubs provide junior boys' teams this ranges from most being provided by Buxton CC (eight teams) and two each being provided by Tintwistle CC and Whaley Bridge CC.

Some clubs identify that their pitches also accommodate school teams (as there are no cricket pitches provided at school sites in High Peak). For example, New Mills CC allows New Mills School to use its pitch and facilities free of charge and similarly Buxton CC also accommodates school use when it can.

Women's and girls' cricket

Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority for the ECB and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority over the next five years. 8-10% of the Whole Sport Plan funding is focused around women and girls and talent identification.

There are no senior women's or junior girls' teams currently playing competitively in High Peak and no responding clubs report a likely change in this in the future. However, New Mills CC does report that it is seeing an increase in girls participating in the younger age groups as part of mixed junior teams.

Last Man Stands

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005, in London. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on NTPs. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and affiliates to the ECB, operating nationwide on a franchise basis.

At present, there is no LMS league servicing High Peak and it is not currently considered as a target area by either the ECB or DCB.

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Participation trends

The National Player Survey (NPS) conducted over the past three years by the ECB reveals that the nature of participation in traditional league cricket is currently suffering a decline, although this is being offset by a rapid increase in non-traditional formats (such as LMS and T20 competitions), which are shorter, quicker formats of the game.

Contrary to this, participation in High Peak generally seems stable as most clubs (eight) report that the number of senior teams fielded has remained static over the previous three years. Only three clubs report a decrease (Whaley Bridge, Glossop and Chapel-en-le-Frith CC), whilst two report an increase (Dove Holes and New Mills CC).

In terms of junior participation, the picture is more varied with most clubs reporting that the number of junior teams fielded has decreased (five). However, four report an increase and four report the number has remained static.

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of High Peak despite being registered to the Local Authority. This is normally because pitch requirements cannot be met but can also be through choice if better quality or cheaper facilities are being accessed.

There is no reported demand from High Peak being exported, although some teams do travel outside of High Peak to access training facilities. For example, Charlesworth and Chisworth CC travel to Greater Manchester to access winter nets.

Future demand

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

Team generation rates are used as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2031) based on population growth. That being said, there is not anticipated to be enough growth in the age categories for cricket (senior men 18-55 year olds and junior boys 7-18 year olds) to produce new teams.

Participation increases

Although population growth will not necessarily create more cricket teams in High Peak, ten responding clubs report plans to increase the number of teams fielded in the future as identified in the table below:

Table 4.7: Summary of potential participation increases

Club	No. and type of teams
Birch Vale & Thornsett CC	1 junior team
Buxton CC	1 men's team
Buxworth CC	1 junior team
Chapel-en-le-Frith CC	2 junior teams
Charlesworth & Chisworth CC	2 junior teams

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Club	No. and type of teams
Dinting Cricket Club	1 junior team
Dove Holes CC	1 junior team
Glossop CC	1 men's team
New Mills CC	2 junior teams
Old Glossop CC	1 junior team
Tintwistle CC	2 junior teams

With the exception of two clubs (Buxton CC and Glossop CC), all remaining clubs report aspirations to increase the number of junior teams fielded (by 13 teams in total). Buxton CC and Glossop CC express future demand for one senior men's team each.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket in High Peak as Saturday, with 26 teams playing on this day and only three teams playing on a Sunday.

For junior cricket, peak time demand is mid-week with all junior teams playing at this time. It should, however, be noted that mid-week cricket has the potential to be spread across numerous days (Monday-Friday) and as a result squares have greater capacity to carry junior demand (providing the pitches are not overplayed).

4.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability (i.e. only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening). Wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. This section presents the current square stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

To help calculate square capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality natural turf wicket should be able to take five matches per season per grass wicket (adults). This information 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

It should be noted that capacity of five matches per wicket is only a guide. This does not take into consideration pitch quality or maintenance levels. As such, recognition needs to be made for the need for pitch preparation which is particularly relevant when a Club has a volunteer groundsman who may only be able to work evenings which will often clash with evening cricket.

The ECB also suggests that a non-turf pitch can accommodate 60 matches per season. However, as there is no competitive use of non-turf pitches sanctioned in High Peak, the capacity overleaf covers capacity of natural turf wickets only.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.8: Cricket grass pitch capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Quality rating	No. of grass wickets	Recommended capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
13	Chapel-en-le-Frith Cricket Club	Central	1	Standard	11	55	38	-17
19	Dinting Cricket Club	Glossopdale	1	Standard	8	40	40	0
20	Dove Holes Cricket Club	Central	1	Standard	8	40	35	-5
26	Glossop Cricket Club	Glossopdale	1	Standard	9	45	46	1
30	Hadfield St Andrew's Cricket Club	Glossopdale	1	Standard	8	40	45	5
32	Hayfield Cricket Club	Central	1	Good	7	35	39	4
42	New Mills Sports Club	Central	1	Standard	9	45	40	-5
45	Old Glossop Cricket Club	Glossopdale	1	Standard	8	40	35	-5
56	The Park (Buxton CC)	Buxton	1	Standard	9	45	45	0
59	Tintwistle Cricket Club	Glossopdale	1	Standard	8	40	33	-7
62	Western Lane (Buxworth CC)	Central	1	Standard	8	40	40	0
63	Whaley Bridge Cricket Club	Central	1	Standard	14	70	34	-36
168	The Green (Buxton CC)	Buxton	1	Standard	6	30	10	-20
169	Charlesworth & Chisworth Cricket Club	Glossopdale	1	Standard	12	60	37	-23
170	Birch Vale & Thornsett Cricket Club	Central	1	Standard	12	60	40	-20

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4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed '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 spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

There are nine squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in High Peak totalling 138 match equivalent sessions per season; however, only four of these have actual spare capacity at peak time (Saturday).

Table 4.9: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Amount of spare capacity (match sessions)	Squares available on a Saturday
13	Chapel-en-le-Frith Cricket Club	Central	1	17	0.5
20	Dove Holes Cricket Club	Central	1	5	-
42	New Mills Sports Club	Central	1	5	0.5
45	Old Glossop Cricket Club	Glossopdale	1	5	-
59	Tintwistle Cricket Club	Glossopdale	1	7	0.5
63	Whaley Bridge Cricket Club	Central	1	36	-
168	The Green (Buxton CC)	Buxton	1	20	0.5
169	Charlesworth & Chisworth Cricket Club	Glossopdale	1	23	-
170	Birch Vale & Thornsett Cricket Club	Central	1	20	-

Despite nine squares showing spare capacity, only four are available for further use on a Saturday and could all accommodate one more team (based on playing on a home and away basis). However, given that New Mills Sports Club and Tintwistle Cricket Club only have five and seven match sessions of spare capacity respectively, this will not accommodate a full team for a whole season as, on average, teams play 12 home matches per season. As such, this capacity has been discounted.

As a result, only two squares are considered as being available for an increase in demand at senior peak time (Chapel-en-le-Frith Cricket Club and the Green, Buxton).

Overplay

As guidance, all squares receiving more than five match equivalent sessions per wicket per season are adjudged to be overplayed. On this basis, three squares are considered to be overplayed in High Peak by a total of 10 match equivalent sessions, as seen in the table overleaf.

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Table 4.10: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
26	Glossop Cricket Club	Glossopdale	1	1
30	Hadfield St Andrew's Cricket Club	Glossopdale	1	5
32	Hayfield Cricket Club	Central	1	4
Total			3	10

Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, it is recommended that no further play is accommodated on overplayed squares. This is particularly the case at both Glossop Cricket Club and Hadfield St Andrew's Cricket Club as they are assessed as being standard quality.

4.6 Conclusions

Consideration must be given to the extent in which current provision can accommodate current and future demand.

As previously mentioned, junior teams play mid-week on a variety of days; consequently, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future. Each grass wicket square that is not overplayed is thought to have spare capacity for an increase in mid-week demand.

The table below looks at available spare capacity on a Saturday for senior cricket considered against overplay and future demand highlighted during consultation. This has been converted into match equivalent sessions based on the average number of home matches a senior team plays per season (12 matches for senior men).

Table 4.11: Capacity of grass wicket squares at peak senior time (Saturday)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions)			
		Overplay	Current demand total	Future demand	Total
Glossopdale	-	6	6	12	18
Central	17	4	13	-	13
Buxton	20	-	20	12	8
National Park	-	-	-	-	-
High Peak	37	10	27	24	3

Overall there is enough spare capacity to accommodate current and future demand in High Peak; however, on an analysis area basis, there is a current and future shortfall in the Glossopdale Analysis Area. This is due to overplay and future demand expressed at Glossop Cricket Club.

The spare capacity suggested in remaining analysis areas does not represent an oversupply of cricket provision. All cricket squares within High Peak are needed as they are geographical distributed throughout the Borough and thus absorb demand in the rural based demographics. Instead, this spare capacity should be used to assist in the potential growth of the sport.

Cricket summary

- ◀ In total, there are 15 grass wicket cricket squares in High Peak located across 15 sites, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ There are no cricket pitches located on school sites or any standalone non-turf pitches (NTPs).
- ◀ The majority of clubs in High Peak own their home grounds (nine clubs), with the remainder all having long terms leases in place
- ◀ The non-technical assessments carried out on grass cricket squares in High Peak found the majority of squares to be standard quality (14) and just one, Hayfield Cricket Club to be good quality. No squares were assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ The only club which raised a specific issue in relation to its ancillary facilities is Tintwistle CC.
- ◀ Eight clubs identify demand for further improvements to existing training provision.
- ◀ In total, there are 14 affiliated clubs competing in High Peak generating 82 teams, which equates to 29 senior men's and 53 junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Most clubs (ten) report some level of anticipated participation increases, equating to two senior and 13 junior teams.
- ◀ There are nine squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in High Peak totalling 138 match equivalent sessions per season; however, only four of these have actual spare capacity at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Three squares are considered to be overplayed in High Peak by a total of 10 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall there is enough spare capacity to accommodate current and future demand in High Peak, although a shortfall is evident in the Glossopdale Analysis Area.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on improving pitch quality, where possible, as well as improving changing facilities and increasing training provision across High Peak.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. A full-time development officer is responsible for High Peak as part of the Derbyshire region which works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. All three clubs which operate in High Peak affiliate to the Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire RFU. This work involves developing club structures, including working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are three rugby union clubs in High Peak, all of which responded to consultation requests resulting in a 100% response rate. The clubs are:

- ✦ Buxton RFC
- ✦ Glossop RFC
- ✦ Hope Valley RFC

5.2: Supply

Within High Peak there are four sites containing seven senior pitches. Of these, just one senior pitch, located at Chapel Leisure, is unavailable available for community use due to quality issues.

It must be noted that most junior and mini rugby traditionally takes place on over marked senior pitches. This is the case at club sites across High Peak, meaning no dedicated mini or junior pitches are provided.

As seen in the table below, the Central Analysis Area does not have any community available rugby union pitches. All six pitches are located at club sites; Glossop RFC is serviced by two senior pitches, Buxton RFC by three senior pitches and Hope Valley RFC by one senior pitch.

Table 5.1: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches
Glossopdale	2
Central	-
Buxton	3
National Park	1
High Peak	6

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see below.

Table 5.2: Summary of RFU recommended pitch sizes by age group

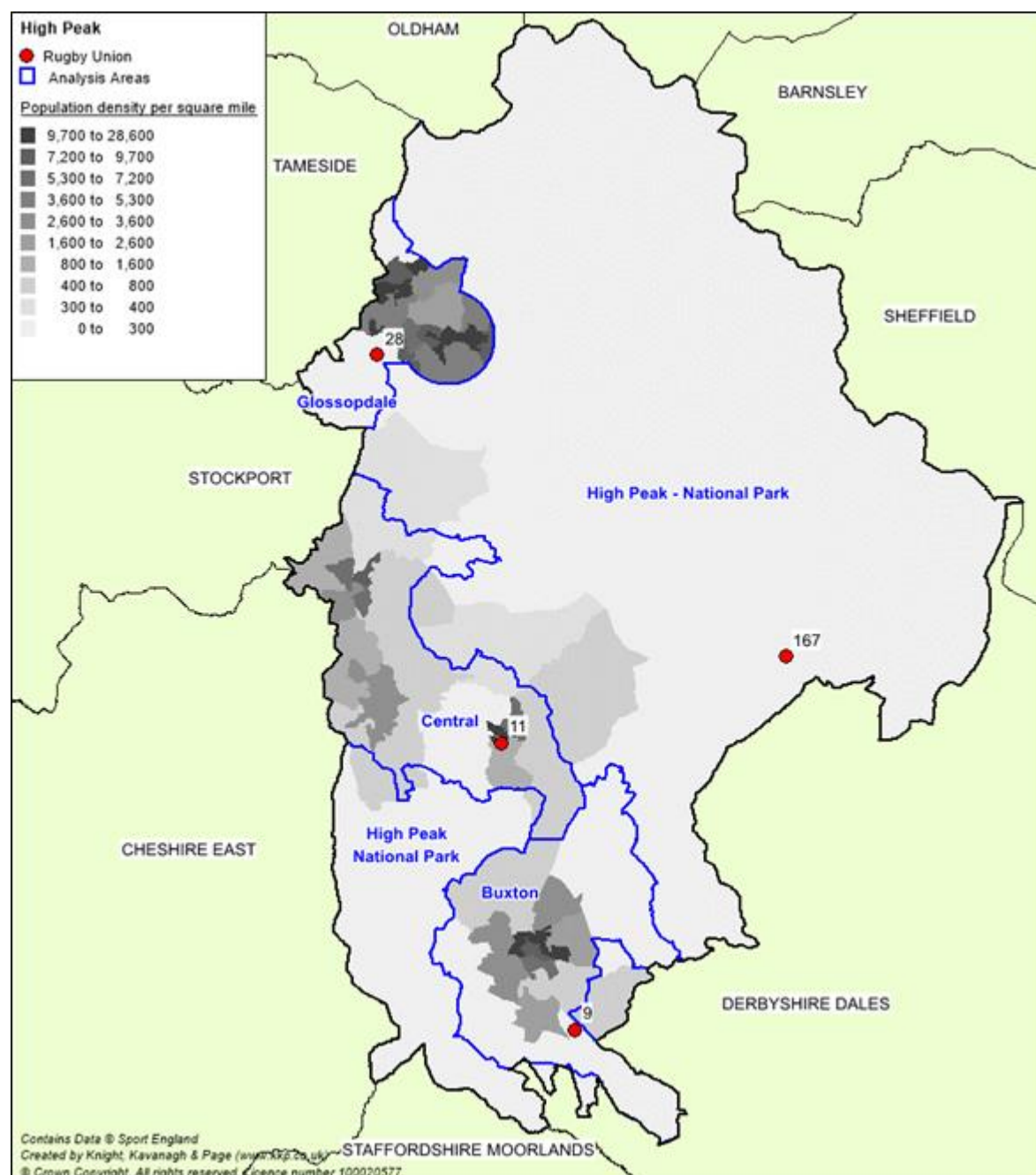
Age	Pitch type	Maximum Pitch Dimensions (Metres)
U7	Mini	20 x 12
U8	Mini	45 x 22
U9	Mini	60 x 30
U10	Mini	60 x 35
U11	Mini	60 x 43
U12	Mini	60 x 43
U13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for u13 girls)
U14-U18	Senior	100 x 70 (94 x 68 minimum)
Senior	Senior	<i>Recommended run off area 5m each way. Minimum in-goal length 6m.</i>

In addition, it should also be noted that Buxton Rugby Club has room to accommodate an additional senior pitch if required. Currently, there is a grass area with posts erected fitting size dimensions of a senior pitch but it is overgrown with rushes and weeds. If a small amount of remedial work was carried out, the Club could operate four senior pitches on the site as opposed to three.

Figure 5.1 overleaf shows the location of all rugby union pitches servicing High Peak. For a key to the map, see Table 5.6.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within High Peak



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Security of tenure

Tenure is considered secure for all three rugby clubs in High Peak. Both Glossop RFC and Buxton RFC have freehold of their respective home sites, whilst Hope Valley RFC has a long-term lease agreement at Castleton Playing Fields from Castleton Parish Council.

Pitch quality

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated. The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below.

Table 5.3: Definition of maintenance categories

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

Table 5.4: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

Table 5.5: 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

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.

Of the community available pitches in High Peak, no pitches are assessed as good quality; five are assessed as standard quality and one as poor quality (at Hope Valley Rugby Club). In addition, Chapel Leisure Centre also contains a pitch assessed as poor quality although it is not available for community use.

The table overleaf shows the quality ratings for each of the pitches in High Peak based on a combined score taking into account the non-technical site assessment scores as well as user ratings.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.6: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality scores	Quality rating
9	Buxton Rugby Club	Buxton	3	Yes-used	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	Partially	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
11	Chapel Leisure Centre	Central	1	No	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
28	Glossop Rugby Club	Glossopdale	2	Yes-used	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard
					Senior	Partially	M1 / D1	Standard
167	Castleton Playing Fields (Hope Valley Rugby Club)	National Park	1	Yes-used	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor

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There are just two sites which contain poor quality pitches in High Peak; Chapel Leisure Centre (which is a dual use site with Chapel-en-le-Frith School) and Castleton Playing Fields (Hope Valley Rugby Club).

Chapel Leisure Centre is identified as having a limited maintenance regime consisting of semi-regular cutting and lining of the pitch with the aim of providing adequate quality to accommodate curricular use and the RFU All Schools programme.

Hope Valley RFC has one senior pitch at its home site of Castleton Playing Fields, which is maintained by volunteers. The pitch receives limited maintenance throughout the playing season due to a lack of grounds expertise and a reluctance to pay professional grounds staff to undertake further work.

Pitches located at both Glossop Rugby Club and Buxton Rugby Club are identified as receiving a comparatively good maintenance programme which consists of all pitches getting regularly aerated and sand dressed over the course of the playing season. This is in addition to remedial work undertaken throughout summer.

Despite the above, Buxton RFC highlights that it requires access to an improved range of maintenance equipment to continue keeping pitches up to current standards as its current provision is outdated and deteriorating in quality.

Ancillary facilities

Hope Valley RFC highlights that its clubhouse and accompanying changing provision at Castleton Playing Fields are of an overall poor quality due to being outdated and inadequately sized. The Club has aspirations to create a new clubhouse and changing rooms, although no formal plans have been created.

Buxton RFC has access to four standard quality changing rooms, each with separate shower provision. Currently, the Club states that this is adequate to accommodate all current and future playing demand. The clubhouse is dated, but remains functional.

Similarly, Glossop RFC has access to four changing rooms at its home site. It was originally designed to accommodate six changing rooms but since its creation two have been converted to a gym and a medical room for playing members. All remaining changing rooms share a communal bath and shower, which the Club aspires to improve and update although not as a priority. Overall, the clubhouse is considered to be good quality.

5.3: Demand

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

Competitive play

Three rugby union clubs play within High Peak. The clubs vary in size; Glossop RFC is the largest club, offering several teams at both senior and junior level. Similarly, Buxton RFC offers a range of senior and junior teams, whereas Hope Valley RFC consists of just one senior team.

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In total, there are five senior men's, one senior women's, one colts, four junior boys' and ten (mixed) mini teams across all the clubs.

Table 5.8: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams			
		Senior (19+)	Colts (18-19)	Junior (13-17)	Mini (6-12)
Buxton RFC	Buxton	2	-	1	4
Glossop RUFC	Glossopdale	3	1	3	6
Hope Valley RFC	National Park	1	-	-	-
Total		6	1	4	10

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 floodlighting.

In High Peak, both Buxton RFC and Glossop RFC train on match pitches. Glossop RFC trains its senior teams on Tuesdays and Thursdays for one and a half hours on both nights, in addition to U18 team training on a Wednesday night for another one and a half hours (totalling four and a half hours of midweek training demand). All training is concentrated across two pitches and therefore these pitches are prone to incur damages throughout the playing season due to overuse.

Similarly, Buxton RFC trains for a combined four hours a week with both the senior first team and the U16 team training for one and a half hours every Wednesday. In addition, its senior women's team trains for one hour a week. Primarily, all training takes place on the Club's partially floodlit pitch.

Hope Valley RFC has access to floodlights that illuminate a third of its senior pitch on site albeit this provision is considered to be poor quality. Due to the relatively limited spread of light, training is concentrated onto one area of the pitch which has a detrimental impact on quality, particularly in winter months. As such, the Club predominately train indoors during the winter at Hathersage Park, which provides an indoor gym facility.

An alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in High Peak and it is not considered to be a target area for the RFU; however, it recognises there is a potential need for such a facility with substantial demand from Glossop RFC.

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Latent demand

Hope Valley RFC states that if more pitches were available to the Club it would aim to operate a range of mini teams and a senior ladies section. It currently has around 15-20 juniors training on a weekly basis that would form the basis of such growth but as it presently has access to only on pitch it is reluctant to increase the demand already exerted.

In contrast, neither Glossop RFC nor Buxton RFC express any latent demand.

Future demand

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

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2031) based on population growth. Using this model, it is not anticipated that any new teams will be created.

Table 5.9: Team generation rates based on population growth

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate ¹³	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	14,075	6	1:2346	14,001	6.0	0
Senior Womens (19-45)	14,233	1	1:14233	13,575	1.0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	3,190	5	1:638	3,060	4.8	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	3,186	0	0	3,042	0.0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	6,026	10	1:548	5,889	10.7	0

Participation increases

Buxton RFC has plans to increase the number of junior teams it currently operates in partnership with the RFU All Schools programme, although specific team growth could not be quantified.

Hope Valley RFC states that it cannot grow more teams due to a lack of pitch space as aforementioned, whereas Glossop RFC has modest aspirations of developing a single junior girls' team.

Education

The RFU is active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012. The aim is to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to a local team of RFU Rugby Development Officers (RDOs). The RDO's deliver coaching sessions via their team of Community Rugby Coaches (CRC's) and support the schools to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme.

¹³ Please note TGR figures are rounded down to the nearest whole number.

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Buxton RFC is the partner club to the All Schools programme and there are three schools within the immediate locality which are currently involved. The three schools are:

- ◀ Buxton Community School
- ◀ St Thomas More High School, Buxton
- ◀ Chapel-en-le-Frith High School

It should be noted that of the schools listed above, Buxton School and St Thomas More High School do not contain rugby pitches.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby union. For senior teams, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior teams play at this time, whereas peak time for junior and mini rugby is Sunday AM. All mini teams play at this time, as do eight junior teams, with the remaining three junior teams (girls) playing Sunday PM.

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 pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ Use of school pitches by schools reduces potential capacity by one match equivalent session.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch.
- ◀ For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
- ◀ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ◀ Senior rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior and mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of team equivalents.
- ◀ Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

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As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate:

Table 5.11: 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

Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

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Table 5.12: Rugby union provision and level of community use within High Peak

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of pitches	Community use?	Pitch type	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
9	Buxton Rugby Club	Buxton	3	Yes- used	Senior	M1 / D1	Yes	1.5	2	0.5	Main pitch at the Club which it used for one senior fixture, one junior fixture and one training session per week.
					Senior	M1/ D1	Partially	1.5	2	0.5	Second team pitch used for two training sessions per week and junior matches.
					Senior	M1 / D1	No	1	2	1	Pitch primarily used to accommodate mini and junior weekend activity.
11	Chapel Leisure Centre	Central	1	No	Senior	M0 / D1	No	1	1.5	0.5	Pitch used for curricular and RFU All Schools activity.
28	Glossop Rugby Club	Glossopdale	2	Yes – used	Senior	M0 / D1	Yes	3.5	2	1.5	Main pitch at the Club adjacent to the clubhouse. Pitch is used to accommodate a range of senior, junior and mini fixtures on weekends in addition to midweek training use. Training is dependent on pitch quality and can be undertaken on the partially floodlit pitch adjacent.
						M1 /D1	Partially	4.25	2	2.25	Secondary pitch used to accommodate a mixture of competitive fixtures over a weekend including senior, junior and mini demand, dependent on the fixture list of the Club. Pitch is primarily used as the training pitch midweek.
167	Castleton Playing Fields (Hope Valley Rugby Club)	National Park	1	Yes - used	Senior	M0 / D0	No	1	0.5	0.5	A senior pitch used to accommodate one senior match every other weekend and midweek training of junior players.

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Spare capacity

‘Actual spare capacity’ has been ascertained following review of identified ‘potential capacity’ in Table 5.12. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to 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.

Despite four senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play, only some of this should be considered as actual spare capacity. This applies to pitches at Buxton Rugby Club, although if participation at the Club increases in line with the All Schools programme it is unlikely that any spare capacity will exist in the future.

In contrast, actual spare capacity cannot be considered to exist at Chapel Leisure Centre, as it is not available for community use, or at Castleton Playing Fields, due to poor quality.

Overplay

There are three pitches in High Peak that are identified as being overplayed, two of which are located at Glossop Rugby Club and one is located at Hope Valley RFC. In total, both pitches at Glossop RFC are overplayed by a combined 3.75 match sessions per week. This is a direct result of all competitive match and training demand being played across two standard quality senior pitches. Similarly, the pitch at Castleton Playing Fields (Hope Valley RFC) is overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week.

5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, an overall shortfall is evident given that Glossop Rugby Club is overplayed and given that only limited actual spare capacity exists elsewhere that is likely to be utilised by expressed future demand.

The best option to reduce overplay at Glossop Rugby Club is to undertake qualitative improvements to the maintenance regime to improve the quality of both pitches on site. It should be however noted that such improvements need to realistically undertaken by the Club on a regular basis, and a need for both improved maintenance equipment and specialist knowledge may be required in order to undertake maintenance improvements. This, coupled with the installation of a suitable drainage system would enormously benefit the Club and is likely to reduce all currently identified overplay on the site, in addition to creating some spare capacity to accommodate future demand. Consideration should also be given to the any future potential to create an additional playing pitch. At present, the land surrounding the Club is owned by a private land owner and as such there is little opportunity to develop additional playing pitches. If however this situation changes, or land becomes available to the Club, an additional pitch would be allow current levels of overplay to be highly mitigated dependent on overplay quality.

An alternative option for the Club would be to access a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch that would be able to accommodate both midweek training demand and match demand, although no such provision currently exists in the locality meaning new provision would need to be created.

Buxton RFC can currently accommodate all match and training demand on site and has some spare capacity for an increase in demand. Nevertheless, capacity should be revisited should

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the Club start to significantly grow to ensure that none of its pitches become overplayed. This is especially key given the Club's links to the All Schools programme.

Whilst the current demand of Hope Valley RFC can be met at Castleton Playing Fields, it is noted that latent demand exists in that the Club wants to operate mini teams and a senior ladies team. It should therefore be recognised that if quality improvements are made to its current pitch, such demand could be accommodated.

Rugby union summary

- ◀ Within High Peak there are four sites containing seven senior rugby union pitches. Of these, one pitch is unavailable for community use located at Chapel Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, no pitches are assessed as good quality, five are assessed as standard quality and one is assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Three rugby union clubs play within High Peak providing six senior men's, one senior women's, one colt's, four junior boys', and ten (mixed) mini teams.
- ◀ TGRs (2031) do not predict the growth of any additional teams.
- ◀ Glossop RFC has aspirations to develop one junior girls team, whereas Buxton RFC could not quantify growth aspirations but does have aspirations to increase its number of junior teams.
- ◀ Hope Valley RFC has latent demand in that it would operate more teams if more pitches were available.
- ◀ Despite four senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play, only three (all located at Buxton RFC) are deemed to currently have spare capacity, although not during peak periods.
- ◀ There are two senior pitches located at Glossop RFC that are overplayed by a combined 3.75 match equivalent sessions per week and one pitch at Hope Valley RFC overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week.
- ◀ To alleviate shortfalls, there is an evident need to create additional pitches or a World Rugby complaint 3G pitch to support Glossop RFC.
- ◀ Buxton RFC can currently accommodate all match and training demand on site; however, capacity should be revisited should the Club start to significantly grow.
- ◀ Quality improvements are required at Castleton Playing Fields in order to accommodate the latent demand expressed by Hope Valley RFC.

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PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Derbyshire Hockey Association.

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

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

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

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

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

Club consultation

There is one hockey club identified as playing in High Peak; Buxton HC. The Club was met with for a face to face consultation.

6.2: Supply

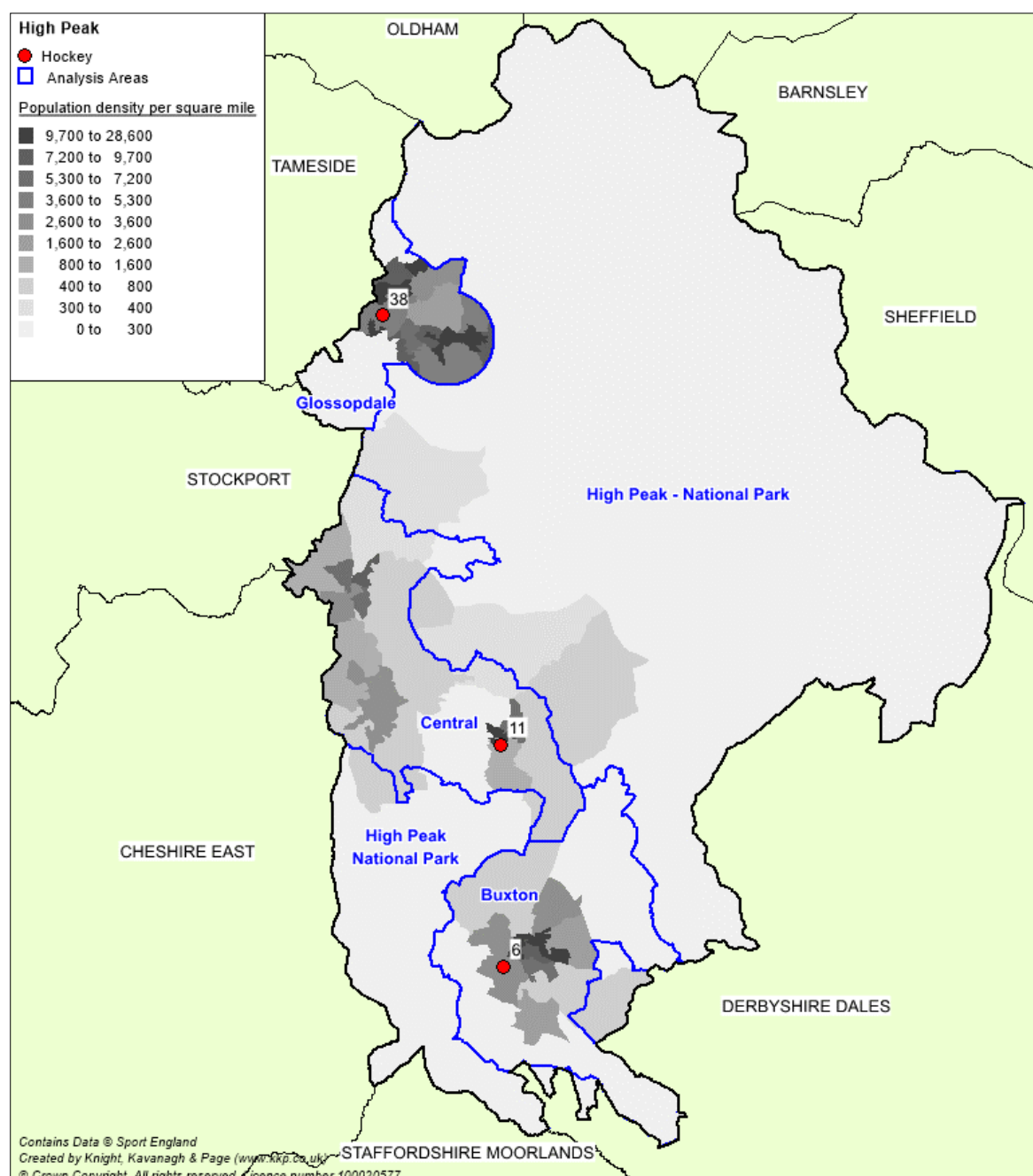
There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs in High Peak across the same number of sites, both of which are floodlit. Provision is divided into two analysis areas with one pitch located in the Buxton Analysis Area and one located in the Central Analysis Area. Both AGPs are identified as being available for community use.

Table 6.1: Sand-based AGPs by location

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Flood-lit?	Community Use?	Hockey Use?	Size (metres)
6	Buxton Community School	Buxton	Yes	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
11	Chapel Leisure Centre	Central	Yes	Yes	No	100 x 60

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Figure 6.1: Location of sand AGPs in High Peak



Management

Of the two full size AGPs located in High Peak, the pitch at Buxton Community School is managed internally with the School having full management of the pitch. In contrast, the pitch at Chapel Leisure Centre is managed by commercial operator Parkwood Leisure (although utilised fully by Chapel-en-le-Frith School throughout the day).

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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).

Of the AGPs in High Peak, Buxton Community School is open for the least amount of time during the peak period (30 hours) as it has a floodlight restriction meaning it cannot be used after 8pm. This is despite the fact that an adjacent 3G pitch on site has floodlighting until 9pm. In contrast, Cheadle Leisure Centre is available for 34 hours within the peak period and has no such restrictions.

The AGP at Buxton Community School is available 17:00 – 20:00 Monday until Friday and 09:00 – 17:00 Saturday and Sunday. Correspondingly, the AGP located at Chapel Leisure Centre is open for community use from 18:00 – 22:30 Monday until Friday and from 09:00 – 18:00 Saturday and Sunday.

In terms of usage, the AGP at Buxton Community School is used by Buxton Hockey Club for six hours during the week to accommodate midweek training demand in addition to eight hours on a Saturday when it can accommodate up to four competitive matches. The Club also accesses the AGP for 1.5 hours on Sunday mornings to accommodate training demand for its junior section.

Other than curricular use, there is no identified hockey demand on the AGP at Chapel Leisure Centre.

Security of tenure

Buxton HC rents the AGP at Buxton Community School on a yearly basis.

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 many providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed.

Sinking funds should in place at all sites to enable ongoing repairs and eventual refurbishment. This is the case at both Buxton Community School and Chapel Leisure Centre which both have sinking funds in place.

Table 6.2: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Sinking Fund?	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
6	Buxton Community School	Buxton	Yes	2013	Standard
11	Chapel Leisure Centre	Central	Yes	2003	Poor

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The AGP at Buxton Community School was last resurfaced in 2013. Consultation with both Buxton HC and the School highlights that the surface is of an overall satisfactory standard for both curricular use and performance level hockey. It should be however noted that the quality of the floodlights is very poor to the extent that at present Buxton Hockey Club is unable to undertake evening training which is hugely detrimental to the Clubs preparation, prior to the 2017/2018 hockey season commencing. Further to this, it is imperative that issues with the floodlights are urgently resolved to prevent potential issues with league requirements which may have implications on competitive matches being played.

The AGP at Chapel Leisure Centre was built in 2003 and has had little remedial undertaken since its creation. Consultation with the provider also highlights that there are no hockey goals at the facility and therefore it cannot be considered an option for competitive hockey use. As well as this, it should be noted that the pitch has very poor grip underfoot and is therefore slippery and unsuitable to accommodate competitive hockey even if goals were provided.

Ancillary provision

Buxton HC accesses changing rooms at Buxton School for both midweek training and competitive matches. The Club did not highlight any issues with the provision and states that its current arrangement is adequate. Following weekend matches, club members travel to a local pub for post-match refreshments which the Club states is suitable for its requirements and as such it has no demand or aspiration to acquire a clubhouse or pavilion.

6.3: Demand

Buxton HC is the sole hockey club operating within High Peak. The Club currently operates a total of four senior men's teams, two senior women's teams, one badgers team and two junior teams.

Exported demand

Glossop Ladies HC, although registered as being a High Peak Club, has not played hockey within the Local Authority for over 15 years. The Club highlights that around 30% of its players are from High Peak with the majority now based in the Dukinfield area (Tameside), which is where the Club trains and plays fixtures. The Club states that it is unlikely to return to play fixtures, even if a hockey suitable AGP was available.

Future demand

Participation increases

Buxton HC states that over the next three years it has aspirations to develop an additional senior women's team and an additional badgers team.

Population increases

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used overleaf as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2031).

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Table 6.3: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (16-55)	23,201	4	1:5800	21,267	3.7	0
Senior Womens (16-55)	23,429	2	1:11715	21,003	1.8	0
Junior Boys (11-15)	2,465	3	1:822	2,526	3.1	0
Junior Girls (11-15)	2,486	0	0	2,525	0.0	0

As can be seen in the table above, population changes are not predicted to create any additional teams.

It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. Furthermore, EH provides a growth rate to local authorities that may be a better indicator of potential future demand.

Peak time demand

All senior teams within High Peak play their matches on a Saturday, whilst all junior teams play on a Sunday.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

The PPS guidance suggests that a floodlit pitch as able to accommodate a maximum of four match sessions on a Saturday. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight “home” teams.

Using the above, based on Buxton HC operating six senior teams (three match equivalent sessions of demand), Buxton Community School is deemed to be able to adequately accommodate all current hockey demand. Furthermore, based on future growth aspirations of one senior women’s team, it is still anticipated that growth can be accommodated on the pitch. Future growth aspirations for an additional badgers team can also be accommodated as the team will play on Sundays where spare capacity is also available.

As such, it is recommended that the AGP at Buxton Community School is protected, with quality improvements made to the accompanying floodlights to allow greater access to areas of the AGP which are currently poorly lit. New or improved lights will reduce overspill and be more directional to the pitch. In addition, it is recommended that planning conditions of the pitch are reviewed and, if possible, brought in line with the accompanying 3G pitch adjacent. This would allow the AGP to be utilised for an additional five hours midweek.

Whilst floodlight issues remain at Buxton School, the AGP located at Chapel Leisure Centre should be retained as it can adequately satisfy training demand from Buxton HC. Once these issues are resolved, consideration should be given to converting the pitch to 3G as no hockey demand would exist for the pitch. This would reduce the shortfalls of 3G pitches in High Peak whilst continuing to accommodate all hockey demand.

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Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred geographical area.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

The 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Those proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance 'Selecting the Right Artificial Grass Surface which can be found on Sport England's website:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

Hockey summary

- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs in High Peak across the same number of sites, both of which are floodlit.
- ◀ The AGP at Buxton Community School has a floodlight restriction of 8pm.
- ◀ Chapel Leisure Centre was built in 2003 and is of a particularly poor quality, whereas Buxton Community School was resurfaced in 2013 and is of a good quality.
- ◀ Consultation with both Buxton HC and Buxton Community School highlights that the floodlighting accompanying the AGP requires urgent improvement.
- ◀ Buxton HC is the only Club operating in High Peak. It operates four senior men's teams, two senior women's teams, one badgers team and two junior boys teams.
- ◀ The Club has future demand for one senior women's team and one badgers team.
- ◀ The AGP at Buxton School can adequately accommodate all current and future growth.
- ◀ The AGP at Chapel Leisure Centre is currently required as a potential training venue for Buxton Hockey Club due to floodlighting issues at its home site, Buxton Community School and such requires protecting.
- ◀ Once issues with floodlighting are resolved at Chapel Leisure Centre the pitch should be considered as for conversion to 3G to reduce overall shortfalls in High Peak.

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PART 7: BOWLS

7.1: Introduction

Outdoor bowls in High Peak is played on crown greens. The British Crown Green Bowling Association is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport. The bowling season runs from May to September.

Consultation

There are 18 clubs identified as using bowling greens in High Peak. Of these, 11 replied to an online survey resulting in a response rate of 61%. The table below highlights clubs responsiveness.

Table 7.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Analysis area	Responded?
Manor Park BC	Glossopdale	Yes
Glossop BC	Glossopdale	Yes
Furness Vale BC	Central	Yes
Tintwistle BC	Glossopdale	No
Cote Heath BC	Buxton	Yes
Ashwood Park BC	Buxton	No
Gamesley BC	Glossopdale	Yes
Peak Dale BC	Buxton	Yes
Hope Works BC	National Park	No
Whaley Bridge BC	Central	Yes
Birch Hall BC	Central	Yes
New Mills BC	Central	Yes
Trades Hall BC	Central	No
Chapel Park BC	Central	No
Burbage BC	Buxton	No
Fairfield BC	Buxton	Yes
Buxton BC	Buxton	Yes
Hadfield BC	Glossopdale	No

7.2: Supply

There are 19 crown green bowling greens in High Peak provided across 18 sites, with two greens located at Manor Park.

Table 7.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens
Glossopdale	7
Central	6
Buxton	5
National Park	1
High Peak	19

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.1: Location of bowling greens in High Peak

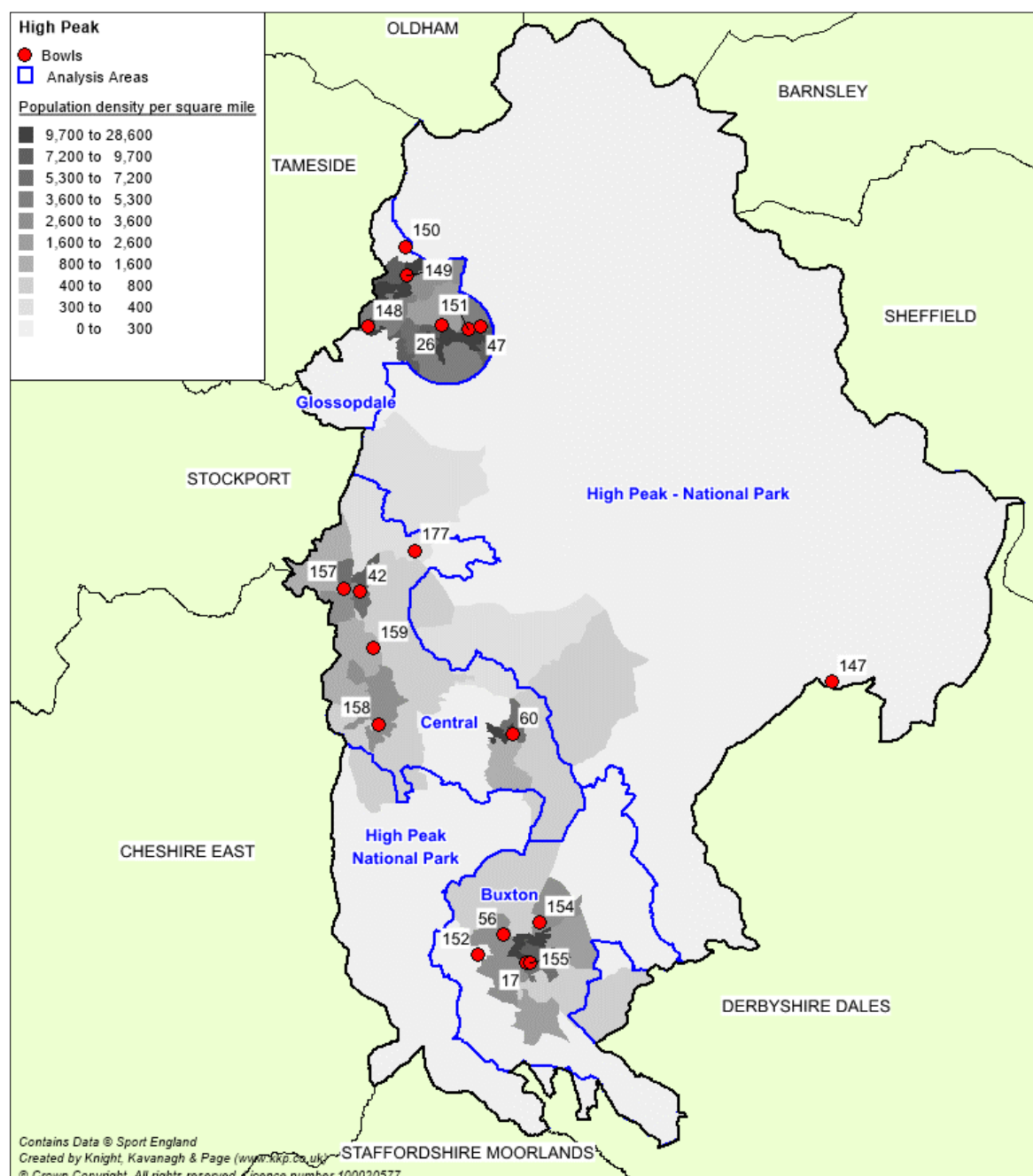


Table 7.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Club user	Analysis area	No. of greens
17	Cote Heath Recreation Ground	Cote Heath Bowling Club	Buxton	1
26	Glossop Cricket & Bowls Club	Glossop Bowling Club	Glossopdale	1
42	New Mills Sports Club	New Mills Bowling Club	Central	1

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Club user	Analysis area	No. of greens
56	The Park (Buxton Bowling Club)	Buxton Bowling Club	Buxton	1
60	War Memorial Park, Chapel-en-le-Frith	Chapel Park Bowling Club	Central	1
147	Hope Works	Hope Works Bowling Club	National Park	1
148	Gamesley Bowling Club	Gamesley Bowling Club	Glossopdale	1
149	Hadfield Bowls Club	Hadfield Bowling Club	Glossopdale	1
150	Tintwistle Bowling Club	Tintwistle Bowling Club	Glossopdale	1
151	Manor Park Bowls Club	Manor Park Bowling Club	Glossopdale	2
152	Burbage Bowls Club	Burbage Bowling Club	Buxton	1
153	Ashwood Park	Ashwood Park Bowling Club	Buxton	1
154	Fairfield Bowls Club	Fairfield Bowling Club	Buxton	1
155	Peak Dale Bowls Club	Peak Dale Bowling Club	Buxton	1
157	Trade Hall Bowls Club	Trade Hall Bowling Club	Central	1
158	Whaley Bridge Bowls Club	Whaley Bridge Bowling Club	Central	1
159	Furness Vale Bowls Club	Furness Vale Bowling Club	Central	1
177	Birch Hall Bowling Club	Birch Hall Bowling Club	Central	1

Ownership/management

Of the 11 clubs that responded to consultation, four clubs are identified as having unsecure tenure. The first of these is Peak Dale BC, which previously held a lease agreement with Tarmac A CRH which ended in 2017. Similarly, both Furness Vale BC and Cote Heath BC report that lease agreements with the Council have expired and are yet to be renegotiated. In addition, it should be noted that Manor Park BC holds a ten year lease agreement with the Council that is due to expire imminently, with no renewal arrangement in place.

Of the remaining responding clubs, Buxton BC and Gamesley BC have annual agreements with the Council for use of their respective greens, whereas the rest report that they own their greens and accompanying ancillary facilities.

For non-responding clubs, ownership and management is unknown; however, it is known where each of the clubs is located. Please see Table 7.3 above for such information.

Pay and play

Of the 19 bowling greens in High Peak, none are identified as being available for pay and play. The majority of greens are managed by dedicated volunteers and as such there is not an infrastructure in place to manage the greens and offer pay and play opportunities to the public.

Quality

In High Peak, there are 11 good quality greens, five standard quality greens and three poor quality greens, as seen in the following table.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 7.4: Quality of bowling greens in High Peak

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of greens	Quality
17	Cote Heath Recreation Ground	Buxton	1	Standard
26	Glossop Cricket & Bowls Club	Glossopdale	1	Good
42	New Mills Sports Club	Central	1	Good
56	The Park (Buxton Bowling Club)	Buxton	1	Good
60	War Memorial Park, Chapel-en-le-Frith	Central	1	Good
147	Hope Works	National Park	1	Poor
148	Gamesley Bowling Club	Glossopdale	1	Good
149	Hadfield Bowls Club	Glossopdale	1	Standard
150	Tintwistle Bowling Club	Glossopdale	1	Poor
151	Manor Park Bowls Club	Glossopdale	2	Good
152	Burbage Bowls Club	Buxton	1	Good
153	Ashwood Park	Buxton	1	Standard
154	Fairfield Bowls Club	Buxton	1	Good
155	Peak Dale Bowls Club	Buxton	1	Good
157	Trade Hall Bowls Club	Central	1	Poor
158	Whaley Bridge Bowls Club	Central	1	Good
159	Furness Vale Bowls Club	Central	1	Standard
177	Birch Hall Bowling Club	Central	1	Standard

Poor quality greens are located at Hope Works, Tintwistle Bowls Club and Trade Hall Bowls Club. Of the three greens, each has a poor quality surface with a high proportion of wear and tear as well as little evidence of remedial work being undertaken. Similarly, the majority of greens assessed as standard quality show signs of general wear and tear (although not to the same severity as poor greens).

In relation to the good quality greens, no major issues were discovered during site assessments and no clubs reported any problems regarding them during consultation. That being said, Manor Park BC did highlight the requirement to replace the board edgings on both of its greens.

Ancillary provision

All clubs that responded to consultation are able to access ancillary provision at their home green, although the quality varies.

Gamesley BC highlights that it does not have a running electricity supply and therefore has to rely on a generator for its clubhouse. This issue is exacerbated as the Club states that the generator requires replacing despite it not being in a financial position to fund such work. As such, the Club fears that its membership may decline if members cannot access basic facilities which require electricity.

Whaley Bridge BC states that the quality of its changing facilities is of an overall poor quality specifically highlighting that they are outdated and not adequately sized. Similarly, both Birch Hall BC and Manor Park BC state that their respective clubhouse facilities are poor, with both again reporting that they are outdated as well as stressing that quality is quickly deteriorating.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The former club also highlights car parking as being a major issue, with members required to park on nearby roads.

7.3: Demand

Current demand

There are 18 clubs using bowling greens in High Peak. Where known, membership at the clubs has been noted in the table below.

Table 7.5: Summary of club membership

Club name	Members		
	Men	Women	Juniors
Cote Heath BC	22	5	-
Glossop BC	55	33	-
New Mills BC	51	8	1
Buxton BC	44	23	-
Chapel Park BC	-	-	-
Hope Works BC	-	-	-
Gamesley BC	20	13	-
Hadfield BC	-	-	-
Tintwistle BC	-	-	-
Manor Park BC	22	18	-
Burbage BC	-	-	-
Ashwood Park BC	-	-	-
Fairfield BC	35	34	-
Peak Dale BC	26	21	8
Trade Hall BC	-	-	-
Whaley Bridge BC	65	30	2
Furness Vale BC	23	21	-
Birch Hall BC	16	10	-

Of the 11 clubs that did reveal their membership figures, there is a combined total of 606 members, which equates to 379 senior men, 216 senior women and 11 juniors. The average membership across the clubs is 55, with Whaley Bridge BC catering for the biggest (97 members) and Birch Hall BC catering for the lowest (26 members).

Participation trends

In line with a national trend of declining membership, no clubs in High Peak report that either senior or junior membership has increased in the previous three years, with the majority reporting a decrease in participation.

Future demand

Of clubs that responded to consultation, seven have plans to increase their number of members and quantify growth, with an increase in advertising and an improvement in facilities cited as key factors in attracting more people. When asked to quantify potential increases, clubs report plans to grow membership by a combined 40 senior and 18 junior members.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 7.6: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club name	Future demand (members)	
	Seniors	Juniors
Manor Park BC	10	-
Birch Hall BC	5	5
Cote Heath BC	8	-
Fairfield BC	5	2
Whaley Bridge BC	5	3
Peak Dale BC	3	4
Furness Vale BC	4	4
High Peak	40	18

In addition, both New Mills BC and Gamesley BC state that they have ambitions to attract additional members but each club was unable to quantify growth aspirations.

Latent demand

No clubs suggest that an additional bowling green at their ground or in the area would lead to an increase in club membership. In effect, the perception is that any planned increases can be accommodated on existing greens. No clubs currently have a waiting list and the majority would welcome new members.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool 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 164 people who would like to participate in the sport within High Peak. The most dominant segment is 'Elsie and Arnold – Retired singles or widowers' (22.5%).

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

Capacity 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, although in many cases greens are used throughout the day by club members who bowl socially.

Although there is no known demand for additional greens to be provided across High Peak, this does not translate to a surplus in provision. As all greens are currently used by clubs it is likely that this existing provision needs to be retained or mitigated.

To determine whether the current number of clubs could be amalgamated onto a lesser number of greens, it is imperative that further details are acquired from those clubs that did not respond to consultation requests. If a high number of clubs are struggling for membership, it is possible that a merger could help with sustainability.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Bowls summary

- ◀ There are 19 crown green bowling greens in High Peak provided across 18 sites.
- ◀ Of the 12 clubs that responded to consultation, five have freehold of their site, two annually rent and four have expiring/expired lease agreements.
- ◀ There are 11 good, five standard and three poor quality greens.
- ◀ Gamesley, Whaley Bridge, Birch Hall, Birch Vale and Manor Park, Glossop bowling clubs all highlight issues with ancillary provision.
- ◀ There are 18 clubs using bowling greens in High Peak, with each club being assigned to its own site.
- ◀ Of the 11 clubs that revealed their membership figures, there is a combined total of 606 members, which equates to 379 senior men, 216 senior women and 11 juniors.
- ◀ No clubs in High Peak report an increase in membership in the past three years.
- ◀ Seven clubs that responded to consultation have plans to increase their number of members and quantify this growth to a combined 30 senior and 18 junior members.
- ◀ Although there is no known demand for additional greens to be provided across High Peak, this does not translate to a surplus in provision.
- ◀ To determine whether the current number of clubs could be amalgamated onto a lesser number of greens, it is imperative that further details are acquired from those clubs that did not respond to consultation requests.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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 in High Peak.

Consultation

There are five tennis clubs based in High Peak. Edale, Glossop Pyegrove, Bamford and Buxton tennis clubs were responsive to consultation requests; New Mills TC were not. This represents an 80% response rate.

8.2: Supply

Quantity

There are a total of 31 tennis courts identified in High Peak located across eleven sites including sports clubs, parks and schools. All of the courts are categorised as being available for community use.

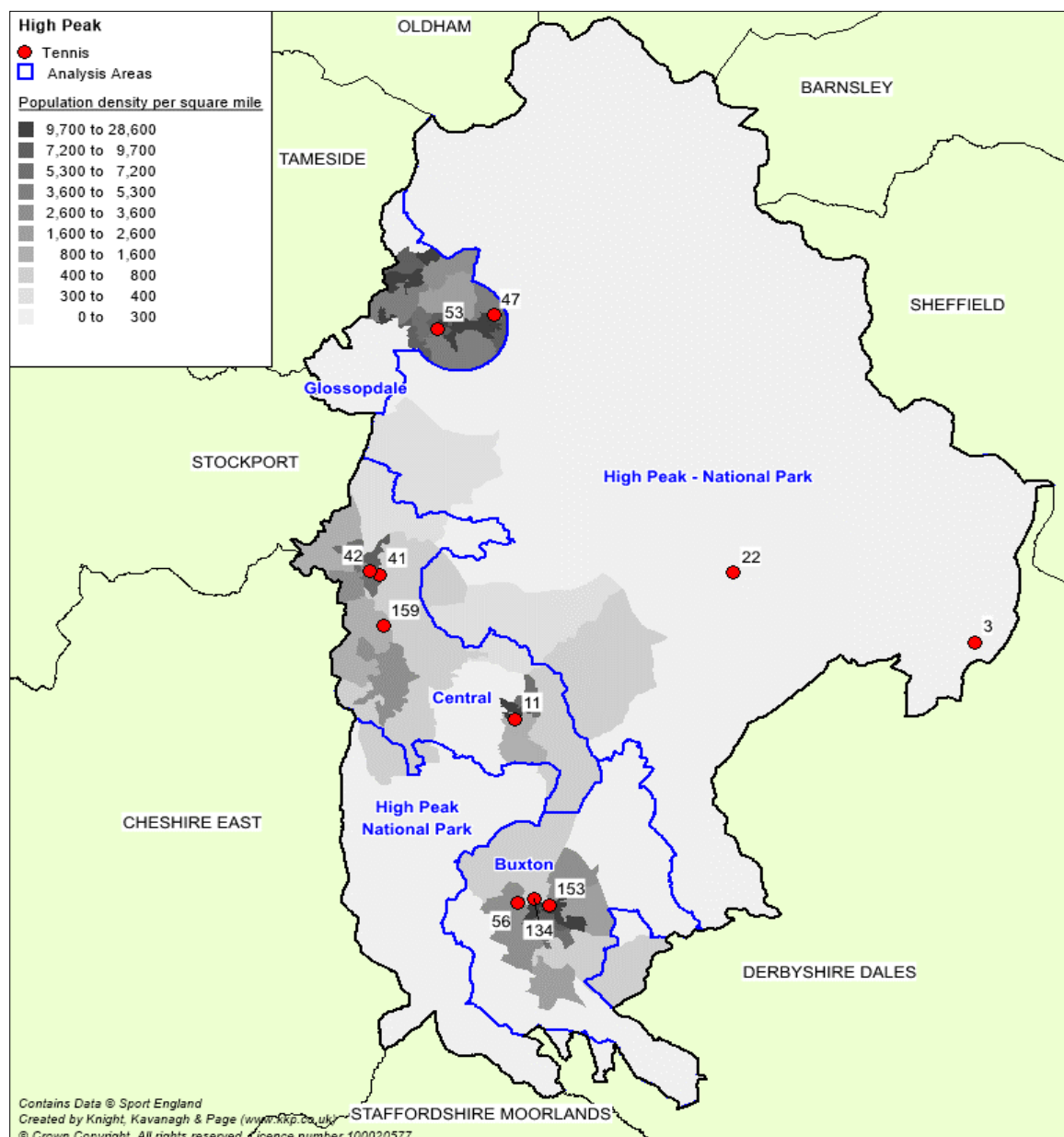
The majority of courts are located in the Central Analysis Area (39%), with the least amount located in the National Park Analysis Area (16%).

Table 8.1: Summary of courts

Analysis area	Courts (sites)
Glossopdale	8 (2)
Central	12 (4)
Buxton	6 (3)
National Park	5 (2)
High Peak	31 (11)

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.1: Location of tennis courts in High Peak



HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 8.2: Tennis courts in High Peak

ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality ¹⁴
3	Bamford with Thornhill Recreation Ground	National Park	Trust	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam	Good
					3	No	Macadam	Good
11	Chapel Leisure Centre	Central	Commercial	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Good
22	Edale Playing Fields	National Park	Community Organisation	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
41	New Mills School Business and Enterprise College	Central	Education	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Poor
42	New Mills Sports Club	Central	Sports Club	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Good
47	Pyegrove Recreation Ground	Glossopdale	Sports Club	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
53	St Philips Howards Sports Centre	Glossopdale	Education	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Poor
56	The Park (Buxton Cricket, Tennis and Bowls Club)	Buxton	Sports Club	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Poor
134	St Thomas More Catholic School	Buxton	Education	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
153	Ashwood Park	Buxton	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Poor
159	Furness Vale Bowls Club	Central	Sports Club	Yes	1	No	Polymeric	Poor

¹⁴ Assessed using a non-technical site assessment pro-forma and also takes account of user comments.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Ownership/management

The table below highlights the management of community available courts. In total, 11 courts are at club operated sites, two are at a council operated site and nine are at education operated sites. The remaining nine courts are at sites operated by other entities (such as commercial and community organisations).

Table 8.3: Courts by ownership

Club courts	Council courts	Education courts	Other courts
11	2	9	9

Security of tenure

Glossop Pyegrove TC reports that it owns the courts at Pyegrove Recreation Ground, whereas Bamford TC owns its courts at Bamford with Thornhill Recreation Ground as part of a trust. Buxton TC leases its courts at the Park (Buxton Cricket, Tennis and Bowls Club) from the Council, whilst Edale TC rents the use of Edale Playing Fields from its Parish Council. Although unresponsive to consultation, it is also known that New Mills TC manages the courts at New Mills Sports Club; however, it is not known as to whether this is via ownership or through a lease agreement.

No clubs that responded to consultation express concerns in regards to security of tenure. In principle, all clubs are happy with the agreements currently in place, whether that be through ownership, a rental agreement or a long-term lease arrangement.

Floodlighting

Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being particularly key for club development. There are five floodlit courts in High Peak; one at Bamford with Thornhill Recreation Ground and all four at Pyegrove Recreation Ground. These courts service Bamford TC and Glossop Pyegrove TC respectively.

Edale, New Mills and Buxton tennis clubs are without floodlighting. This may impact on these clubs in terms of their ability to cater for demand as floodlit courts have greater capacity in comparison to non-floodlit courts. Due to this, Buxton TC has recently submitted an application to Sport England for a grant under the Community Asset Programme to assist with installing floodlights as well as the building of a small clubhouse. The Club is now waiting to see if it is going to be awarded with funding.

Court type

The large majority of courts in High Peak have a macadam surface, with the only exception being one court at Furness Vale Bowls, which has a polymeric 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 LTA reports that this should cost £1,200 a year per macadam court (which includes on-going maintenance costs).

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Quality

Of provision that is available for community use, 15 (48%) are assessed as good quality and 16 courts (52%) are assessed as poor quality. No courts are assessed as standard quality.

8.4: Quality of community available courts by analysis area

Good	Standard	Poor
15	-	16

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

- ▶ Bamford with Thornhill Recreation Ground
- ▶ Chapel Leisure Centre
- ▶ New Mills Sports Club
- ▶ Pyegrove Recreation Ground

All courts at Pyegrove Recreation Ground, New Mills Sports Club, Bamford with Thornhill Recreation Ground and Chapel Leisure Centre are assessed as good quality as the courts are maintained to a high quality with lines clearly visible and no signs of damage to the playing surface. In addition, Chapel Leisure Centre has recently had remedial work undertaken to enhance court and protect quality.

Edale Playing Fields and St Phillip Howards Sports Centre both have signs of wear and tear on the playing surfaces as well as holes in the net, with a lack of access for disabled players also problematic. The courts at New Mills School Business and Enterprise College have loose gravel, poor grip underfoot, poor line markings and are situated on a slight slope.

The majority of other council and education courts in High Peak are also assessed as poor quality for similar reasons. The maintenance of such courts is also considered to be basic and infrequent, as opposed to club maintained courts which tend to receive more specialised and dedicated work.

Improving park courts is a national priority for the LTA; however, it reports that unless tennis courts are supported by changing facilities, a café and floodlighting, it becomes more difficult to operate a sustainable tennis programme, which therefore makes it more difficult to generate external investment. The LTA also advocates that sites with a minimum of four courts are likely to be more sustainable.

Ancillary provision

Glossop Pyegrove, Edale and Bamford tennis clubs all rate the quality of changing provision servicing their sites as adequate and therefore report no issues. In contrast, Buxton TC rates its facilities as poor quality and states that it does not have the finances available to undertake improvements. As a result, as previously mentioned, the Club is currently exploring funding avenues so that it can provide a small clubhouse.

The condition of the clubhouse servicing New Mills TC is unknown as the Club did not respond to consultation requests and the facility was inaccessible during site assessments.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

8.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There are five established tennis clubs operating in High Peak. Of these, three clubs provided membership information, as represented in the table below. New Mills TC did not respond to consultation requests, whereas Bamford TC did respond but were unwilling to disclose membership figures.

Table 8.5: Summary of club membership

Name of club	Number of members	
	Seniors	Juniors
Bamford TC	-	-
Buxton TC	60	60
Edale TC	40	8
Glossop Pyegrove TC	60	60
New Mills TC	-	-
High Peak	160	128

Of the three clubs that provided membership information, Buxton TC and Glossop Pyegrove TC have equally the largest number of members as both service 60 senior and 60 junior members. In comparison, Edale TC is a relatively small club, catering for just 40 senior and six junior members.

Buxton TC fields two men's, one mixed and one ladies team, all of which play in the Sheffield and District Tennis League. Despite this, the Club reports that its membership has decreased over the previous three years and attributes this decline to members leaving to join better resourced clubs (i.e. clubs with floodlighting and a clubhouse).

Glossop Pyegrove TC consists of two men's teams and one ladies team that all play in the South West Manchester League as well as one mixed team that play in the East Cheshire Winter League. The Club also reports a recent decline in participation but is unsure of the reasons behind this.

In contrast, Edale TC reports that its membership has remained static over the previous three years, whereas Bamford TC reports an increase of seven members. The former does not field any teams and instead plays social tennis only, whilst the latter fields one men's, two ladies and one mixed team in the Sheffield and District Tennis League. Its growth is put down to improved junior coaching.

Informal tennis

It is considered that all courts in High Peak that are not accessed by clubs have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not recorded due to the open access nature of some sites. The majority of current use is assumed to take place throughout the summer months following events such as Wimbledon.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The LTA has recently set up an initiative to change the way in which people access council courts. Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a fob system following payment of a small yearly fee. Not only does this deter unofficial use of courts but it also allows official use to be tracked, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed. Nevertheless, some investment may be required to bring courts up to standard before the initiative can be rolled out.

No clubs readily allow for casual use of their courts by the community as they either do not have the spare capacity to do so, or because pay and play is difficult to manage. That being said, most clubs do allow for visitors, provided they are accompanied by members.

Future demand

Buxton TC and Glossop Pyegrove TC express future demand to increase membership. For Buxton TC, this equates to an increase of senior members by 30 and junior members by 20. For Glossop Pyegrove TC, the potential increase totals 20 senior members (and no junior members). Combined, this potential increase amounts to 50 senior members and 20 junior members.

Neither Bamford TC nor Edale TC report any future demand. Instead, priority is placed on retaining current membership.

Latent demand

No clubs suggest that additional tennis courts would lead to an increase in club membership, although Buxton TC suggests that floodlight installation would have a positive effect on growth. In effect, the perception is that any planned increases can be accommodated on existing courts, dependent on quality. No clubs currently have a waiting list and the majority would welcome new members.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,793 people who would like to participate in the sport within High Peak. The most dominant segment is 'Tim – Settling down males' (11.6%).

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. These figures account for all outdoor tennis courts in High Peak.

Using the above, Glossop Pyegrove TC is considered able to accommodate both current membership and expressed future demand at Pyegrove Recreation Ground. The site has capacity to accommodate 240 members, with the Club currently providing 120.

In contrast, Edale TC is deemed to be operating above capacity as it only has access to one, non-floodlit court at Edale Playing Fields, despite a current membership of 47. Despite this, the Club reports no capacity issues and no demand for further courts to be provided. Instead, it just wants quality improvements to be made.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Buxton TC is currently operating at capacity, with the Park having capacity for 120 members and the Club having a membership of 120. This means a deficit will be created if the Club grows by 30 members, as planned. To meet this demand, aspirations for floodlighting to be provided should be realised as this will increase capacity by 20 members per court. If floodlighting is not an option, increased court provision is required.

As membership at Bamford TC and New Mills TC is unknown, further exploration is required to understand whether the current number of courts available to the clubs is adequate. Bamford TC has capacity to accommodate 180 members at Bamford with Thornhill Recreation Ground, whereas New Mills TC has the capacity to accommodate 120 members at New Mills Sports Club. If either club exceeds these figures then a solution to increase capacity may be required.

As all remaining courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at sites that are assessed as poor quality.

Tennis summary

- ◆ There are 31 tennis courts identified in High Peak located across 11 sites and all categorised as being available for community use.
- ◆ In total, 11 courts are at club operated sites, two are at a council operated site and nine are at education operated sites. The remaining nine courts are at sites operated by other entities.
- ◆ There are five courts serviced by floodlighting.
- ◆ Buxton TC has recently submitted an application to Sport England for a grant under the Community Asset Programme to assist with installing floodlights as well as the building of a small clubhouse.
- ◆ The large majority of community available courts have a macadam surface, except one that is polymeric.
- ◆ Of provision that is available for community use, 15 (48%) are assessed as good quality and 16 courts (52%) are assessed as poor quality. None are assessed as standard quality.
- ◆ There are five tennis clubs in High Peak.
- ◆ Of the three clubs that state their membership figures, they collectively consist of 160 senior members and 128 junior members.
- ◆ Future demand amounts to 50 senior members and 20 junior members and is expressed by Buxton TC and Glossop Pyegrove TC.
- ◆ It is concluded that courts accessed by Glossop Pyrgrove have the capacity to accommodate both current and future demand.
- ◆ Edale TC is operating above capacity; however, the Club expresses no capacity issues.
- ◆ Buxton TC can accommodate its current demand, but future demand may result in the need for floodlighting to be provided or additional provision.
- ◆ As membership at Bamford TC and New Mills TC is unknown, further exploration is required to understand whether the current number of courts available to the clubs is adequate.
- ◆ As all remaining courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly sites that are assessed as poor quality.

PART 9: RUGBY LEAGUE

9.1: 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).

Consultation

Buxton Bulls ARLFC is the only Club identified as operating in High Peak and it was consulted by telephone to help inform this section of the report.

9.2 Supply

There are no dedicated rugby league pitches in High Peak. As a result, Buxton Bulls ARLFC has a requirement to use an overmarked rugby union pitch located at Buxton Rugby Club.

Pitch quality

A rugby union non-technical site assessment was carried out at Buxton Rugby Club which concluded a standard (M1/D1) quality rating. This also equates to a standard quality rating for rugby league purposes, meaning the pitch is able to accommodate up to two match equivalent sessions per week.

Despite its standard rating, it must be noted that rugby league activity taking place on a rugby union pitch can be problematic. Such usage leads to activity taking place on the pitch all year round as the rugby league season starts when the rugby union season finishes, and vice versa. This results in no post-season remedial work taking place.

Security of tenure

Currently, Buxton Bulls ARLFC rents one of the three senior pitches located at Buxton Rugby Club. It is used for matches on a Saturday afternoon and training on a Tuesday evening. This is considered to be secured use for four years as per an agreement signed in 2016.

Prior to 2016, the Club stopped using the pitch at Buxton Rugby Club and instead operated out of Buxton Community School. This, however, only lasted a season as fees were considered too high.

Ancillary facilities

Buxton Bulls ARLFC has access to the changing facilities at Buxton Rugby Club, which are of an adequate quality.

9.3: Demand

Buxton Bulls ARLFC is the only rugby league club in High Peak. The club currently has 36 members and fields a senior team that competes in the Midlands Men's League. That being said, due to a decrease in playing numbers, the Club reports that it is likely to fold in the near future.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

Despite there being no specific rugby leagues pitches in High Peak, all current identified match and training demand can be accommodated on rugby union pitches. Cross code pitch usage is not uncommon within the sport, particularly in areas where the sport is developing and there has not previously been much or any demand.

As such, it is likely that all current and future demand for rugby league can be adequately accommodated on existing rugby union pitches in High Peak. This is particularly the case given the uncertainty over the future of Buxton Bulls ARLFC. Unless its participation grows to an extent whereby the Club becomes sustainable, providing a dedicated rugby league pitch is considered unfeasible.

Rugby league summary

- ▶ Buxton Bulls ARLFC is the only rugby league club in High Peak.
- ▶ There are no dedicated rugby league pitches, with activity instead carried out on a rugby union pitch at Buxton Rugby Club.
- ▶ The pitch is assessed as standard quality.
- ▶ No issues were raised in relation to the ancillary facilities servicing Buxton Rugby Club.
- ▶ Buxton Bulls ARLFC has 36 members and fields a senior team; however, it reports that it is likely to fold in the near future given decreasing participation.
- ▶ It is likely that all current and future demand for rugby league can be accommodated on existing rugby union pitches, particularly given the uncertainty over the future of Buxton Bulls ARLFC.
- ▶ Unless participation grows to an extent whereby the Club becomes sustainable, providing a dedicated rugby league pitch is considered unfeasible.

PART 10: ATHLETICS

10.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of the sport, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials and permitting and licensing. Locally it is governed through England Athletics via a team consisting of an area manager and coach/club support officers.

10.2: Supply

There are no dedicated athletics tracks identified within High Peak. It is noted that due to the rural characteristics of the High Peak landscape, athletics in the community is mainly based around both endurance and fell running.

10.3: Demand

There are five dedicated athletics clubs in High Peak. Each Club specialises in long distance endurance running or fell running. The five clubs are:

- ◀ Buxton & District Athletics Club
- ◀ Goyt Valley Striders
- ◀ Glossopdale Harriers
- ◀ Hope Valley Hurricanes
- ◀ Pennine Fell Runners

Park Run

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK. They are open to all, free and are safe and easy to take part in. For those aged between 4 and 14, junior Park Run events are also available. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode that provides access to all Park Run events.

In High Peak, there is one Park Run event that takes place every Saturday from 9am at Manor Park. Since its inception, 1,914 unique runners have participated in the event with a total number of 8,728 entrants to date. The biggest attendance at one event is 159 runners.

There are no junior Park Run events in High Peak.

Run Together

Run Together (previously known as Run England) is an official England Athletics recreational running project that aims to get the whole nation running. The role of Run Together includes:

- ◀ Enabling people to join registered running groups.
- ◀ Supporting affiliated clubs and other partners in the provision of running groups for an increasing range of people.
- ◀ Training more people to qualify as running group leaders through the Leadership in Running Fitness qualification.
- ◀ Signposting people to 3-2-1 routes that have been created by local providers.

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There are no Run Together groups identified in High Peak, although that is not to say that there are no unaffiliated running groups or individuals taking part.

3-2-1 routes

3-2-1 is a project that aims to provide a range of marked out running or jogging routes across the country that anyone can have a go at. It is considered a way of providing a meaningful challenge to help more people to get running when it best suits them. Local providers (working in partnership with athletics clubs and running groups) can mark out routes that are 3, 2 and 1 miles, kilometres or laps.

There are currently no 3-2-1 routes in High Peak. The nearest 3-2-1 route is located in Disley, Cheshire.

10.4: Conclusion

It is evident from the characteristics of each club operating within High Peak that there is a clear preference to specialise in both endurance and fell running. Given the rural nature of the study area, the landscape lends itself to being an opportunity for runners of all abilities to participate and specialise in the sport and, as such, there is little identified demand for an athletics track to be created.

Precedence should be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the Park Run event as well as supporting the various running clubs operating within the area.

Finally, future options should be explored in relation to Run Together groups and 3-2-1 routes given that none are currently in place.

Athletics summary

- ◀ There are no athletics tracks in High Peak.
- ◀ There are five running clubs in operation in High Peak that specialise in long distance enduring and/or fell running.
- ◀ In addition, there is a Park Run event which is held every Saturday morning at Manor Park, Glossop.
- ◀ There are no affiliated Run Together groups and no 3-2-1 routes are provided.
- ◀ Precedence should be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the Park Run event as well as supporting the various running clubs.
- ◀ Future options should be explored in relation to Run Together groups and 3-2-1 routes given that none are currently in place.

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 Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

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National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative 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.

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 Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

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

- ✦ Sustain and Increase Participation.
- ✦ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ✦ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite.
- ✦ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
- ✦ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ✦ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- ✦ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms.
- ✦ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.

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- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - *Clubs and leagues*
 - *Kids*
 - *Communities*
 - *Casual*
- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - *Pathway*
 - *Support*
 - *Elite Teams*
 - *England Teams*
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - *Fan focus*
 - *New audiences*
 - *Global stage*
 - *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - *Integrity*
 - *Community programmes*
 - *Our environments*
 - *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game's revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - *People*
 - *Revenue and reach*
 - *Insight*
 - *Operations*

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

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

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

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

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

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

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

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

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England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities.

‘The right pitches in the right places’¹⁵

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

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

England Hockey Strategy

EH's new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- 1 Having great leadership
- 2 Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- 3 Inspired and Effective People
- 4 Different Ways to Play
- 5 Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections
- 7 Stretching and developing those who want it

¹⁵

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

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British Tennis (LTA) - Place to Play Strategy

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

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

The strategy sets out:

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

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

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

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

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

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In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st July 2017.

- 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- 1,500 registered coaches.
- Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- County development officer appointed by each county association.
- National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- Be progressive.
- Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- Lead the sport.
- Support clubs and county associations.

British Crown Green Bowling Association

Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England.

<http://crowngreenbowls.sharepoint.com/Pages/default.aspx>

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

The RFL's Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- Sustainable clubs
- Environmental Sustainability
- Geographical Spread
- Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

- The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- Pitch Size Guidance
- The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

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Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- ◆ The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- ◆ Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017

England Athletics: Whole Sport Plan 2013-2017

The England Athletics plan outlines a strategy to attract and retain 3 million athletics participants by 2017, from a current base of 1.9 million as measured by Active People, whilst cementing athletics as the most popular individual sporting activity in England.

“The ambition is to make England an athletic nation. Traditional athletics for some, running for many, fitness for all”.

In order to achieve this, the goals of the strategic plan are:

- ◆ To grow and sustain participation levels in the sport.
- ◆ To improve the experiences of every participant in the sport.
- ◆ To improve performance levels and to grow the next generation of senior athletic champions.

The plan also reflects a total commitment to delivering an inclusive sport, setting specific disability targets that are woven into the core measures for growth and retention of participation. Key personnel within the England Athletics staffing structure will now lead this area of work, focusing on:

- ◆ Delivering inclusive formats of the sport.
- ◆ National policy and programme development.
- ◆ Coaching and teaching resources.

UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and our 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA's Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future “running” facilities.

The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

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UKA's 2014-19 Facilities Strategy key outcomes:

- ◀ Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
- ◀ Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
- ◀ Increased talent pool
- ◀ Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
- ◀ Securing the long term future of existing facilities
- ◀ More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
- ◀ Improving the athletics experience for all participants
- ◀ Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators

Derbyshire Sport – Becoming a leading sporting county

Derbyshire Sports vision is to make Derbyshire one of the most active and successful sporting counties in the country. To achieve this, Derbyshire Sport has the following three ambitions:

- ◀ Increasing participation
- ◀ Improve player pathways
- ◀ Strengthen the sports system