



UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

MAY 2019

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ASC	All Stars Cricket
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
CSP	County Sports Partnership
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
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
MES	Match equivalent sessions
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
TGR	Team Generation Rate
TC	Tennis Club
UDC	Uttlesford District Council
U	Under

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1 Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been commissioned by Uttlesford District (UDC) to undertake a:

- ◀ Detailed sport facilities assessment of indoor and outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Detailed recreation assessment of recreational open space and children's play space.
- ◀ Comprehensive sport facilities and recreational strategy to inform future planning policies, priorities, infrastructure delivery and investment.

The overarching aim of the project is to provide:

- ◀ An evidence-based assessment of the existing sport and recreation facilities in Uttlesford
- ◀ An assessment of the sport and recreational needs of the future residents of Uttlesford up to 2033 and beyond in relation to the proposed Garden Communities and;
- ◀ A clear strategy for the provision of sport and recreational facilities to meet this need in the potential growth areas.

Separate indoor sports and open space needs assessments have also been developed. All needs assessment reports will be followed by individual strategies which will contribute to the project outcome of:

- ◀ Creating sustainable communities by directing sports provision to areas of planned growth and areas of deficiency.
- ◀ Securing S106 contributions.
- ◀ Protecting and enhancing existing facilities ensuring better facilities through re-development.

Thereby:

- ◀ Encouraging greater participation in sport and recreation.
- ◀ Promoting healthier communities.
- ◀ Justifying on-site provision and financial support for facilities.
- ◀ Involving the community in decisions affecting provision.
- ◀ Reinforce partnerships in delivering health outcomes.

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) assessment report, which presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and other outdoor sports facilities in Uttlesford in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. The guidance details a stepped approach that is separated into five distinct stages:

- ◀ Stage A: Preparation
 - ◀ Step 1: Clarify why the PPS is being developed
 - ◀ Step 2: Set up the management arrangements
 - ◀ Step 3: Tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B: Information Gathering
 - ◀ Step 4: Develop an audit of playing pitches
 - ◀ Step 5: Develop a picture of demand
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment
 - ◀ Step 6: Understand how each site is being used
 - ◀ Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision
 - ◀ Step 8: Carry out scenario testing

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- ◀ Stage D: Key Findings & Issues
 - ◀ Step 9: Identify key findings & issues
 - ◀ Step 10: Check and challenge key findings & issues
- ◀ Stage E: Strategy Development & Implementation
 - ◀ Step 11: Develop conclusions & recommendations
 - ◀ Step 12: Develop an action & implementation plan
 - ◀ Step 13: Adopt, monitor and review the PPS

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D and Stage E covered in the subsequent strategy document.

1.2 Local context

Uttlesford District Corporate Plan 2017-2021

The District Council's Corporate Plan 2017 – 21 outlines a clear way the Council will co-operate: *“Working together for the well-being of our community and to protect and enhance the unique character of the District.”* This is being achieved by a focus on the following priorities:

Table 1.1: UDC's corporate priorities and actions

Aim	Proposed actions
Promoting thriving, safe and healthy communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Working with the Health and Wellbeing Partnership, to promote healthy lifestyles. ◀ Working with the Community Safety Partnership, to improve community safety ◀ Working with partners, including the voluntary sector, to reduce social isolation. ◀ Delivering affordable housing. ◀ Preventing homelessness Improving private sector housing conditions. ◀ Improving community engagement ◀ Promoting garden communities.
Protecting and enhancing heritage and character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Producing and adopting a Local Plan. ◀ Increasing the resources in street cleaning and promoting awareness of environmental crime. ◀ Working with others to increase access to the heritage and history of the District. ◀ Encouraging positive planning that values heritage and promotes growth. ◀ Opposing a 2nd runway at Stansted airport.
Supporting sustainable business growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Supporting the expansion of and promotion of key sectors. ◀ Supporting the delivery of superfast broadband. ◀ Promoting town centres and visitor economy. ◀ Promoting the local and regional economic benefits of Stansted Airport. ◀ Working with the Employment, Economy, Skills, Environment and Transport Group (EESSET) and London, Stansted, Cambridge Consortium to promote economic opportunities. ◀ Establishing local economic strategies for the proposed garden communities.

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Aim	Proposed actions
Maintaining a financially sound and effective Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Setting a MTFS that balances prudent use of investment, reserves and capital. ◀ Continuing to develop and invest in Chesterford Research Park and investing in other suitable opportunities as they arise. ◀ Reviewing all services to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. ◀ Enabling enhanced citizen access through the council's website. ◀ Developing a new depot to co-locate three existing depots.

Sustainable Community Strategy: A vision for our future 2008-2018

The Sustainable Community Strategy captures the key issues that affect the local community. The themes and priorities emerged from extensive consultation with stakeholders and the community have been the driving force for the Partnership from 2008-2018. The vision for Uttlesford is “to sustain a high quality of life in which the benefits of the unique character of the district are equally available to all residents, workers or visitors.”

Table 1.2: UDC's community themes and priorities

Theme	Priorities
Children and young people matter	Every Child Matters Gaps in provision of services Commissioning services
Staying healthy	Alcohol related hospital admissions Mortality from breast cancer Access to services Sustainability of the voluntary sector Adult obesity
Developing business	Developing high value jobs in small businesses Carbon footprint of local businesses Tackling deprivation and poverty Local tourism
Feeling safe	Road safety Young people and crime Anti-social behaviour Core crime Violent crime Substance misuse Feeling safe
Protecting the environment	Climate change mitigation Climate change adaptation Ensuring new development is sustainable Environmental protection Waste minimisation
Getting around	Public and community transport Cycling and walking facilities Accessible information on public transport Condition of the roads Safer journeys to school

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Uttlesford Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021

The central aim for this Economic Development Strategy is to deliver the council's sustainable business growth priority. Where "sustainable business growth" means:

- ◀ More business start-ups
- ◀ More businesses relocating into the district
- ◀ More expansions of existing businesses
- ◀ More local jobs for local people
- ◀ Thriving town and village centres
- ◀ More people working from home- and home-based businesses

In addition to setting out work delivered by the Economic Development Team and many other teams across the Council, this strategy focuses on:

- ◀ Supporting the expansion and promotion of key sectors in the local economy. Initially this will be life sciences, research and innovation; the rural economy; and the visitor economy which includes the town centres;
- ◀ Maximising local and regional opportunities that arise from the location at London Stansted Airport;
- ◀ Establishing local economic strategies for each of the three proposed new garden communities in the district; and
- ◀ Supporting the delivery and exploitation of high levels of connectivity including superfast broadband.

There are a number of additional sectors this strategy could potentially focus on such as advanced manufacturing. To maximise the impact of the strategy requires a targeted approach and hence why initially three sectors have been chosen.

The emerging Uttlesford Local Plan will deliver significant new growth in the district with three proposed new garden communities being built over the next twenty-five to thirty years. The Local Plan provides for over 14,100 houses and 14,600 new jobs and opportunities being brought forward by 2033. This will support an economy that helps create more jobs nearer to homes and increased opportunities for local people to work locally.

The new Economic Development Strategy addresses the challenges and opportunities that this development could bring to the local economy and works to maximise the benefits to both existing businesses and residents and those who will move into the new developments.

Local Plan

The new Uttlesford Local Plan will be part of the statutory planning framework for the District to 2033 guiding decisions on all aspects of development. It will set out how and where new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure will be delivered and the type of places and environment that will be created. It contains the following:

- ◀ A district profile which gives an overview of Uttlesford's characteristics, the issues that arise from this and lead to the identification of the Vision and Objectives for the Local Plan.
- ◀ The big picture of "where" and "when" UDC wants activity, development and investment to be over the period to 2033. This includes the roles and relationships of the settlements, the distribution of development and areas that will be protected from development - what it means for the various areas in the District. This section also includes the policies for new Garden Communities, London Stansted Airport, the Green Belt and the Countryside Protection Zone.

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- ◀ Policies which cover: Housing, Employment, Retail and Tourism, Transport, Infrastructure, Design, the Environment and the Countryside.
- ◀ Site Allocations policies which identify areas for development and include the policies which will determine how these areas should be developed.
- ◀ Delivery and Monitoring - This section sets out how further details of the Plan's implementation and how it will be monitored and reviewed to ensure its objectives are met.

Essex Health and Wellbeing Board: Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013-2018)

This identifies three key priorities, all of which have specific development areas which need to be achieved through partnership work, as outlined below.

Table 1.3: Essex Health and Wellbeing Board Key Priorities

Priority	Development areas
Starting and developing well: ensuring every child in Essex has the best start in life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Increasing children's and young people level of physical activity. ◀ Improving development/attainment levels of pre-school children. ◀ Working with families with complex needs to ensure better outcomes for children.
Living and working well: ensuring that residents make better lifestyle choices and have opportunities needed to enjoy a healthy life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Improve diet and nutrition. ◀ Increase physical activities levels. ◀ Reducing smoking, drinking and alcohol use. ◀ Supporting community provision and developing community assets.
Ageing well: ensuring that older people remain independent for as long as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Preventing and maintaining independence in the home. ◀ Reducing dementia levels. ◀ Responding to long term conditions and chronic illness. ◀ Ensure high level of end of life care.

West Essex CCG JSNA Report 2015-2020

WECCG approved its *5-year Strategic Plan for West Essex Health and Care system 2015 – 2020* in November 2014. This plan has been developed at a time when the West Essex health and care system is facing major pressures – population growth, financial constraints and public health challenges. There is increasing demand for health and care services.

There is a high degree of alignment between the local West Essex drivers described above and current national NHS policies.

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Figure 1.1: Key drivers for West Essex



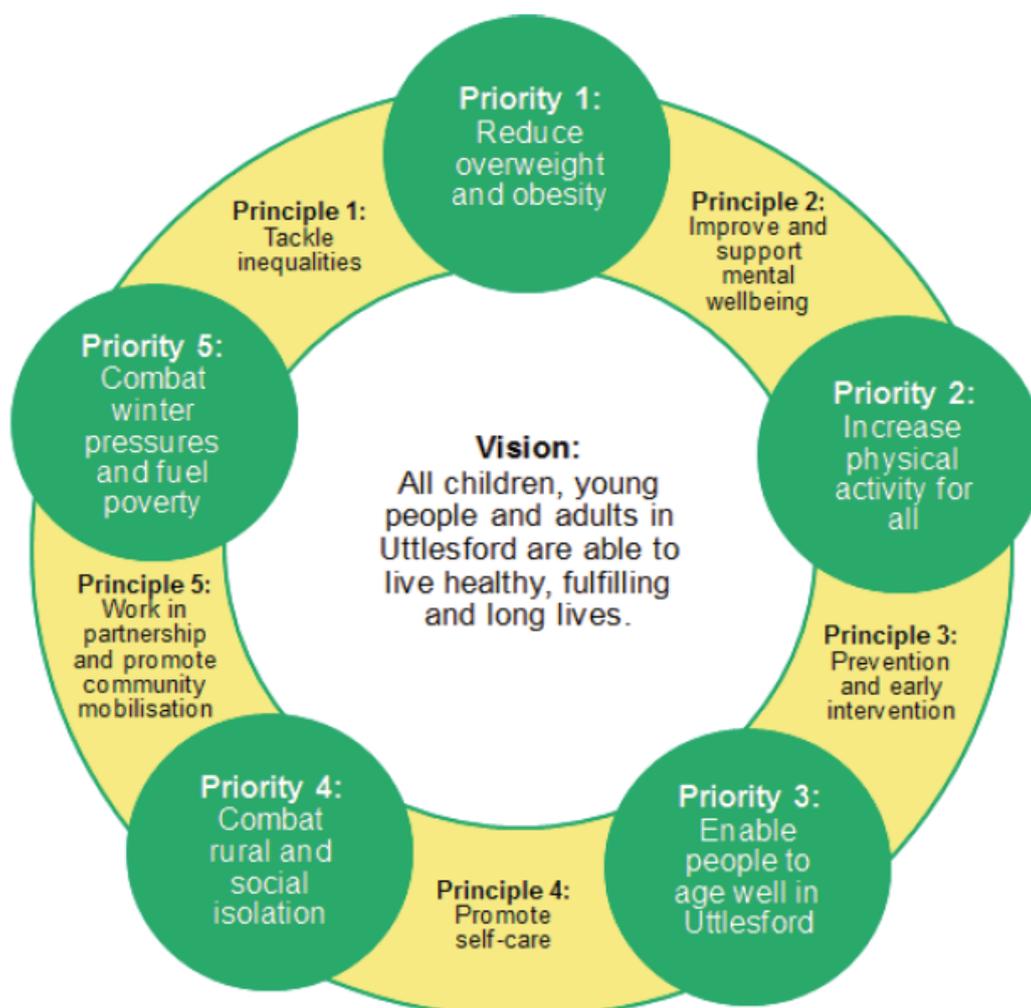
Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2022

The Uttlesford Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2017-2022) has been developed in partnership with members of the Uttlesford Health and Wellbeing Board. The Strategy presents a direction for the Council and partners to address an agreed set of five key health and wellbeing priorities, with a particular focus on preventative health. Figure 1.2 represents the key information as set out within this Strategy.

The purpose of this document is to provide a clear direction for the Uttlesford Health and Wellbeing Board and its partners to address a number of key health and wellbeing priorities for the district.

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Figure 1.2: Uttlesford's Health and wellbeing vision and principles



Active Essex: Changing One Million Lives to get Essex Active 2017-2021

The Active Essex (CSP) target is to get one million people active by the year 2021 by driving up and sustaining sports participation and physical activity. In partnership with a number of key partners and organisations, the CSP is committed to creating opportunities and resources to achieve this target which will reduce inactivity and develop positive attitudes to health and wellbeing across communities in the County. The stated intention is that the target will be met via the achievement of the four key priorities identified in Table 2.4:

Table 1.4: Active Essex's strategic priorities

Priority	Focus
Increase and sustain participation	More people in Essex being active, taking part and living healthy and active lifestyles.
Change behaviours to improve the health and wellbeing of residents	Change behaviours to reduce inactivity and make a real impact on physical and mental health and wellbeing.
Develop individuals and organisations	Enable people and organisations to develop skills, achieve goals, ambitions, and maximise their potential.
Strengthen local communities and networks	Lead, develop and drive communities across Essex, raising the profile and impact of physical activity and sport.

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Although the Strategy takes a county approach, specific priority is given to the following groups, as those most likely to be underrepresented in both sport and physical activity:

- ◀ People aged 65+.
- ◀ Unemployed people.
- ◀ Females.
- ◀ People with a life-long limiting illness or disability.
- ◀ People from lower socio-economic groups (NS-SEC 5-8) ¹.
- ◀ Black and ethnic minorities.

Physical activity and Sports Strategy 2015

This was compiled by Saffron Walden Skate Group and The Hub Management Committee. Its vision is for Uttlesford to:

- ◀ Become more active and healthier by creating opportunities and overcoming barriers to taking part in physical activities.
- ◀ Look at more modern/innovative ways of increasing participation and appealing to a wider group.
- ◀ Compile a list of priorities that developers might fund as part of the Local Development Framework Plan.
- ◀ Help build a wider evidence base to secure funding

The strategy aims are to get people:

- ◀ *More Active*: by inspiring them to participate in regular physical activity and sport.
- ◀ *More Healthy*: by helping them to understand and enjoy the health benefits that can be achieved from increased and sustained activity.
- ◀ *More Successful*: by encouraging them to set their own personal participation goals, irrespective of ability, and helping them succeed in leading more active and healthy lifestyles.

Active Uttlesford

Active Uttlesford is a new group which aims to develop a community led group that can help grow participation in physical activity in the district by sharing best practice, working collaboratively, growing capacity through training. The group will be the grassroots voice for physical activity and sport for Uttlesford District and is part of the Uttlesford Health and Wellbeing Board. It will be made up of local community representatives from all walks of life, with varied interest and experience in physical and leisure activity.

Summary of local policy documentation

The local policies key messages are summarised below:

- ◀ Local authorities, in general, are facing major pressures including population growth, financial constraints and public health challenges.
- ◀ UDC is prioritising, promoting and establishing the new garden communities by 2033.
- ◀ The Local Plan provides for c.14,000 houses and c.14,600 new jobs and opportunities being brought forward by 2033, much of it within the proposed garden communities.
- ◀ There is an understanding of the importance of prioritising health and wellbeing within the District and the need for partnership working to enhance any offer.
- ◀ Many different organisations recognise the importance that increasing physical activity can make and also understand the need to target under-represented groups.

¹ NS-SEC: National Statistics Socio-economic Classifications

1.3 Stage A: Prepare and tailor the 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 Council officers, Active Essex, Sport England and the relevant NGBs.

Why the PPS is being developed

The overarching aim of the strategy is to provide a detailed evidence based assessment of the existing sport and recreation facilities in Uttlesford, as well as provide a clear strategy for sport and recreation facilities up to 2033, particularly in relation to potential growth areas.

The strategy will also take into consideration that the development of the three Garden Communities, which may run beyond 2033.

The PPS will take into account all outdoor sports facilities within Uttlesford, including council owned facilities and privately owned facilities. The main objectives outlined by the Council are for the PPS:

- ◀ Understand existing and future demand through analysis of the population growth identified in the 2016 Interim Strategic Housing Market Assessment; Uttlesford Regulation 18 draft Local Plan 2017 and emerging Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Local Plan, participation data and local demand information.
- ◀ Find out the current quantity, quality, location/distribution and accessibility of the listed sport and recreation facilities within the district;
- ◀ Evaluate the supply and demand impact of residents and sport and recreation facilities in neighbouring districts to meeting existing and projected demand;
- ◀ Identifying areas of over and under provision, qualitative deficiencies, access issues and gaps in listed facilities to meet existing and projected demand;
- ◀ Prepare a strategy of sport and recreation provision for Uttlesford for the period up to 2033, but taking into account of the projected population of the Garden Communities when completed.
 - a. How the required provision of sport and recreational facilities in the potential growth areas can be addressed, including setting out a prioritised list of facilities. This is of particular importance in relation to the Garden Communities where a sports hub with a specific facility mix will be required :
 - b. Where appropriate provide standards for the provision of informal open space and recreational facilities and a clear prioritised action plan and delivery methodology for formal sport in accordance with advice from Sport England.
 - c. Provide justification and evidence for on-site delivery and the S106 agreements.
 - d. Provide guidance on addressing any existing deficiencies in sport and recreational facilities

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The outcome of the project will:

- ◀ Create sustainable communities by directing sports provision to areas of planned growth and areas of deficiency.
- ◀ Secure S106 contributions
- ◀ Protect and enhance existing facilities or ensure better facilities through redevelopment

Thereby:

- ◀ Encouraging greater participation in sport and recreation
- ◀ Promoting healthier communities
- ◀ Justify on-site provision and financial support for facilities
- ◀ Involving the community in decisions affecting provision
- ◀ Reinforce partnerships in delivering health outcomes

Meeting Sport England PPS requirements

PPS requirements set out by Sport England include:

- ◀ To support the improving health and well-being and 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.
- ◀ 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 cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 96 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 96 and 97 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A Playing Pitch Strategy will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Agreed scope

The Council has set out that the PPS should cover the main pitch sports of football, cricket, rugby union and hockey and assess both grass pitches and artificial pitches. In addition, it will also include an assessment of other outdoor sports facilities including tennis and bowls.

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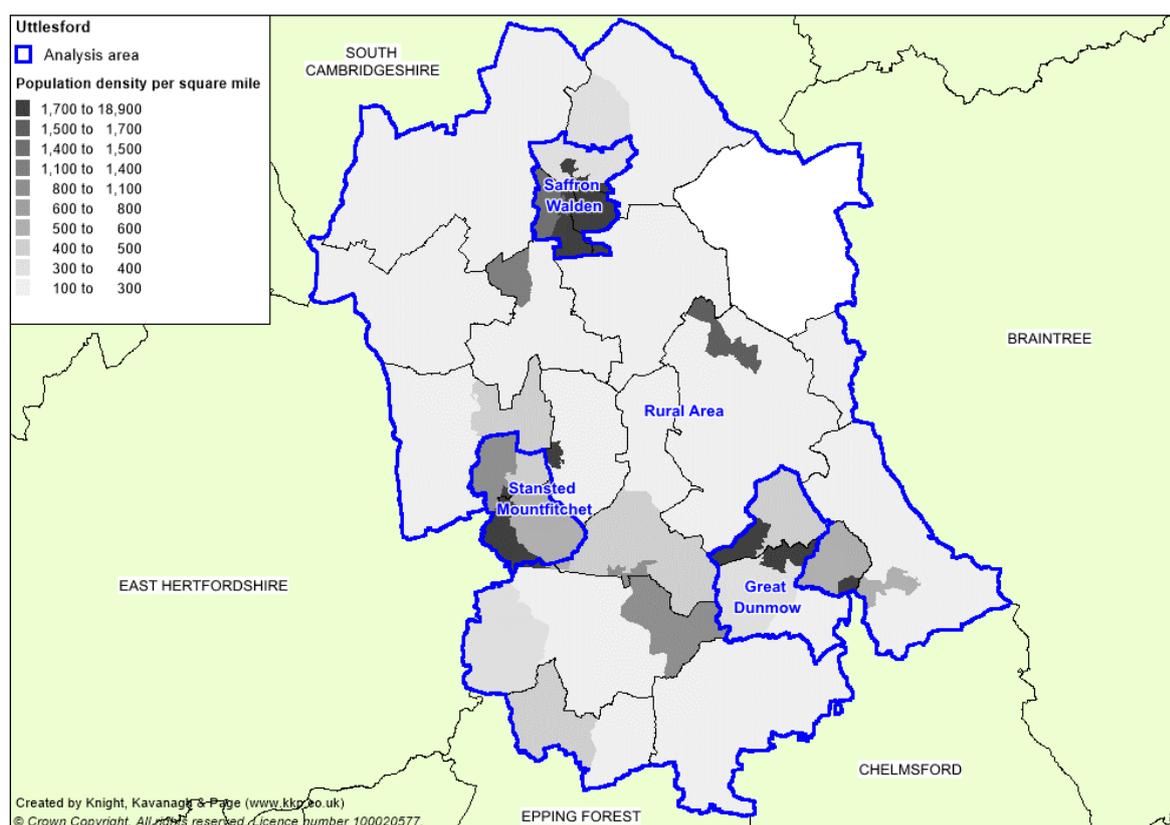
It should be noted that for the non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, netball and bowls) included within the scope of this study, the supply and demand principles of Sport England Guidance: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) are followed to ensure the process is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Study area

The study area will comprise the whole of the Uttlesford District Council's administrative area. In order to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and to examine playing pitch supply and demand at a local level, four analysis areas have been created; Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Great Dunmow and Rural Area.

Furthermore, cross-boundary issues will be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand. This applies to demand that migrates between neighbouring local authorities.

Figure 1.3: Map of Uttlesford including analysis areas



1.4 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 Uttlesford 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.

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Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

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'.²

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

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 Uttlesford; however, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusion of a pitch does not 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, with the Council and NGBs supporting 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 upon completion of the project 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

Accessibility

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

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

² www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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- ◀ **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **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 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

Quality

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

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

The quality of all pitches 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 pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

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

Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment.

Demand for playing pitches in Uttlesford tends to fall within the following categories:

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

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

In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet and latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of pitches (and ancillary facilities) was

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available, whereas exported and imported demand refers to teams that playing outside of their local authority of choice.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate such demand information. Firstly, face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised.

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

As key providers and users of outdoor sports facilities, educational establishments were also consulted. This involved face to face meetings with secondary schools and colleges and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

The response rates of such consultation are set out in table below.

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	30	23	77%	Consultation part of winter assessment report.
Cricket clubs	36	35	97%	Club focus groups and via online survey.
Rugby union clubs	2	2	100%	Consultation part of winter assessment report.
Hockey clubs	1	1	100%	Via online survey and telephone consultation.
Tennis clubs	11	9	82%	Via online survey.
Bowls clubs	9	4	44%	Via online survey.
Secondary schools	4	4	100%	Face to face consultation.
Parish/town councils	49	19	39%	Face to face consultation with two town and five parish councils. Further consultation as part of winter assessment.
Primary schools	39	12	31%	Met with Dame Bradbury (Saffron Walden) face to face. Remaining schools via online survey. Further consultation as part of winter assessment.

Future demand

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

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 pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area.

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

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

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

Population

The current resident population in Uttlesford is 87,684³. By 2033 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the Local Plan period) the District's population is projected to increase to 101,544⁴ representing an increase of 13,860 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 16%) according to ONS data.

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

Housing growth

There is due to be significant housing and subsequent population growth in Uttlesford. This is attributed to the growth of existing towns, as well as three new Garden Communities; North Uttlesford (north east of Great Chesterford). Easton Park (west of Great Dunmow) and West of Braintree (east of Stebbing). The majority of the latter will sit within the neighbouring authority of Braintree. As such, there will be the need to consider cross boundary movement in sports participation.

By 2033, it is predicted there will be an additional 14,712 dwelling across Uttlesford. Housing supply distribution will be as below:

- ◀ North Uttlesford - 5,000 new dwellings (1,900 will be delivered by 2033)
- ◀ Easton Park - 10,000 new dwellings, of which a minimum will be delivered by 2033
- ◀ West of Braintree - 3,500 dwellings (970 will be delivered by 2033)
- ◀ Saffron Walden will deliver a minimum of 240 dwellings
- ◀ Great Dunmow will deliver a minimum of 740 dwellings

As well as directing the future growth of Uttlesford, there is also a need for the emerging Local Plan to provide sport and recreation policies. These policies will be developed using the PPS as a key evidence base, alongside the Indoor Built Facilities Needs Assessment and Open Space Strategy also being produced by KKP.

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

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Uttlesford. It focuses on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

³ Source: ONS Mid-2017 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

⁴ Data Source: ONS 2016-based projections 2016-2041. Released: 24 May 2018

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Understand the situation at individual sites

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

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

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

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

Table 1.5: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union*	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	N/A	N/A

The above does not apply to hockey as there is no limit to how often an AGP can be used, with capacity instead limited by availability and current usage levels. A pitch without floodlighting or capacity restrictions can generally be accessed for four matches during one day.

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members. This varies for other court types (e.g. grass).

For all remaining non-pitch sports (i.e. bowls, netball etc) there are no nationally recognised capacity recommendations set out by NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

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 pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

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

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 playing pitch provision in Uttlesford. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Strategy.

Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, latent, exported and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. 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.

The majority of the scenario testing generally occurs in the Strategy report that proceeds this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Essex County FA is the strategic lead for football in Essex, delivering the Essex County FA Moving Forward Strategy (2018-2021) in line with the FA National Game Strategy. It sets the strategic direction for football and is the lead organisation responsible for the development and administration of football across Essex. This is divided into core areas of the game, with bespoke delivery strategies for:

- ◀ Football Development – Sustaining and Increasing Participation (across affiliated and recreational formats); Better Training and Playing Facilities, Coach Education and better Players; Volunteer and Football Workforce.
- ◀ Safeguarding and Welfare – Workforce and Education; Safeguarding Compliance; Investigations; Environment.
- ◀ Refereeing – Recruitment and Retention; Coverage; Development and Promotion; Referee Workforce.
- ◀ Governance – On field Discipline, Investigations; Regulations and Sanctions; Cups, Competitions and Representative Football.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches only, with Part 3 capturing supply and demand for third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches (AGPs). 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.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy (NGS), the FA has commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. Over the course of the next two years to spring 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

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

Each LFFP will build upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP will also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This could include those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

LFFPs will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

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It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will however build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities. The Uttlesford LFFP is being developed alongside this PPS.

Consultation

In addition to face-to-face consultation with key football clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs playing within Uttlesford. Contact details were provided by Essex County FA and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email. Consultation was completed by 26 clubs (including face-to-face meetings and telephone consultations), which equates to a club response rate of 77%. All large clubs were consulted resulting in a team response rate of 90%. The following key clubs were met with for a face-to-face consultation:

- ◀ Stansted FC
- ◀ Plantation Youth FC
- ◀ Dunmow Rhodes Youth FC
- ◀ Saffron Walden Community Youth FC
- ◀ Elsenham Youth FC
- ◀ Dunmow United FC
- ◀ Takeley FC

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies 93 grass football pitches within Uttlesford across 45 sites. Of the pitches, 89 are available, at some level, for community use across 43 sites. The four unavailable pitches are located at two school sites; Dame Bradbury School and Felsted School.

Of the pitches available for community use, most are adult size (37). This breakdown is shown in the table below.

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

Analysis area	Number of pitches					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Great Dunmow	3	1	1	2	1	8
Rural Area	27	2	9	10	9	57
Saffron Walden	4	2	4	2	1	13
Stanstead Mountfitchet	3	1	4	2	1	11
Uttlesford	37	6	18	16	12	89

As shown in the table above, the Rural Area contains the majority of pitch provision (57). The remaining analysis areas all have comparable levels of provision, with Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden and Stanstead Mountfitchet containing eight, 13 and 11 pitches respectively.

Please note that the audit only assesses dedicated, line marked pitches. It is common for younger age groups (mini teams) to play across senior pitches marked out with cones. Eleven mini teams are noted to be doing this in Uttlesford.

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With 42% of the pitches across the District being adult pitches, it is unsurprising that 19 youth teams (17 youth 11v11 and three youth 9v9) are having to access this provision despite it being the wrong size based on the FA's recommended pitch sizing. The correct pitch sizing for each format can be seen in Table 2.2. The aforementioned teams are from the below clubs:

- ◀ Dunmow Rhodes Youth FC
- ◀ Dunmow United Youth FC
- ◀ Elsenham Youth FC
- ◀ Great Chesterford Youth FC
- ◀ Plantation Youth FC
- ◀ Saffron Walden Community Youth FC

Table 2.2: FA recommended pitch sizes by age group

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

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 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s, 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s and 73 x 46 metres for u12s and u11s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches (u10s and u9s) is 55 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches (u8s and u7s) it is 37 x 27 metres. Please refer to the table overleaf for more detail.

The following sites contain adult pitches that are currently being used for youth or mini matches:

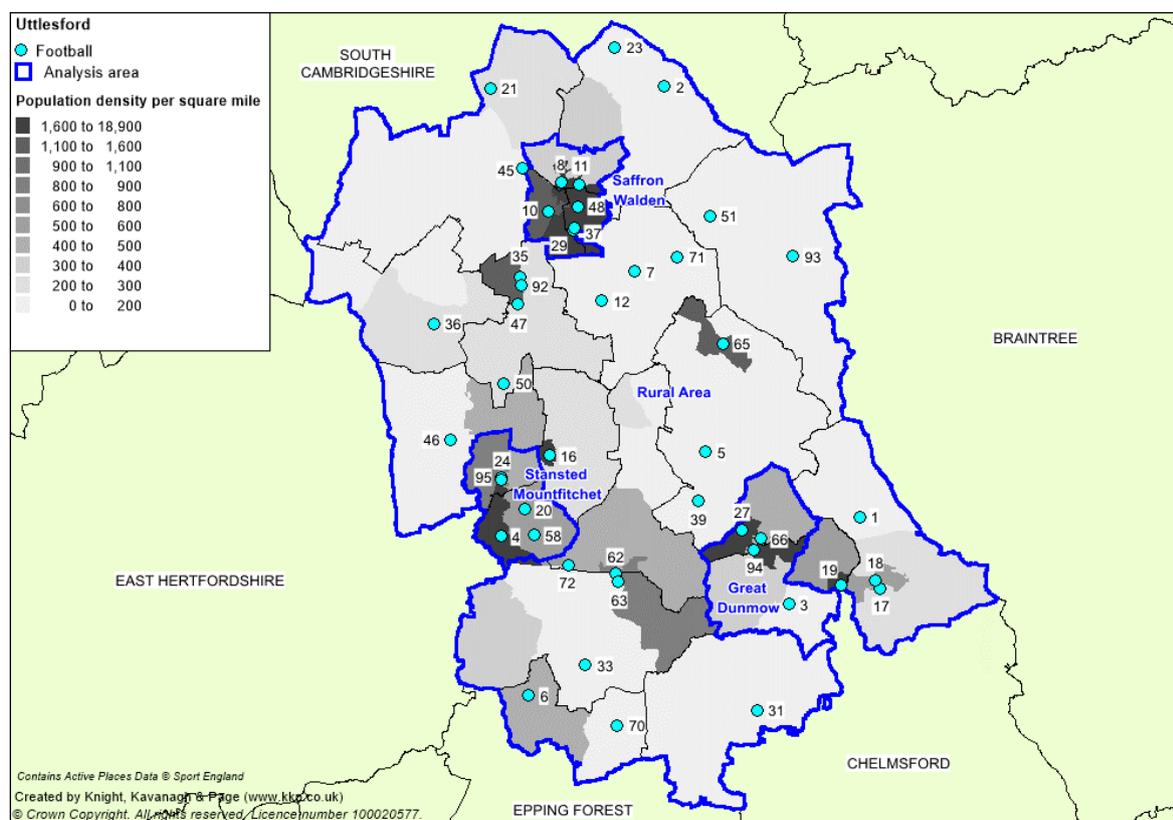
- ◀ Elsenham Recreation Ground
- ◀ Wimbish Recreation Ground
- ◀ The Causeway Recreation Ground
- ◀ Laundry Lane
- ◀ Carver Barracks
- ◀ Burns Playing Fields

With the exception of Carver Barracks, these sites are not accessed for adult football. Therefore, they could be considered for reconfiguration to better meet demand. This being said, there may be a need to retain adult provision if shortfalls are evident following capacity analysis.

Figure 2.1 overleaf identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Uttlesford. For a key to the map, see Table 2.13.

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Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Uttlesford



Disused provision

Friends School (Walden School) was closed in 2017. This site was available for community use which last provided three football pitches (configuration unknown). As such, the pitches are currently classed as disused.

Recent insight from Essex County FA suggests this site could potentially accommodate more than three adult pitches.

Future provision

Consultation with Quendon & Rickling PC highlights its aspiration to bring Quendon Athletic FC (Site ID: 50), back into use. This site is currently unused; however, an adult pitch of poor quality is marked out. Quendon & Rickling Parish Council has recently taken a 20 year lease on this site from a private land owner; however, is now trying to renegotiate the lease to 25 years to site in line with the Football Foundation's funding terms and conditions. The site also has space to accommodate an adult pitch alongside some mini pitches.

Two clubs; Chesterfords Youth FC and Elsenham Youth FC have registered interest in accessing this site should the Parish Council's aspirations be realised. There will; however, alongside the pitches, be a need to provide ancillary facilities including toilets (water and electricity are already available at the site).

There is also a site containing two football pitches (Lime Avenue) which was provided by a housing developer through a section 106 agreement. At present, the pitches have not been signed off by UDC as a result of not meeting the required quality standards. Saffron Walden

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Community FC is keen to take this site on (if possible, on a lease agreement); however, is not able to do so until the quality issues are resolved.

Planning permission has recently been granted for a new school playing field. This sits on the boundary of the neighbouring authority (East Hertfordshire) and will be part of the Hertfordshire & Essex High School; however, this site falls within the Uttlesford District. This will provide one adult and one youth 11v11 grass pitch and will be subject to a community use agreement.

Further to the above, as set out in the UDC Local Plan, should the residential development take place on the current Helena Romanes School, land west and south-west of Great Dunmow will provide land for a new secondary school site, which will also mitigate the loss of the former natural and artificial pitch provision. This will include the replacement of the full size, floodlit AGP (part of the adjoining Dunmow Leisure Centre site).

Accessibility

Consultation highlights an issue, particularly for larger clubs, with having to access several sites, often spread across the District. This not only creates issues for club cohesion but can also be expensive for clubs, which have to rent or lease multiple sites. A point to note; however, this is not solely attributed to lack of multiple pitch sites, clubs being spread out is also a result of issues with pitch quality. This is further discussed the section below.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in Uttlesford has 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 maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they are able to accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than parks/recreation grounds 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. Examples of this include Takeley Football Club and White Roding Sports and Social Club.

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.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use. In total, two pitches are assessed as good quality, 26 pitches as standard quality and 61 as poor quality.

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Table 2.3: Summary of quality for football pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Great Dunmow	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	1	3
Rural Area	1	2	24	-	2	9	-	6	13
Saffron Walden	1	2	1	-	5	1	-	3	-
Stansted Mountfitchet	-	1	2	-	3	2	-	1	1
Total	2	5	30	-	11	13	-	11	17

Of grass football pitches in Uttlesford, 67% are assessed as poor quality. These findings are also reflective of the views of local clubs. Proportionally, youth pitches are of the best quality across the District with 13 out of 24 pitches rating as poor. There is; however, a need to address pitch quality, with only two pitches receiving a good quality rating and subsequently lowering playing capacity across all grass pitch sites. Throughout consultation heavy clay soil is reported as a key contributor to evident pitch quality issues.

Catons Lane, home of Saffron Walden Town FC is one of only two pitches rated as good quality. This is attributed to the high levels of maintenance carried out.

One of the largest clubs in Uttlesford; Dunmow Rhodes Youth FC, plays across a number of sites including Flitch Green Community Centre and The Causeway Recreation Ground. Both of these sites contain poor quality pitches. The former is noted from the site visit as having lower levels of grass coverage and areas of unevenness. Dunmow Rhodes Youth FC explains that the grass does not fully grow due to what it believes to be too much sand preventing the roots from anchoring in the soil.

Flitch Green Community Centre is aware of the need to address pitch quality at the site and has engaged with the County FA, having a Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) assessment carried out at the site. On the back of this, it is hoping to apply for a grant for some equipment to allow better maintenance regimes to be carried out, as per the PIP report recommendations. It also expresses aspiration to install an irrigation system to support with better grass growth.

Whilst ancillary provision will be discussed in subsequent sections, the Community Centre also express a desire to have a kitchen installed in the onsite pavilion. This would provide a further source of income that could support with pitch maintenance costs. It explains how although the developer of the site provided money to cover pitch maintenance costs, the funds were insufficient and as a result has had to scale down elements of maintenance.

The other site accessed by Dunmow Rhodes Youth FC; The Causeway Recreation Ground, is observed as again, having lower levels of grass coverage, as well as areas of undulation and evidence of dog fouling. Further to this, the site is also used for community events such as fairs and firework displays which can cause pitch damage. It is; however, common for football pitch sites to double up as open space sites for a range of activities and community events. This site is currently managed and maintained by Dunmow Town Council and the Club reports that the maintenance regime requires improvement, with aerating only having taken place once in the last two years.

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The largest club in Uttlesford is currently Saffron Walden Community FC, providing 39 teams. There are also ten girls' teams in the associated girls club; Saffron Walden PSG. The Club is currently playing across seven sites, which except for Herbert's Farm Playing Field, all are identified as poor quality. Herbert's Farm Playing Field has standard quality pitches, which based on reported maintenance regimes could be good quality. However, significant overplay impacts greatly on pitch quality. The site's five pitches are being used by a total of 31 teams.

Herbert's Farm Playing Fields is leased from Saffron Walden Town Council to a trust made up of representatives from Saffron Walden Community FC, Saffron Walden PSG and Plantation Youth FC. It is the Trust that makes decisions about the site and ensures appropriate maintenance regimes take place. A representative from Saffron Walden Community FC is mostly responsible for the latter. As such, the site undergoes grass cutting as required, verti draining, weed killing and fertilising twice annually and over seeding and top dressing every summer. All of which, prevents the overplayed site from falling into the poor quality parameters.

Saffron Walden Community FC reports games regularly having to be postponed across other sites it accesses due to waterlogging. Surface water also leads to most pitches across Uttlesford having only 60%-80% grass coverage. This is a reported issue at Newport Recreation Ground, Radwinter Recreation Ground and Wimbish Recreation Ground.

Dunmow United FC access two sites; Laundry Lane and Burns Playing Field. Laundry Lane is maintained by the Club, which pays a contractor to cut the grass and mark out the pitches. It also carries out other maintenance when funds allow such as reseeding and verti draining. Despite its best efforts; however, the site is still heavily used for recreational football due to it being an open access site. This leads to significant wear around the goal mouths.

Elsenham Youth FC also access two sites; Stansted Airport Playing Fields and Elsenham Recreation Ground. Again, both these sites are rated as poor quality. Stansted Airport Playing Fields is a former community sports site which had not been used for a long period of time. Due to links the Club has with the airport, it has been allowed to bring the site back into use. A group from the Club has worked hard to bring the pitches at the site up to a playable standard. It believes the pitches at the site would be of standard quality if it wasn't for issues with drainage. Additionally, there could be more maintenance conducted as currently this consists of grass cutting, line marking and bits of seeding as required.

Elsenham Recreation Ground is maintained by the Elsenham Parish Council through a contractor. The Club contributes to this annually and the maintenance regime consists of verti draining, reseeding, fertilising, top dressing, line marking and grass cutting. There is; however, some uncertainty as to whether this level of maintenance takes place. The site assessment highlights an issue with grass coverage and pitch evenness, as well as there being evidence of heavy use with muddy patches. However, the Club suggests it is better quality than others in the District, with fewer games being called off through the season. The site has also in the past been subject to unofficial use, namely bikes being rode across the pitches. As such, CCTV has now been installed to try and deter this from happening.

Great Chesterfords Youth FC and Thaxted Rangers FC access Great Chesterfords Recreation Ground and Thaxted Recreation Ground respectively. Both clubs report a need for improved maintenance at these sites. Great Chesterfords Youth FC suggests undertaking more stringent maintenance at the site, which it rents; however, it does not have the available funds to achieve this. It suggests that the grass is too long and that it is also boggy in patches and uneven. Thaxted Rangers FC reports similar issues, with the unevenness requiring levelling to take place at Thaxted Recreation Ground.

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Takeley FC, a Step 5 club in the Football Pyramid, which is further discussed in the following Football Pyramid section also access a second site for its development squad. This is known locally as The Sports Field (Takeley Recreation Ground). Maintenance at this site is carried out between both the Club and Takeley Parish Council. The Club is hoping this site will improve in quality (currently assessed as poor) due to recent instillation of rabbit fencing, as well as having been spiked and top dressed.

For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.12.

FA 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).

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini or youth pitches may be marked onto adult 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.

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

There are also some football pitches in Uttlesford that are marked onto or overlapping cricket outfields. This can create availability issues at multi-sport sites as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still on going and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played.

Table 2.4: Sites containing over marked pitches

Site ID	Site	Comments
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Artificial NTP between the pitches, with boundary covering pitches.
29	Herbert Farm Playing Fields	Overmarked with a youth 11v11 pitch.
48	Peasland Road Football Pitch (Walden Ladies FC)	Overmarked with a youth 9v9 pitch.
47	Newport Recreation Ground	Overmarked with a youth 9v9 pitch.
24	Hargrave Park	Cricket boundary covers pitches.

Ancillary facilities

The majority of community accessible football sites (91%) have access to ancillary provision. There are currently four dedicated football sites in Uttlesford without ancillary facilities; Hadstock Recreation Ground, Woodside, High Street Recreation Ground and Stansted Airport Playing Fields. At the latter; however, Elsenham Youth FC has access to toilet facilities which are used by airport maintenance staff.

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Quality ratings of football sites across Uttlesford are shown in the table overleaf. Primary school sites which are accessed for football are not included, as none are identified as having any changing facilities specific for community use.

Table 2.4: Ancillary facility quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
1	Alcott Playing Field	Rural Area	Poor
2	Ashdon Villa Football Club	Rural Area	Poor
3	Barnston Association Football Club	Great Dunmow	Standard
4	Birchanger Social Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	Standard
5	Burns Playing Field	Rural Area	Poor
6	Calves Pasture	Rural Area	Poor
7	Carver Barracks ⁵	Rural Area	Standard
8	Catons Lane	Saffron Walden	Standard
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	Standard
12	Debden Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Standard
16	Elsenham Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Poor
17	Felsted Playing Field	Rural Area	Standard
19	Fritch Green Community Centre	Rural Area	Standard
20	Forest Hall School/ Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre	Stansted Mountfitchet	Standard
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Standard
23	Hadstock Recreation Ground	Rural Area	No ancillary provision
24	Hargrave Park	Stansted Mountfitchet	Standard
27	Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form	Great Dunmow	Standard
29	Herbert Farm Playing Fields	Saffron Walden	Good
31	High Easter Playing Fields	Rural Area	Standard
33	High Street Recreation Ground	Rural Area	No ancillary provision
35	Joyce Frankland Academy	Rural Area	Standard
36	Jubilee Field	Rural Area	Standard
39	Laundry Lane	Rural Area	Poor
45	Littlebury Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Poor
46	Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust	Rural Area	Standard
47	Newport Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Standard
48	Peasland Road Football Pitch (Walden Ladies FC)	Saffron Walden	Good
50	Quendon Athletic FC	Rural Area	Poor
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Good
58	Stansted Airport Pitch	Stansted Mountfitchet	No ancillary provision
62	Takeley Football Club (Fsi Stadium)	Rural Area	Good
63	Takeley Sports Field	Rural Area	Poor
65	Thaxted Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Poor
66	The Causeway Recreation Ground	Great Dunmow	Poor
70	White Roding Sports and Social Club	Rural Area	Good

⁵ Based on club consultation due to site being inaccessible for assessment.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
71	Wimbish Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Standard

Most sites (18) have ancillary facilities which are rated as standard quality. Of the remaining sites, 11 are assessed as having poor quality facilities and five are assessed as having good quality facilities. In general, clubs agree with the above quality scores.

Both Saffron Walden Community FC and Plantation Youth FC describe their ancillary facilities at Herbert Farm Playing Fields as being of good quality. This is following Football Foundation funding in 2011 to refurbish the clubhouse.

Specific comments received from clubs in relation to ancillary facilities are shown below.

Table 2.5: Summary of ancillary facilities quality comments

Site ID	Site name	Club(s) name	Comments
12	Debden Recreation Ground	Debden FC	Changing facilities require refurbishment.
16	Elsenham Recreation Ground	Elsenham Youth FC	No changing facilities at the site, just toilets within community hall. Believe a sports pavilion is to be provided on the back of local housing development. Space next to the car park has been set aside for this.
33	High Street Recreation Ground	Hatfield Broad Oak Youth FC	No ancillary facilities on site to meet football requirements. As such, club has produced a club development plan which includes working towards a new clubhouse on site.
39	Laundry Lane	Dunmow United FC	The clubhouse at this site is old and does not have showers or running water. Needs refurbishment. This could also support with aspirations to run both female and disability football.
65	Thaxted Recreation Ground	Thaxted Rangers FC	Changing facilities are of poor quality with communal showers. They are in need of improvement to meet purpose, as well as act as a community facility.
47	Newport Recreation Ground	Newport FC	No changing facilities for officials. Also, toilets have no hand washing facility.

Car parking

Clubs indicate the following sites do not have adequate car parking facilities for the number of teams accessing them:

- ◆ Flich Green Community Centre
- ◆ Newport Recreation Ground
- ◆ Elsenham Recreation Ground
- ◆ Laundry Lane

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Security of tenure

Clubs are generally considered to have secure tenure of pitches across Uttlesford. There is a mixture of tenure agreements in place with some clubs leasing sites and renting others. This is due to the previously mentioned issue of larger clubs having to access several sites to accommodate all their teams. An example of this includes Saffron Walden Community, Plantation Youth and Saffron Walden PSG football clubs, all of which, have security of tenure through a joint long term lease agreement of Herbert Farm Playing Fields between Saffron Walden Town Council. However, all other sites they access are either rented on an annual basis or on a short term lease.

Elsenham Youth FC has security of tenure on one of its sites; Elsenham Recreation Ground, which it rents from Elsenham Parish Council. However, it has no security of tenure on one of its sites; Stansted Airport Playing Fields, which is only available on an annual rental agreement.

Dunmow Rhodes Youth, Great Chesterford Youth, Newport, Radwinter and Debden football clubs all rent their pitches on an annual basis from parish councils.

Thaxted Rangers, Hatfield Broad Oak, Walden Ladies, Barnston, Saffron Walden Town and Dunmow United football clubs all lease their sites on a long term agreement from varying land owners. The latter is in the process of having its lease agreement extended and is currently being negotiated. As such, these clubs are considered to have long term security of tenure. This also applies to Stansted, Takeley and White Roding football clubs, all of which, own their grounds either as a club or through being part of a sports association.

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 requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 7 clubs.

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 in the football pyramid is that they have to achieve the appropriate grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard.

This, however, does not apply to clubs being promoted to Step 7 (as they must meet requirements immediately).

There are four clubs in Uttlesford which compete within the football pyramid identified in the table below.

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Table 2.6: Uttlesford clubs in the football pyramid

Club	Analysis Area	League	Step	Grading category
Barnston FC	Great Dunmow	North West Counties League (Division One South)	7	H
Saffron Walden Town FC	Saffron Walden	Essex Senior League	5	E
Stansted FC	Stansted Mountfitchet	Essex Senior League	5	E
Takeley FC	Rural Area	Essex Senior League	5	E

Catons Lane, home of Saffron Walden Town FC is one of only two pitches rated as good quality. This is attributed to the high levels of maintenance carried out at the site. Other than the pitch being observed through site assessment as having a minor slope, it is noted as having good grass coverage and well maintained grass length.

Ancillary facilities at Catons Lane are rated as standard quality, which is consistent with the Club's views. Although there are shower facilities, these are communal. Additionally, both players and spectators share toilet facilities. Whilst functional, there is a need for modernisation. Club consultation also identifies that parking on site is insufficient due to size.

Takeley Football Club (FSI Stadium) is also rated as good for quality. Following obtaining a long term lease on the site (25 years), the Club has done a lot of work to ensure it can progress into Step 4 should promotion become a possibility. This includes extending its clubhouse and installing new stands, turnstiles and floodlights.

Site assessments report the pitch to have good grass coverage (of which only 18% of pitches are noted to have), an even playing surface and evidence of good maintenance. The Club has a voluntary groundsman at the site which works hard to keep the pitch to a good standard.

Stansted FC accesses Hargrave Park for home matches. The pitch is rated as standard quality through the site assessment. The Club generally agrees with this and states that there are areas of the pitch which become boggy due to being overshadowed by the stand and trees, preventing it from drying out as quickly following rain.

In terms of ancillary provision, the Club believes its changing facilities are adequate, albeit they could be bigger; however, due to being situated underneath one of the stands, this could be difficult. It would also like to have improved spectator toilets. The clubhouse is described as good quality following its refurbishment, which was funded by the Sports Association which manages the site. Further to this, it has applied to The Football Stadia Improvement Fund in order to improve the fencing at the site.

Barnston FC plays its home matches at Barnston Association Football Club. Chelmsford City Ladies (imported demand) also play home matches at this venue. Barnston FC identifies a need to improve pitch quality and employed a different groundsman, which did result in improvements; however, it was unable to sustain this financially. At present the pitch is rated as poor quality which is attributed to lower levels of grass coverage, a slope to the playing surface and evidence of surface water.

It also expresses aspiration to improve the ancillary provision, including the changing facilities. Ideally it would like another changing room to allow for both pitches on site to be used at the same time. It would also like to see separate male and female changing and

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toilet facilities, which do not have to be shared with spectators. In addition, it states a refurbishment to the clubhouse is required alongside additional storage space.

Should Barnston FC have opportunity to progress to Step 6, pitch quality and available on site changing provision may prevent this from being possible.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System similar to the adult men's which provide structure to the women's game. As seen in the table below this ranges from Step 1 to Step 6 with each step requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Table 2.7: Summary of ground grading for women's football

Level	League	Grading category
Step 3 and 4	Women's Super League 1	Grade A
Step 3 and 4	Women's Super League 2	Grade B
Step 5	Northern and Southern Women's Premier League	Grade A
Step 6	Women's Combination Leagues	Grade B
Step 7	Women's Regional Leagues – Premier Divisions	Grade C

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

In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women's league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes will be implemented from the start of the 2018-19 season and will see the top league, FA WSL 1, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at tier two for a maximum of 12 teams.

Walden Ladies FC is the only women's team in the District within the Women's National League System and is currently playing at Step 5. As such, the Club requires a ground to meet Grade A requirements. This is equivalent to Step 7 of the male ground grading requirements. The Club does not express any concerns regarding its site or supporting infrastructure. It is currently playing its home matches at Peasland Road, which has a standard quality pitch and good quality changing facilities. Whilst grass coverage and length, as well as gradient, were assessed as being good, there was some evidence of unevenness and surface water on the playing surface. Through consultation, the Club does highlight that waterlogging is a key issue, with six games being postponed last season as a result.

The Club does highlight that it is currently having discussions with Saffron Walden Town Council regarding the site being opened during the summer holidays for local young people to access. This is due to the site being situated within a housing estate. However, it has concerns around this and the likely impact on pitch quality.

Training

As there are currently no 3G pitches in Uttlesford, clubs train on a variety of surfaces across a range of sites. During the winter, clubs train on sand based AGPs (both full and small size)

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and macadam multi use games areas, as well as in sports halls. Some clubs occasionally travel to neighbouring authorities to access 3G pitches.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 163 teams from 26 clubs are identified as playing within Uttlesford. This consists of 36 adult men's, two adult women's, 57 youth boys', seven youth girls' teams and 61 mini teams.

Table 2.8: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Uttlesford

Analysis area	No. of teams					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Great Dunmow	3	5	2	7	5	22
Rural Area	27	19	12	11	12	81
Saffron Walden	3	14	9	12	12	50
Stansted Mountfitchet	5	-	3	-	2	10
Total	38	38	26	30	31	163

The two largest clubs in the area are Saffron Walden Community Youth FC with a total of 39 teams and Dunmow Rhodes Youth FC with 20 teams. In contrast, there are nine clubs which consist of just one adult male team.

A point to note, the Saffron Walden Analysis Area currently has 50 teams; however, as identified in table 2.3 in the supply section, this analysis area only has 13 grass pitches.

Participation trends

The majority of responding clubs (which have an adult's section) report that adult participation has remained consistent; however, Newport FC does report an increase of two adult male teams, one of which is a veteran's team.

Comparably, Takeley FC lost one adult female team due to player numbers reducing, which appears to be a trend in women's football locally, with Walden Ladies also reporting the loss of two teams.

In contrast, youth and mini football in Uttlesford has seen significant growth. Elsenham Youth, Dunmow Rhodes Youth, Plantation Youth, Dunmow Rhodes Youth, Saffron Walden Community, Thaxted Rangers and Takeley football clubs all report increases across both formats.

Whilst some clubs did not quantify numbers, Elsenham Youth, Takeley and Thaxted Rangers football clubs report an increase of seven, five and two teams within their junior sections respectively over the last three years. The two teams at Thaxted Rangers FC are both mini teams; however, Elsenham Youth and Takeley FC do not specify.

The only two responding clubs to report a decrease in junior teams are Hatfield Broad Oak FC and Stansted FC. The latter states the loss of one mini and one youth team is due to a lack of available pitches, whilst Hatfield Broad Oak FC report the loss of its two mini teams is due to player number. Numbers are growing again and believes these teams could soon be re-established.

Imported demand

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One team; Chelmsford City Ladies is currently playing its home games at Barnston Association Football Club. This demand is imported from the neighbouring authority of Chelmsford.

Displaced demand

Displaced demand refers to demand not currently accommodated by provision available within the study area and as such, travels outside of the study area to access provision. Through consultation no clubs within the Uttlesford area report displaced demand.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack pitches or appropriate facilities. Clubs in Uttlesford that report latent demand and the reasons provided for this latent demand can be seen in the table below. All latent demand expressed by clubs is included in capacity analysis.

Table 2.9: Clubs that report latent demand and the reasons provided

Club	Analysis ⁶ area	Need for more match pitches	Need for more/better training facilities	Need for better/more appropriate changing provision
Saffron Walden Community FC	Saffron Walden	Yes	Yes	-
Stansted FC	Stansted Mountfitchet	Yes	Yes	-
Plantation Youth FC	Saffron Walden	Yes	Yes	-
Dunmow Rhodes Youth FC	Great Dunmow	Yes	Yes	-
Elsenham Youth FC	Rural Area	Yes	Yes	-
Takeley FC	Rural Area	Yes	Yes	-
Thaxted Rangers FC	Rural Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
Barnston FC	Great Dunmow	-	-	Yes
Saffron Walden Town FC	Saffron Walden	Yes	Yes	Yes

Of the responsive clubs that specified reasons for latent demand in the area, nine highlight a need for additional pitches and appropriate training facilities. The latter is unsurprising given there are no 3G pitches within the District. At present, clubs are using either sports halls, sand filled AGPs, areas of grass with portable floodlighting or MUGAs within parks and open spaces.

Three clubs; Thaxted Rangers, Saffron Walden Town and Barnston suggest a need for improved changing provision is also contributing to latent demand.

Clubs report latent demand across all four analysis areas. The majority of latent demand is expressed within the Rural Analysis Area (three mini 5v5 teams, four mini 7v7 teams, two

⁶ A number of clubs play across multiple analysis areas. In this instance the analysis areas accommodating the majority of teams has been referenced.

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youth 9v9 teams and seven youth 11v11 teams). This is followed by the Saffron Walden Analysis Area, reported to have latent demand of two mini 5v5 teams, two mini 7v7 teams and two adult teams. This is followed by Great Dunmow Analysis Area (two mini 5v5 teams, one mini 7v7 team, and one youth 9v9 team).

Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area has the least latent demand expressed of one youth 11v11 and one adult team.

Thaxted Rangers FC currently identifies the most latent demand, stating that with enough grass pitch provision and 3G FTPs available for training, it could have a team at each age group.

Future demand

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

Participation increases

A number of clubs' report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide but did not quantify numbers, as they state growth is not possible until additional pitches become available. Of the six clubs that did quantify their potential increase, there is a predicted growth of ten teams.

Table 2.10: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area⁷	Future demand (teams)	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions⁸
Debden FC	Rural Area	1 x Adult	Adult	0.5
Thaxted Rangers FC	Rural Area	1 x Youth	9v9	0.5
		1 x Mini	5v5	0.5
Dunmow Rhodes Youth FC	Great Dunmow	1 x Youth	9v9	0.5
Hatfield Broad Oak FC	Rural Area	1 x Mini	5v5	0.5
Plantation Youth	Saffron Walden	1 x Mini	7v7	0.5
Stansted FC	Stansted Mountfitchet	2 x Youth	11v11	1
Walden Ladies FC	Saffron Walden	1 x Adult	Adult	0.5
Saffron Walden Town FC	Saffron Walden	1 x Adult	Adult	0.5
Total				5

The total future demand expressed, amounts to five match equivalent sessions. When broken down this equates to 1.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches, one match equivalent session on youth 9v9 pitches, one match equivalent session on youth 11v11 pitches, one match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches and 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.

The majority of future adult demand is likely to arise in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area, with Walden Ladies FC and Saffron Walden Town FC both expressing ambition to add an additional adult team. Plantation Youth also indicate demand for an additional mini 7v7 team in Saffron Walden.

⁷ A number of clubs play across multiple analysis areas. In this instance the analysis areas accommodating the majority of teams has been referenced.

⁸ 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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Stansted FC contributes all the future demand expressed in Stansted Mountfitchet, which is for two additional youth 11v11 teams. Similarly, Dunmow Rhodes Youth FC is the only club in Great Dunmow to quantify its future demand aspirations; totalling one youth 9v9 team.

In the Rural Analysis Area, future demand aspirations total two mini 5v5 teams, one youth 9v9 team and an adult team.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2033) based on population growth. Using this, it is predicted that there will be a possible increase of one two men's, six youth 11v11 boys', two youth 9v9 boys', four mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 teams in Uttlesford.

Table 2.11: Team generation rates (2033)⁹

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams ¹⁰	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population ¹¹
Senior Mens (16-45)	14,278	46	1:310	15,056	48	2
Senior Women (16-45)	14,848	2	1:7424	15,506	2	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	2,240	27	1:83	2,757	33	6
Youth Girls (12-15)	2,179	3	1:726	2,595	3	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	1,175	19	1:62	1,323	21	2
Youth Girls (10-11)	1,115	4	1:279	1,261	4	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	2,242	30	1:75	2,537	33	4
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	2,307	31	1:74	2,443	32	2

Table 2.12: Team generation rates (2033) by analysis area

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by analysis area)				
	Saffron Walden	Stansted Mountfitchet	Great Dunmow	Rural	Total
Senior Men's (16-45)	-	-	-	1	1
Senior Women (16-45)	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Boys (12-15)	2	-	-	3	5
Youth Girls (12-15)	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Boys (10-11)	-	-	-	1	1
Youth Girls (10-11)	-	-	-	-	-
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	1	-	-	1	2
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	-	-	-	-	-

As can be seen in the table above, once TGRs are broken down into individual analysis areas it is forecasted that a total of nine teams will be generated, with demand split between each analysis area. The highest level of anticipated growth is youth 11v11 boys.

⁹ There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

¹⁰ Age group team numbers differ from Table 2.6 as forecasts are based on age rather than playing format. U17 and U18 teams affiliate to their respective County FA as juniors, however, are generally considered to play on and require adult pitches and are considered by age boundaries to be in the adult age group

¹¹ Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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Both team generation rates and future club aspirational demand are added together and used in the supply and demand analysis later on within this section.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that team generation rates are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport.

Similarly, they cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing female participation within Essex and nationally which is likely to lead to more women's and girls' teams in the future and therefore increase demand for pitches.

SSE Wildcats Centres

SSE Wildcats Centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, which provide opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. There are already 200 established centres which delivered the SSE Wildcats pilot in 2017, with a further 800 centres to be in place for 2018. As part of the expansion process, organisations extending beyond affiliated clubs to include other providers or community groups were invited to apply in late 2017 to become one of the new centres. All organisations delivering Wildcats centres receive a £900 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation.

In light of both FA aspirations to double female participation in football through its Game Changer Strategy and the establishment and foreseen future effect of the SSE Wildcats programme, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through TGRs, however, at present to what extent is not quantifiable.

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 it adversely affecting its current quality.

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

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

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Table 2.13 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. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out and the number of pitches on site.

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

In Uttlesford, site capacity at education sites has been reduced by one match equivalent session per pitch to account for curricular and extra-curricular use. This is based on consultation with the schools and the discovery that all pitches are in use, as well as from experience of how school sites use their pitches from other playing pitch strategies in the locality and nationally.

Informal use

A number of football pitches in the area are on open access sites. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime to protect quality.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Uttlesford, peak time is considered to be Saturday PM for adult pitches, youth 9v9 pitches and mini 7v7 pitches and Sunday AM for youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches.

In the table below, please note that, on occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than what exists overall. This is because the majority of use occurs outside of the peak period; therefore, the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increase overall capacity.

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Table 2.13: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ¹² (match sessions)	Overused, At Capacity or Potential to Accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
1	Alcott Playing Field	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
2	Ashdon Villa Football Club	Rural Area	Unknown	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
3	Barnston Association Football Club	Great Dunmow	Club	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
4	Birchanger Social Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	Sports Association	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	2	2	-	-	Pitches currently at capacity due to poor quality.
5	Burns Playing Field	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
6	Calves Pasture	Rural Area	Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
7	Carver Barracks	Rural Area	MOD	Unsecure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	3	2	1	-	Pitches overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.
8	Catons Lane	Saffron Walden	Town Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	5.5	1	4.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
					Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
12	Debden Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
16	Elsenham Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
17	Felsted Playing Field	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
19	Flitch Green Community Centre	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Poor	0	4	4	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.

¹² Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ¹² (match sessions)	Overused, At Capacity or Potential to Accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
20	Forest Hall School/ Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre	Stansted Mountfitchet	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
					Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Pitch has one match equivalent session of spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate two teams.
23	Hadstock Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0	2	2	1	Pitch has one match equivalent session of spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate two teams.
24	Hargrave Park	Stansted Mountfitchet	Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	-	No actual spare capacity exists on site as being used by two teams at peak period.
27	Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form	Great Dunmow	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
29	Herbert Farm Playing Fields	Saffron Walden	Sports Trust	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	6	4	2	-	Pitch overplayed by 2 match equivalent sessions per week.
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	5.5	2	3.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
					Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	4	2	2	-	Pitches overplayed by 2 match equivalent sessions per week.
31	High Easter Playing Fields	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	-	-	Site currently at capacity due to poor quality pitches.
33	High Street Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	-	No spare capacity at peak period.
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	-	-	Site currently at capacity due to poor quality pitches.
35	Joyce Frankland Academy	Rural Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
36	Jubilee Field	Rural Area	Sports Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
37	Katherine Semar Junior School	Saffron Walden	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ¹² (match sessions)	Overused, At Capacity or Potential to Accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
39	Laundry Lane	Rural Area	Town Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	-	-	Site currently at capacity due to poor quality pitches.
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
45	Littlebury Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality	
46	Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust	Rural Area	Sports Trust	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	2	1	1	-	Pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
					Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	-	-	Pitch currently at capacity due to poor quality pitches.
47	Newport Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitches overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
					Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Poor	0	2	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality
48	Peasland Road Football Pitch (Walden Ladies FC)	Saffron Walden	Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
50	Quendon Athletic FC	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1	8	7	1	Pitches have one match equivalent session of spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate two teams.
58	Stansted Airport Playing Field	Stansted Mountfitchet	Stansted Airport	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
					Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
62	Takeley Football Club (Fsi Stadium)	Rural Area	Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	3	2	-	No actual spare capacity exists on site as being used by two teams at peak period.
63	Takeley Sports Field	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	3	2	1	-	Pitches overplayed by 1 match equivalent session per week.

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Available for community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ¹² (match sessions)	Overused, At Capacity or Potential to Accommodate additional play	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality
65	Thaxted Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	1	2	1	-	No actual spare capacity exists on site as being used by two teams at peak period.
66	The Causeway Recreation Ground	Great Dunmow	Town Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
					Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	3.5	2	1.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
					Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	-	-	Site currently at capacity due to poor quality pitches.
70	White Roding Sports and Social Club	Rural Area	Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	No actual spare capacity exists on site as being used by two teams at peak period.
71	Wimbish Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	-	Pitch overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
					Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Poor	1	4	4	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality
72	Woodfield	Rural Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality
92	R A Butler Infant & Junior School	Rural Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	1	8	7	2	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
93	Henham & Ugley Primary & Nursery School	Rural Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
					Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
94	Takeley Primary School	Great Dunmow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
95	Great Dunmow Primary School	Great Dunmow	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Spare capacity

To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity' identified in the table above has been reviewed. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

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

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

Given the above, four pitches across three sites are considered to contain some level of actual spare capacity equating to three match equivalent sessions. A large amount of potential spare capacity (26 match equivalent sessions in total) is discounted as a result of poor pitch quality. The table below breaks down the current actual spare capacity.

Table 2.14: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Adult	-	1	1
23	Hadstock Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Adult	-	1	1
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Mini	7v7	2	1
Total					4	3

Two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exist on adult pitches and one match equivalent session of actual; spare capacity exists on mini pitches. All actual spare pitch capacity is located in the Rural Analysis Area, with adult pitches having two match equivalent sessions of spare capacity and mini 7v7 pitches having one match equivalent session of spare capacity.

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 pitches. This is most commonly a result of poor quality pitches lowering carrying capacity. In Uttlesford, 22 pitches are overplayed by a total of 22.5 match equivalent sessions.

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In the Rural Area, 14 pitches are overplayed by a total of eight match equivalent sessions. Great Dunmow contains three pitches that are currently overplayed by a total of 3.5 match equivalent sessions. The most overplay is identified in Saffron Walden, where five pitches are overplayed by a total of 11 match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.15: Overplay summary

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
1	Alcott Playing Field	Rural Area	Adult		1	0.5
7	Carver Barracks	Rural Area	Adult		2	1
8	Catons Lane	Saffron Walden	Adult		1	4.5
16	Elsenham Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Adult		1	0.5
16	Elsenham Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Mini	(7v7)	1	0.5
29	Herbert Farm Playing Fields	Saffron Walden	Mini	(7v7)	1	2
29	Herbert Farm Playing Fields	Saffron Walden	Youth	(9v9)	1	3.5
39	Laundry Lane	Rural Area	Mini	(5v5)	1	0.5
39	Laundry Lane	Rural Area	Youth	(9v9)	1	0.5
46	Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust	Rural Area	Adult		1	1
47	Newport Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Adult		2	0.5
48	Peasland Road Football Pitch (Walden Ladies FC)	Saffron Walden	Adult		1	0.5
48	Peasland Road Football Pitch (Walden Ladies FC)	Saffron Walden	Youth	(9v9)	1	0.5
63	Takeley Sports Field	Rural Area	Adult		2	1
65	Thaxted Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Adult		1	0.5
66	The Causeway Recreation Ground	Great Dunmow	Adult		1	1.5
66	The Causeway Recreation Ground	Great Dunmow	Mini	(5v5)	1	0.5
66	The Causeway Recreation Ground	Great Dunmow	Mini	(7v7)	1	1.5
71	Wimbish Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Adult		1	1.5
Total					22	22.5

Poor quality pitches are the key contributor to overplay in Uttlesford, with 19 of the 22 overplayed sites being rated as poor quality through non technical assessment.

2.5 Supply and demand analysis

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Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity on each different pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions by analysis area. Current demand also includes expressed latent demand. Future demand is based on population forecasts and club growth aspirations added together.

Table 2.16: Summary of current and future provision of pitches in Saffron Walden Analysis Area

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)				
		Overplay	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total future
Mini 5v5	-	-	1	1	-	1
Mini 7v7	-	2	1	3	1	4.5
Youth 9v9	-	0.5	-	0.5	1	1.5
Youth 11v11	-	3.5	-	3.5	1	4.5
Adult	-	5	1	6	1	7
Saffron Walden	-	11	3	14	4	18

All pitch configurations in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area are currently identified as having shortfalls. Adult pitches have the largest shortfall of five match equivalent sessions per week. This increases to six with latent demand.

This is followed by youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches, with shortfalls of 3.5 and three match equivalent sessions respectively when considering both current overplay and latent demand. At present, this analysis area has the largest overall shortfall (14 match equivalent sessions).

Shortfalls across all provision types, except for mini 5v5 pitches, increase based on predicted future demand, seeing the overall shortfalls in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area rise from 14 to 18 match equivalent sessions per week. Future shortfalls are most significant on mini 7v7, youth 11v11 and adult pitches, with shortfalls of 4.5, 4.5 and eight match equivalent sessions respectively.

Table 2.17: Summary of current and future provision of pitches in Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)				
		Overplay	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total future
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth 9v9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth 11v11	-	-	0.5	0.5	1	1.5
Adult	-	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Stansted Mountfitchet	-	-	1	1	1	2

At present, all pitch types in Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area are played to capacity. When considering latent demand, both youth 11v11 and adult pitches have marginal shortfalls of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

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Based on predicted future demand, shortfalls on youth 11v11 pitches will increase to 1.5 match equivalent sessions. The situation on all other pitch types remains the same.

Table 2.18: Summary of current and future provision of pitches in Great Dunmow Analysis Area

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)				
		Overplay (including latent demand)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total future
Mini 5v5	-	0.5	1	1.5	-	1.5
Mini 7v7	-	1.5	0.5	2	-	2
Youth 9v9	-	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
Youth 11v11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.5
Great Dunmow	-	3.5	2	5.5	0.5	6

In the Great Dunmow Analysis Area, when considering both overplay and latent demand, youth 11v11 pitches are at capacity, whilst all other pitch types have shortfalls. These shortfalls are; however, minimal. Only youth 9v9 pitches have predicted future demand, which sees the shortfall increase from 0.5 to one match equivalent session per week.

Table 2.19: Summary of current and future provision of pitches in Rural Analysis Area

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)				
		Overplay	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total future
Mini 5v5	-	-	1.5	1.5	-	1.5
Mini 7v7	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	2
Youth 9v9	-	0.5	1	1.5	0.5	2
Youth 11v11	-	-	3.5	3.5	1.5	5
Adult	2	7	-	5	0.5	5.5
Rural	3	8	8	13	3	16

The Rural Analysis area has the most significant overall shortfall of 13 match equivalent sessions. This is mostly attributed to the shortfalls on adult and youth 11v11 provision, with shortfalls of five and 3.5 match equivalent sessions respectively.

Overall shortfalls in this analysis area increase to 16 match equivalent sessions based on predicted future demand. Again, the largest shortfalls can be seen on adult pitches (five match equivalent sessions per week) and youth 11v11 pitches (3.5 match equivalent sessions per week).

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2.6 Conclusion

Based on current demand, there are shortfalls on all pitch types in Uttlesford, primarily as a result of overplay. These shortfalls are most significant in the Saffron Walden and Rural analysis areas.

Whilst most shortfalls are minimal, there is a current shortfall of 13 match equivalent sessions per week on adult pitches in the District. Shortfalls on each pitch type are further increased when accounting for future demand.

As previously mentioned, shortfalls are mostly a result of poor pitch quality reducing available capacity, with a total of 27.5 match equivalent sessions per week of potential spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. There is also a need to explore tenure security on those sites which do not currently provide clubs with security of use. This not only impacts on capacity (discounting 23 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity), but also reduces potential funding opportunities to improve pitch quality on such sites, to increase this potential spare capacity further. Addressing these issues will be further explored in the subsequent strategy and action plan document.

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Football summary

- ◀ The audit identifies 93 grass pitches across 45 sites in Uttlesford. Of these, 89 pitches across 43 sites are available for community use. Most provision (42%) in the District is adult pitches.
- ◀ Following non-technical site assessment, two pitches are rated as good quality, 28 as standard quality and 61 as poor quality.
- ◀ Most sites (18) have ancillary facilities which are rated as standard quality, 11 are assessed as having poor quality facilities and five are assessed as having good quality facilities. In general, clubs agree with the above quality scores.
- ◀ There are four clubs in Uttlesford which compete within the football pyramid identified. Barnston FC play at Step 7 and Takeley, Saffron Walden Town and Stansted football clubs play at Step 5.
- ◀ Should Barnston FC progress to Step 6, pitch quality and changing provision may prevent this from being possible.
- ◀ Walden Ladies FC is the only women's team in the District within the Women's National League System and is currently playing at Step 5.
- ◀ Clubs are generally considered to have security of tenure across Uttlesford. This is; however, on the assumption that parish and town council sites are not likely to be taken out of use.
- ◀ Through the audit and assessment, 163 teams from 30 clubs are identified as playing within Uttlesford. This consists of 26 adult men's, two adult women's, 57 youth boys', seven youth girls' teams and 61 mini teams.
- ◀ One team; Chelmsford City Ladies is currently playing its home games at Barnston Association Football Club. This demand is imported from the neighbouring authority of Chelmsford.
- ◀ A number of clubs report latent demand. Of the ten which specify a reason, nine attribute this to lack of enough good quality pitches and access to 3G pitch provision.
- ◀ Most latent demand is expressed within the Rural Analysis Area (three mini 5v5 teams, four mini 7v7 teams, two youth 9v9 teams and seven youth 11v11 teams). This is followed by the Saffron Walden Analysis Area, with latent demand of two mini 5v5, two mini 7v7 and two adult teams.
- ◀ Using TGRs, future population is predicted to generate one adult men's, six youth 11v11 boys', two youth 9v9 boys', four mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 teams in Uttlesford.
- ◀ Further to population growth, several clubs also report *potential* future demand, with a predicted growth of ten teams (five match equivalent sessions).
- ◀ Only four pitches across three sites (all located in the Rural Analysis Area) are considered to contain some level of actual spare capacity, equating to three match equivalent sessions. However, a large amount of potential spare capacity (27.5 match equivalent sessions in total) is discounted as a result of poor pitch quality.
- ◀ In Uttlesford, 22 pitches are overplayed by 22.5 match equivalent sessions. Almost half of this overplay (11 match equivalent sessions) is located on five pitches in Saffron Walden.
- ◀ Based on current demand, there are shortfalls on all pitch types in Uttlesford, primarily as a result of overplay. These shortfalls are most significant in the Saffron Walden and Rural analysis areas. Whilst most shortfalls are minimal, there is a current shortfall of 13 match equivalent sessions per week on adult pitches in the District.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard (IMS) tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality (previously FIFA One Star), as well as for training purposes. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

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 artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place. For rugby league, the equivalent is known as RFL Community Standard.

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

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.

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

3.2 Supply

No full or half sized 3G pitches currently exist in Uttlesford. 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).

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/>.

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Pitches undergo 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.

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby (WR) 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 this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

There are currently no World Rugby compliant AGPs in Uttlesford and it is not considered to be a strategic target area for the RFU. It should be noted that for an AGP to be suitable for contact rugby, it must have a 3G surface and must be approved by World Rugby. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality. The RFU investment strategy into AGPs 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.

3.3 Demand

Football demand

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. As previously mentioned, the majority of responsive clubs state demand for additional training facilities, six specifically state a need for increased use of 3G pitches.

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The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGPs State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch at peak times. It is estimated that one full size AGP can service 38 teams.

It is considered that 163 football teams require access to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface in Uttlesford. On this basis, there is a need for four full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 4.2) to serve all training demand. As there are currently no 3G pitches provided, supply is considered insufficient to meet current demand.

When considering future demand of an additional 24 teams (based on population increases and club growth predictions), demand for full size 3G pitches increases to five.

Match play demand

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

The majority of matches played on 3G pitches nationally are mini soccer matches. Demand for 3G pitches for match play will be set out in detail within the subsequent Strategy and Action Plan.

Rugby demand

There are currently 41 competitive rugby union teams playing in Uttlesford, with both clubs; Saffron Walden RFC and Wendens Ambo RFC aspiring to grow further. Both clubs are accessing sites which are identified as being overplayed. Although pitch quality plays a part in the identified overplay, it is difficult for a grass pitch to sustain high levels of training regardless of quality.

3.4 Supply and demand analysis

Using FA calculations, there is a need for four full sized 3G pitches to meet current football training demand and five to meet predicted future demand.

With regards to rugby, overall Saffron Walden Rugby Club is currently overplayed by one match equivalent session. This is attributed to the poor quality of its training pitch and lack of tenure security on part of its site. The pitch at Carver Barracks, as well as one pitch at Joyce Frankland Academy are also overplayed as a result of high levels of use from Wendens Ambo RFC. The latter site as a result of training every Saturday morning alongside school fixtures.

Although pitch quality plays a part in the identified overplay, it is difficult for a grass pitch to sustain high levels of training regardless of quality. At present, across Uttlesford there are 41 competitive teams, with clubs aspiring to grow further. On this basis, there could be consideration for a WR 3G pitch in the Uttlesford area, with such provision desired outcomes of the RFU investment strategy would be met by alleviating overplay to project pitch quality and supporting the growth of the game.

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As it stands there are no 3G pitches located in Uttlesford to accommodate either football or rugby demand and there is a need to address this shortfall, particularly in relation to football training demand. Where 3G provision will be best located within Uttlesford will be further explored in the subsequent Strategy and Action Plan.

3G pitch summary

- ◀ There are currently no 3G pitches in Uttlesford.
- ◀ Using FA training model and based on 163 teams currently affiliating to Uttlesford, there is a need for four full size 3G pitches to service the District.
- ◀ When considering future demand for an additional 24 teams (based on population increases and club growth aspirations), the shortfall increases to five full size 3G pitches.
- ◀ Although pitch quality plays a part in the identified overplay on rugby pitches, it is difficult for a grass pitch to sustain high levels of training regardless of quality. At present, across Uttlesford, there are 41 competitive rugby teams, with clubs aspiring to grow further. On this basis, there could be consideration for a WRC 3G pitch in the Uttlesford area.
- ◀ The most favourable locations for 3G pitch provision will be further explored in the subsequent Strategy and Action Plan document.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 4: RUGBY UNION

4.1: 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 Uttlesford (as part of the London and South East region) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, working towards the RFU Club accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are two rugby clubs in Uttlesford; Saffron Walden RFC and Wendens Ambo RFC. A face to face meeting took place with Saffron Walden RFC, and Wendens Ambo RFC was consulted via telephone, thus achieving a response rate of 100%.

4.2: Supply

There are 12 senior, four junior and nine mini rugby pitches in Uttlesford across seven sites. Of these pitches, all are available for community use. Most of the pitches are located at Saffron Walden Rugby Club (located in the Rural Analysis Area), where there are two senior, one junior and eight mini pitches. The first team pitch at this site is floodlit, as well as half of the training pitch.

Table 4.1: Summary of grass rugby pitches available to the community

Analysis area	Number of pitches			
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Total
Great Dunmow	1	-	-	1
Rural Area	10	3	8	21
Saffron Walden	1	1	-	2
Stansted Mountfitchet		-	1	1
Uttlesford	12	4	9	25

As shown in the table above, the vast majority of rugby union provision is located in the Rural Area. Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden and Stansted Mountfitchet contain a total of four rugby union pitches.

Traditionally mini and junior rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches. This is the case at both Joyce Frankland Academy and Carver Barracks, accessed by Wendens Ambo RFC. Saffron Walden RFC has mini pitches marked out for its younger age groups.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to the table overleaf.

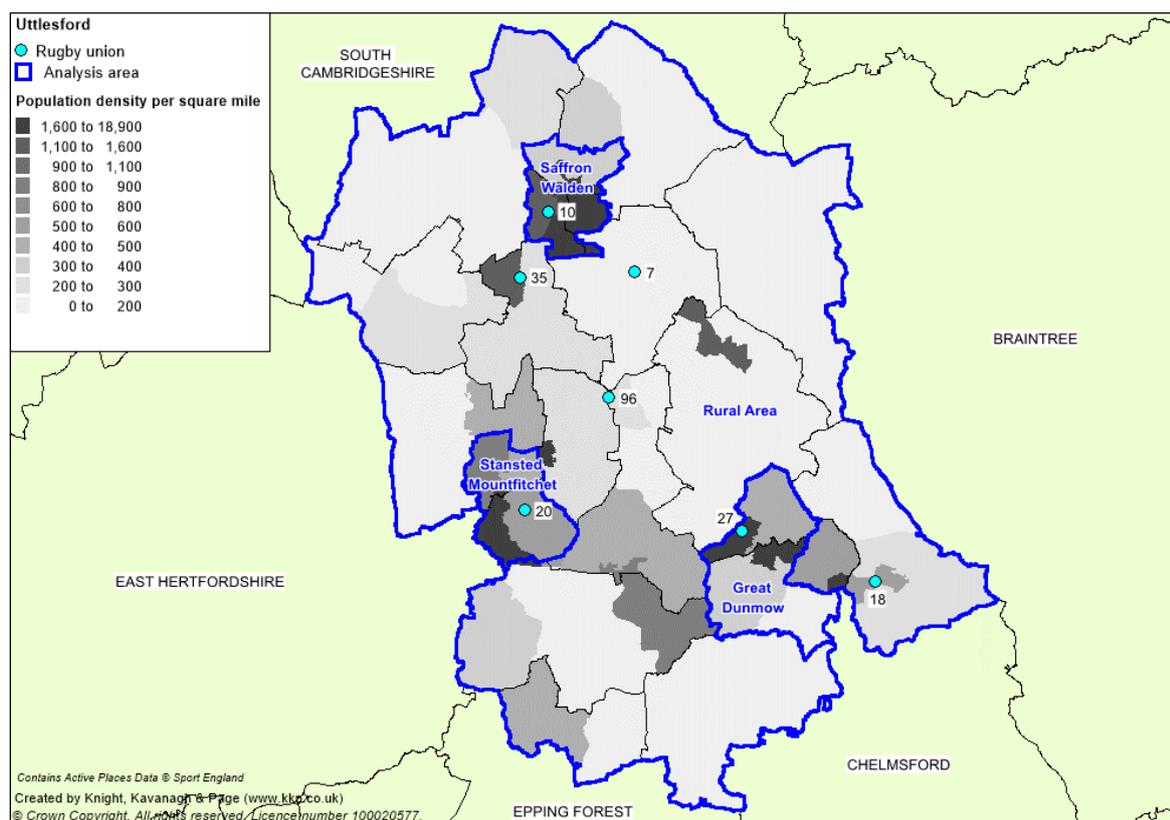
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Table 4.2: Pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ¹³
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 girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 ¹⁴

Figure 4.1 below shows the location of all rugby union pitches within Uttlesford, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 4.5.

Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Uttlesford



Future provision

Planning permission has recently been granted for a new school playing field. This sits on the boundary of the neighbouring authority (East Hertfordshire) and will be part of the Hertfordshire & Essex High School; however, this site falls within the Uttlesford District. This will provide one senior grass pitch, which will be subject to a community use agreement.

¹³ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

¹⁴ Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.

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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 4.3: Definition of maintenance categories

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

Table 4.4: Definition of drainage categories

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

Table 4.5: 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.

There is a fairly mixed standard of pitch quality across Uttlesford, with eight being rated as good quality, eight as poor quality and nine as standard quality through non technical assessment. For the full breakdown, see Table 4.5 overleaf.

With the exception of one pitch (located at Saffron Walden Rugby Club) all poor quality pitches are located at school sites, including Joyce Frankland Academy which is accessed by Wendens Ambo RFC for club training every Saturday morning. This is mainly attributed to lower levels of maintenance taking place on these pitches.

Wendens Ambo RFC reports that the pitch quality at the Academy is generally adequate for its needs; however, there are some issues with dog fouling. The Club also accesses Carver Barracks where the pitch receives a standard quality rating. It also describes the pitch quality at this site as adequate. Quality at this site has improved due to having pipe drainage installed.

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The pitch rated as poor quality at Saffron Walden Rugby Club is the training pitch. As such, it is heavily used through the week. The Club reports that this pitch becomes extremely worn through the season, particularly down one side due to half the pitch being floodlit (and this area being most used). Worn patches on the side of the pitch closest to the clubhouse were observed during the site assessment, making grass coverage poor. With the pitch being so heavily used, it is hard to rectify quality through maintenance regimes during the season. It is also reported that the floodlights on this pitch are in need of refurbishment.

The first and second team pitch at Saffron Walden Rugby Club receive a good quality rating. At time of site visit, the pitches were noted as having good grass coverage and length, quality posts and evidence of rigorous maintenance regimes. In addition, the first team pitch has new floodlighting to meet county regulations. This is reflective of the views of the Club, which also describe these pitches as of a good standard.

The remaining pitches (all of which are mini pitches) at Saffron Walden Rugby Club are situated on former farmland adjacent to the main site. The Club has worked hard top soiling and levelling the pitches to bring them up to playing standard. There are now eight pitches marked out and used by the mini section. Whilst no significant quality issues are identified on these pitches, at time of assessment, grass coverage was observed as being slightly lower than the senior pitches. The pitches were also observed as having some areas of unevenness, with the pitches scoring a standard quality rating. This again, mirrors the views of the Club.

The table overleaf shows the quality ratings for each of the pitches in Uttlesford based on a combination of non-technical site assessment scores and user ratings.

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Table 4.6: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Maintenance and drainage score	Quality rating	Floodlit?
7	Carver Barracks	Rural Area	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	No
					Junior	M0 / D1	Poor	No
18	Felsted School	Rural Area	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	M2 / D3	Good	No
					Senior	M2 / D3	Good	No
					Senior	M2 / D3	Good	No
					Senior	M2 / D3	Good	No
					Senior	M2 / D3	Good	No
20	Forest Hall School	Stansted Mountfitchet	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Mini	M0 / D1	Poor	No
27	Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form	Great Dunmow	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	No
35	Joyce Frankland Academy	Rural Area	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	No
					Junior	M0 / D1	Poor	No
					Junior	M0 / D1	Poor	No
96	Saffron Walden Rugby Club	Rural Area	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D2	Standard	Yes
					Senior	M1 / D2	Standard	No
					Junior	M0 / D1	Poor	Half floodlit
				Unsecure	Mini	M1 / D1	Standard	No
					Mini	M1 / D1	Standard	No
					Mini	M1 / D1	Standard	No
					Mini	M1 / D1	Standard	No
					Mini	M1 / D1	Standard	No
Mini	M1 / D1	Standard	No					

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Maintenance and drainage score	Quality rating	Floodlit?
					Mini	M1 / D1	Standard	No

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Ancillary facilities

The ancillary facilities at Saffron Walden Rugby Club are rated as poor quality. This is reflective of the views of both the Club and the RFU. The Club explains that the changing rooms are in need of a complete refurbishment, currently failing to meet RFU specifications. This is a key issue for the Club given its first team plays at Level 7 in the London 2 North East League.

The changing facilities and social space are reported to be too small and insufficient to service the amount of pitches at the site. This is also the same for car parking, which is also insufficient to accommodate demand at peak times. Consultation with the RFU expresses similar concerns, stating the ancillary facilities are at capacity. The lack of space and communal showers also makes it difficult to support a women's and girls' section which is an aspiration for the Club.

In response to this, it has had plans drawn up for a clubhouse refurbishment and extension; however, the cost of the project is high due to having to move waste pipes. It currently does not have enough funding to undertake this project. Furthermore, the RFU expresses concern around investing in a site, where should the adjoining field (where all junior pitches are marked out) be taken out of use due to unsecure tenure, would become unsuitable for a club of its size. The Club has since considered other sites, including land behind the Lord Butler Leisure Centre; however, planning permission for a multisport site fell through.

Wendens Ambo RFC report that both sites it has access to; Joyce Frankland Academy and Carver Barracks have pavilions with changing and toilet facilities. The pavilion it accesses at Joyce Frankland Academy is the clubhouse of Saffron Walden Hockey Club. It reports that changing and toilet facilities at both sites are functional albeit basic; however, there is a lack of social space. Being a junior club, social space is important, and as such, it ends up erecting tents to provide enough space and shelter for players and spectators.

Through consultation, both clubs have expressed an interest in working in partnership to have a rugby site able to meet their current and future needs, as well as providing them with full security of tenure.

Security of tenure

Saffron Walden RFC owns its main site (Saffron Walden Rugby Club), meaning it has security of tenure. However, the adjoining site, on which, all its junior pitches are marked out, is leased from a private land owner. Whilst the lease has 28 years remaining, it has a 12 month break clause, meaning the land owner can terminate the agreement at any time.

Wendens Ambo RFC currently has no security of tenure, renting pitches at Joyce Frankland Academy on a weekly basis. Due to this, occasionally it is unable to access pitches due to school fixtures and must find pitches elsewhere. This occasionally means having to travel outside of Uttlesford to access pitches.

The situation at Joyce Frankland Academy is reflective across all school sites, with a lack of official community use agreement providing any clubs accessing the sites with a lack of tenure security.

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4.3: Demand

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

Competitive play

Two rugby union clubs play within Uttlesford. Wendens Ambo RFC is a junior focused club and as such, only has one adult team. It has a large junior section consisting of nine teams, with most of its players feeding into Saffron Walden RFC once they reach the under 13 age group.

Saffron Walden RFC operates three senior men's, six junior boys' and six mini teams.

In total, there are four senior men's, six junior boys' and 15 (mixed) mini teams provided across the two clubs. A breakdown of teams for each club can be seen in below.

Table 4.7: Summary of affiliated demand

Club	No. of rugby union teams				
	Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mini
Saffron Walden RFC	3	-	6	-	6
Wendens Ambo RFC	1	-	-	-	9
Total	4	-	6	-	15

Please note that the number of mini teams for each club have been reduced to more accurately reflect the number that is fully competing. Therefore, numbers participating at each age group are likely to be more than is reflected in the number of teams.

In addition to above, Saffron Walden RFC operates organised girls training for U15s up to U18s, as well as organised ladies training on Wednesday evenings at Saffron Walden Rugby Club. The ladies play occasional friendly games on a Sunday afternoon; however, as previously mentioned, changing provision makes this a challenge. As such, it is unable to enter the ladies into an official league.

Once a year, Wendens Ambo RFC runs a mini rugby festival, attracting around 900 players (80 to 90 teams). This takes place at Joyce Frankland Academy.

Participation trends

Following the closure of Walden School in 2017, Wendens Ambo RFC lost a number of players due to having to move training location; however, following advertisement in the local area, the number of players has now significantly increased.

Saffron Walden RFC reports that numbers have remained consistent across both its senior and junior sections.

Latent demand

Wendens Ambo RFC does not currently report any latent demand. In contrast, Saffron Walden RFC reports that it has reached a point where due to capacity, it will have to start putting junior players on a waiting list. Further to this, it is unable to operate a full women's and girls' section. At present, it is only able to run one training session a week for girls aged under 15 to under 18. It reports receiving enquires regarding women's rugby and aspires to

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meet this demand. This is something it has discussed with the RFU. This latent demand will be incorporated into capacity analysis.

Displaced demand

Wendens Ambo RFC reports occasionally having to travel outside of Uttlesford to access provision. This is on the odd occasion that their use of Joyce Frankland Academy on a Saturday morning clashed with a school fixture.

Training demand

Teams from Saffron Walden RFC train throughout the season on a dedicated floodlit training pitch. This pitch is used for club training on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. In addition, it is used as a warm up area on match days. Whilst this prevents negative effect on match pitches, the Club reports that the training pitch is of poor quality as a result of significant wear and tear. One side is impacted more due to one side having floodlighting and being heavily used.

Wendens Ambo RFC train on a Saturday morning at Joyce Frankland Academy. This takes place between 9:30 and 12:30am. The Club reports that due to its size, it can struggle for space at this site, especially if one pitch is unavailable due to school fixtures. This can result in it needing to access alternative provision.

Future demand

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

Population increases

Team generation rates are used overleaf as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2033).

Table 4.8: Team generation rates (2033)¹⁵

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 ¹⁶
Senior Men's (19-45)	12,557	4	1:3139	12,978	4.1	-
Senior Women's (19-45)	13,306	-	-	13,598	-	-
Junior Boys (13-18)	3,416	6	569	4,157	7.3	1
Junior Girls (13-18)	3,199	-	-	3,861	-	-
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	6,733	15	449	7,671	17.1	2

As can be seen in the table above, population changes until 2033 forecast the creation of one junior boy's and two mini teams.

¹⁵ There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

¹⁶ Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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Table 4.9: Team generation rates by analysis area (2033)

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by analysis area)				
	Saffron Walden	Stansted Mountfitchet	Great Dunmow	Rural	Total
Senior Men's (19-45)	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Women's (19-45)	-	-	-	-	-
Junior Boys (13-18)	-	-	-	1	1
Junior Girls (13-18)	-	-	-	-	-
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	-	-	-	2	2

As can be seen in the table above, once TGRs are broken down into individual analysis areas, all forecasted demand is located in the Rural Analysis Area. The highest level of anticipated growth is mini rugby teams.

Both team generation rates and future club aspirational demand are added together and used in the supply and demand analysis later on within this section.

Participation increases

Wendens Ambo RFC does not quantify team future demand; however, it states that it would like to keep growing as a club as long as it has capacity to do so.

Saffron Walden RFC highlight a desire to have two teams at every age group from U6 through to U14. This would result in an additional nine mini and one junior boys' team.

Further to this, it would like to start a competitive women's and girl's section, starting with one girls' team, as well as entering its women's team into a competitive league. It plans to do this through creating links into local schools. Should this be a success, in the long term, it aspires to be a centre for women's and girl's rugby.

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 and support the schools to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme. No schools within Uttlesford have been identified as participating in the All Schools programme.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is Saturday PM as all senior teams play at this time. Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

4.4: Capacity analysis

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

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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 U14 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 rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.

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

Table 4.10: 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 4.11: Capacity table for community available rugby pitches in Uttlesford

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Number of pitches	Quality rating	Non-tech score	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
7	Carver Barracks	Rural Area	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	1	Standard	M1 / D1	No	1.25	2	0.75	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	1	Poor	M0 / D1	No	1	1.5	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	Yes	Unsecure	Junior	1	Poor	M0 / D1	No	1	1.5	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
18	Felsted School	Rural Area	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	6	Good	M2 / D3	No	6	21	15	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
20	Forest Hall School/ Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre	Stansted Mountfitchet	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Mini	1	Poor	M0 / D1	No	1	1.5	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
27	Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form	Great Dunmow	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	1	Poor	M1 / D1	No	1	2	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
35	Joyce Frankland Academy	Rural Area	Yes	Unsecure	Senior	1	Poor	M0 / D1	No	1	1.5	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
					Junior	2	Poor	M0 / D1	No	2.25	3	0.75	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
96	Saffron Walden Rugby Club	Rural Area	Yes	Secure	Senior	2	Standard	M1 / D2	Yes	1	2.5	1.5	-	No actual spare capacity due to pitch being used by two senior teams Saturday pm.
					M1 / D2			No	2.5	2.5	-	Pitch at capacity.		
					Junior	1	Poor	M0 / D1	Half floodlit	4.25	1.5	2.75	-	Pitch overplayed by 2.75 match equivalent session per week due to club training.
				Unsecure	Mini	8	Standard	M1 / D1	No	3	16	13	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure
					Mini			M1 / D1	No					
					Mini			M1 / D1	No					
					Mini			M1 / D1	No					
					Mini			M1 / D1	No					
					Mini			M1 / D1	No					
Mini	M1 / D1	No												
Mini	M1 / D1	No												

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

No pitches in Uttlesford currently have actual spare capacity. All potential spare capacity (13 equivalent sessions per week) on the mini pitches at Saffron Walden Rugby Club is discounted due to a lack of secure tenure. Additionally, Saffron Walden County High School, Forest Hall School/ Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form and Felsted School all have potential spare capacity that does not transfer into actual spare capacity due to a combination of poor pitch quality and a lack of secure tenure.

Overplay

There is overplay on rugby pitches in Uttlesford equating to 2.75 match equivalent sessions. This overplay is identified at Saffron Walden Rugby Club, which is located on the Rural Analysis Area. All of this overplay is on the junior pitch and can be attributed to training demand due to half of the pitch being floodlit.

4.6: Conclusions

Given the core characteristics of rugby union with clubs preferring to operate on their respective sites, there is a requirement to understand the rugby union landscape on a site by site basis. As such, capacity for both current and future demand is analysed in the table overleaf on a site by site basis.

Future demand from Wendens Ambo RFC could result in an increase of one mini team, equating to 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week. This is based on splitting the two predicted future mini teams from population growth between the two clubs. Wendens Ambo RFC did not quantify growth despite reporting aspirations to expand. Therefore, it should be noted that future demand at these sites may exceed two additional mini teams. The future demand has been accounted for at Carver Barracks based on this being the club's main site.

The remaining demand predicted through population growth (one mini team and one junior team, has been added to future demand at Saffron Walden Rugby Club. Given that Saffron Walden RFC also quantified growth aspirations, this has also been accounted for in future demand calculations. Overall Saffron Walden RFC is predicted to grow by one senior ladies' team, ten mini teams, two junior boys' teams and one junior girls team equating to an additional 4.5 match equivalent sessions. This is based on mini teams playing on senior pitches due to the mini pitch provision currently having unsecure tenure.

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Table 4.13: Summary of current and future provision of pitches

Site	Actual spare capacity ¹⁷ (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)				
		Overplay	Latent demand	Total current capacity	Future demand	Total future capacity
Carver Barracks	-	-	-	-	0.25	0.25
Joyce Frankland Academy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saffron Walden Rugby Club	-	2.75	1	3.75	4.5	8.25

Both Carver Barracks and Joyce Frankland Academy are currently at capacity. There is; however, a minimal shortfall of 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week at Carver Barracks when taking future demand into consideration (one mini team). This can be attributed to lack of tenure security and pitch quality. Joyce Frankland Academy remains at capacity.

It is important to note, that this future demand is calculated based in population growth predictions alone, as the Club did not quantify future growth aspirations. Therefore, this shortfall could further increase.

As can be seen in table 4.13, based on current demand, only Saffron Walden Rugby Club is overplayed by 3.75 match equivalent sessions per week (including latent demand). The future shortfall at Saffron Walden Rugby Club increases to 8.25 match equivalent sessions per week. The majority of this overplay is attributed to potential growth of ten mini teams and three junior teams, equating to four match equivalent sessions.

With all future play at Saffron Walden Rugby Club being mini and junior play, the majority would likely be accommodated on the part of the site providing mini pitches, which has potential spare capacity; however, due to a lack of tenure security, this cannot be taken into consideration. Should tenure become secure on the site, shortfalls could be significantly reduced.

The remaining overplay could be further reduced through improving pitch quality and providing floodlights on the second adult pitch to spread some of the training demand. As such, considerations towards programmes to improve pitch quality and floodlighting should be a priority, as should supporting the club with discussions with the landowner to achieve security of tenure across the whole site. Furthermore, should tenure security be obtained, planned refurbishments to the clubhouse would be more feasible.

There should also be priority placed on securing use through a community use agreement at either Carver Barracks and Joyce Frankland Academy for Wendens Ambo RFC, as well as looking to improve pitch quality to eradicate both current and future shortfalls.

Securing use at Carver Barracks may be more challenging given the current uncertainty around the site's future. On this basis, there may be a need to explore options of accessing alternative sites. This would; however, require a community use agreement to be in place, as well as improvement to pitch quality.

¹⁷ In match equivalent sessions

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Rugby union summary

- ◀ There are 25 rugby pitches in Uttlesford across seven sites, broken down as 12 senior, four junior and nine mini rugby pitches. All are available for community use. 21 of these pitches are located in the Rural Area. Saffron Walden County High School (Saffron Walden), Forest Hall School/ Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre (Stansted Mountfitchet) and Helena Romanes School and Sixth Form (Great Dunmow) are the only sites outside of the Rural Area to contain rugby provision.
- ◀ There is a mixed standard of pitch quality across Uttlesford, with eight pitches being assessed as good quality, eight as poor and nine as standard.
- ◀ Saffron Walden RFC has aspiration to extend and refurbish its clubhouse; however, until tenure security can be secured across the whole site, this is not considered feasible.
- ◀ Saffron Walden RFC owns its main site (Saffron Walden Rugby Club), meaning it has security of tenure. However, the adjoining site, is on a lease with 28 years remaining but has a 12 month break clause, meaning the land owner can terminate the agreement at any time.
- ◀ Wendens Ambo RFC currently has no security of tenure as it rents pitches at Joyce Frankland Academy on a weekly basis and occasionally must travel outside of Uttlesford to access pitches.
- ◀ In total, there are 25 teams provided across the two clubs, broken down as four senior men's, six junior boys' and 15 (mixed) mini teams.
- ◀ Saffron Walden RFC reports that it is at capacity and has created a junior waiting list. Further to this, it is unable to operate a full women's and girls' section.
- ◀ Wendens Ambo RFC reports occasionally having to travel outside of Uttlesford to access provision. This is on the odd occasion that use of Joyce Frankland Academy on a Saturday morning clashed with a school fixture.
- ◀ Population growth forecasts the creation of an additional one junior boy's and two mini teams.
- ◀ Wendens Ambo RFC does not quantify team future demand; however, it states that it would like to keep growing as a club as long as it has capacity to do so.
- ◀ Saffron Walden RFC highlights a desire to have two teams at every age group from U6 through to U14 (an additional three mini and two junior boys' teams). It also aspires to start a competitive women's and girl's section, starting with one girls' team, as well as entering its women's team into a competitive league.
- ◀ No sites currently have actual (peak time) spare capacity. This mostly attributed to unsecure tenure, as well as poor pitch quality.
- ◀ Based on current demand, only Saffron Walden Rugby Club is currently overplayed by 3.75 match equivalent sessions per week (including reported latent demand). Both Carver Barracks and Joyce Frankland Academy are currently at capacity.
- ◀ Two sites; Carver Barracks and Saffron Walden Rugby Club have shortfalls when considering future demand. Carver Barracks has a minimal shortfall of 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week. This can be attributed to lack of tenure security and pitch quality.
- ◀ The future shortfall at Saffron Walden Rugby Club is more significant, increasing to 8.25 match equivalent sessions per week. The majority of this overplay is attributed to potential growth of ten mini teams and three junior teams, equating to four match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ With most future play at Saffron Walden Rugby Club being mini and junior play, the majority could be accommodated on the adjacent site. However, due to a lack of secure tenure for continued use of the site, this is not currently an option.
- ◀ On this basis, a priority should be places on securing tenure across sites used for club play in Uttlesford, as well as looking into improvements on pitch quality and floodlights at Saffron Walden Rugby Club to disperse training demand.

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PART 5: CRICKET

5.1: Introduction

The Essex County Cricket Board (ECCB) is the main governing and representative body for Cricket within Uttlesford. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the District.

The ECB has unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019; Inspiring Generations, to grow cricket in England and Wales from 2020-24. The strategy will deliver on cricket's purpose and ambition through six priorities; grow and nurture the core, inspire through elite teams, make cricket accessible, engage children and young people, transform women's and girls' cricket, support our communities.

Senior cricket is typically played in leagues on Saturday afternoons; however, some teams play in other leagues on Sundays and Wednesdays. The junior league structure tends to be club-based matches that are played mid-week, meaning there is usually no conflict with access to squares as matches can be played on a variety of days (Monday-Friday).

Consultation

There are 35 cricket clubs currently playing in Uttlesford. The full list of clubs can be seen in Table 3.1. As part of the consultation process, clubs had the opportunity to attend one of two club focus groups. This was followed up by an online survey.

The focus groups provided clubs with the opportunity to raise any issues in relation to supply of provision, quality of provision, maintenance of sites and ancillary facilities. The follow up survey focused on collating demand information. The table below shows which clubs attended a focus group and which clubs responded to survey requests.

Table 5.1: Cricket clubs responsive to consultation requests

Club	Attended focus group	Returned survey
Arkesden CC	No	Yes
Ashdon CC	Yes	Yes
Audley End CC	No	Yes
Aythorpe Roding CC	No	Yes
Birchanger CC	Yes	Yes
Chrishall CC	Yes	Yes
Clavering CC	No	Yes
Cloghams (Village) CC	Yes	Yes
Dunmow CC	Yes	Yes
Eastons CC	Yes	Yes
Elmdon CC	No	Yes
Farnham CC	Yes	Yes
Great Canfield CC	Yes	Yes
Great Chesterfords CC	No	Yes
Hatfield Broad Oak CC	No	Yes
Hatfield Heath CC	Yes	Yes
High Easter CC	No	Yes
High Roding CC	Yes	Yes
Hockerill CC	Yes	Yes

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club	Attended focus group	Returned survey
Lindsell CC	Yes	Yes
Little Bardfield CC	Yes	Yes
Little Hallingbury CC	Yes	Yes
Manuden CC	No	Yes
Newport CC	Yes	Yes
Radwinter CC	No	Yes
Rickling Ramblers CC	Yes	No
Saffron Walden CC	No	Yes
Sampfords CC	No	Yes
Sewards End CC	No	No
Stansted CC	Yes	Yes
Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC	Yes	Yes
Stebbing CC	Yes	Yes
Takeley CC	Yes	Yes
Thaxted CC	Yes	Yes
Wenden CC	No	Yes
Total	21	33

Of the total number of clubs, 21 attended a focus group and 33 responded to survey requests. Overall across the two consultation methods, 34 clubs have been responsive with only one club; Sewards End CC not providing a response. This equates to a 97% response rate.

5.2: Supply

In total, there are 47 grass cricket squares in Uttlesford located across 40 sites, with two sites; Felsted School and Saffron Walden County High School having multiple squares. These sites have seven squares and two squares respectively.

Of the 47 grass cricket squares in Uttlesford 40 are available for community use. None of the seven squares at Felsted School are available for community use. Dame Bradbury School is the only square available for community use which is not currently being utilised.

Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season although this may include training sessions where on occasions mobile nets may be used as a practice facility.

The ECB Get the Game On campaign¹⁸ is focused on increasing participation and reducing the number of matches cancelled in order to keep people interested and playing. During the campaign's inaugural year in 2015 there were 6% more games played nationally with 5% less matches cancelled. Use of NTPs for league cricket may present a way forward to fulfilling more fixtures and use of NTPs for league cricket may increase in future.

There are seven NTPs in Uttlesford. Three of these accompany grass wickets squares, located at Felsted School, Hockerill Cricket Club and Little Bardfield Cricket Club. Standalone NTPs exist at Saffron Walden County High School, Felsted School, Saffron

¹⁸ <http://getthegameon.co.uk/>

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Walden Cricket Club and Forest Hall School/ Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre. The latter is currently disused due to quality issues. The map below shows the location of all cricket squares (grass and non-turf) currently servicing Uttlesford.

Figure 5.1: Location of cricket pitches in Uttlesford

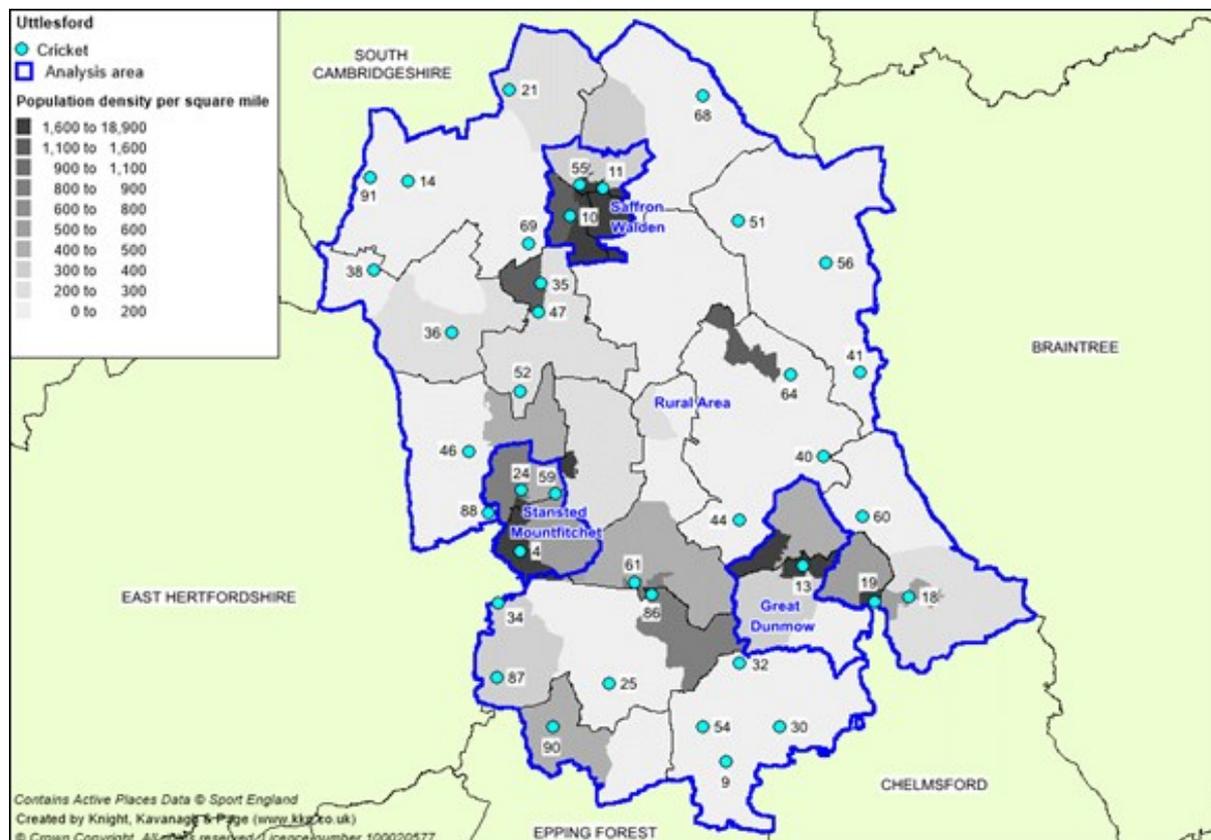


Table 5.2: Key to map of all cricket pitches in Uttlesford

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
4	Birchanger Social Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	Yes	1	12	-
9	Cloghams Cricket Club (High Roding)	Rural Area	Yes	1	5	-
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	Yes	1	8	-
			Yes	1	-	1
11	Dame Bradbury School (Saffron Walden)	Saffron Walden	Yes	1	3	-
13	Dunmow Cricket Club (Great Dunmow)	Great Dunmow	Yes	1	12	-
14	Elmdon Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1	10	-
15	Elsenham Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
18	Felsted School	Rural Area	No	1	13	-
			No	1	-	1
			No	1	7	-
			No	1	4	1
			No	1	3	-
			No	1	3	-
			No	1	3	-
19	Fritch Green Community Centre	Rural Area	Yes	1	6	-
20	Forest Hall School/ Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre (Stansted Mountfitchet)	Stansted Mountfitchet	No	1	-	1
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-
24	Hargrave Park (Stansted)	Stansted Mountfitchet	Yes	1	10	-
30	High Easter Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	6	-
32	High Roding Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	16	-
33	High Street Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-
34	Hockerill Cricket Club (Bishop's Stortford)	Rural Area	Yes	1	6	1
			Yes	1	8	-
35	Joyce Frankland Academy (Newport)	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-
36	Jubilee Field (Saffron Walden)	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-
38	Langley Village Green	Rural Area	Yes	1	6	-
40	Lindsell Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	6	-
41	Little Bardfield Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	6	1
44	Little Easton Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1	7	-
46	Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust	Rural Area	Yes	1	5	-
47	Newport Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-
52	Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	10	-
54	Roundbush Green	Rural Area	Yes	1	10	-
55	Saffron Walden Cricket Club	Saffron Walden	Yes	1	23	-
			Yes	1	-	1
56	Sampfords Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	9	-
59	Stansted Hall And Elsenham Cricket Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	Yes	1	8	-
60	Stebbing Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-
61	Takeley Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets grass	non-turf
64	Thaxted Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	10	-
68	Waltons Park	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-
69	Wenden Cricket Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1	6	-
86	Great Canfield Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-
87	Little Hallingbury Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	9	-
88	Farnham Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	7	-
90	Hatfield Heath Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	8	-
91	Chrishall Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1	4	-
97	Audley End House	Rural Area	Yes	1	7	-

Disused provision

Two sites; Friends School (Walden School) and Molehill Green Centre, are currently disused. Friends School (Walden School) was closed in 2017 but was previously available for community use. This site provided one square with nine wickets. Its closure resulted in a number of teams having to travel outside of Saffron Walden to access provision. Therefore, should it be brought back into use, opportunity for teams to come back into the analysis area would exist.

Molehill Green Community Centre is not currently maintained as a square following Molehill Green CC folding. There are currently preliminary discussions taking place in relation to Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC accessing this site and bringing it back into use.

Security of tenure

Of the clubs responsive to consultation requests, 19 are considered to have security of tenure due to either owning or having a long term lease on their ground. It is; however, worth noting that one of these clubs; Hatfield Broad Oak CC only has three years remaining on its lease agreement with the Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council.

Great Canfield, Stebbing, Hockerill, Birchanger, High Roding, Sampfords, Little Hallingbury, Chrishall, High Roding and Lindsell cricket clubs own their ground.

Clubs not considered to have long term security of tenure due to renting their ground on an annual basis, or only having an annual lease are Clavering, Radwinter, Great Chesterfords, Hatfield Heath, Ashdon, Little Bardfield, High Easter, Wenden, Newport cricket clubs.

One club; Arkesden CC does not have a home ground and as such, is also considered to have no security of tenure. The Club reports that it only plays friendly matches and always plays its fixtures as the 'away' team.

Six clubs; Hatfield Heath, Aythorpe Roding, Saffron Walden, Eastons, Elmdon and Great Chesterfords cricket clubs either lease or rent their ground from parish councils. Takeley Cricket Club leases its site from The Church of England, whilst the remaining clubs either lease or rent from private land owners (Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC, Wenden CC Hatfield Heath CC, Little Bardfield CC and High Easter CC), recreation ground committees (Radrwinter CC) or village community associations (Mauden CC and Stansted CC).

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Audley End CC does not have security of tenure with no lease agreement being in place. There is; however, a covenant on the land to be used for cricket. The land is currently owned by English Heritage.

Pitch 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.

The non-technical assessment of available grass wicket squares in Uttlesford found seven squares to be good quality, 36 to be standard quality and four to be poor quality.

Table 5.3: Summary of quality for community available cricket pitches in Uttlesford

Good	Standard	Poor
7	36	4

Table 5.4: Quality ratings for community available grass cricket pitches (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Quality rating
4	Birchanger Social Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	1	Good
9	Cloghams Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	1	Standard
11	Dame Bradbury School	Saffron Walden	1	Standard
13	Dunmow Cricket Club	Great Dunmow	1	Good
14	Elmdon Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	Standard
15	Elsenham Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
18	Felsted School	Rural Area	1	Standard
			1	Standard
19	Flitch Green Community Centre	Rural Area	1	Standard
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	Standard
24	Hargrave Park	Stansted Mountfitchet	1	Standard
30	High Easter Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
32	High Roding Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Good
33	High Street Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	Standard
34	Hockerill Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
			1	Standard
35	Joyce Frankland Academy	Rural Area	1	Standard
36	Jubilee Field	Rural Area	1	Standard
38	Langley Village Green	Rural Area	1	Poor
40	Lindsell Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Good
41	Little Bardfield Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Quality rating
44	Little Easton Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	Standard
46	Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust	Rural Area	1	Good
47	Newport Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	Standard
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	Standard
52	Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Poor
54	Roundbush Green	Rural Area	1	Standard
55	Saffron Walden Cricket Club	Saffron Walden	1	Good
56	Sampfords Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
59	Stansted Hall And Elsenham Cricket Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	1	Standard
60	Stebbing Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Good
61	Takeley Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
64	Thaxted Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
68	Waltons Park	Rural Area	1	Standard
69	Wenden Cricket Ground	Rural Area	1	Standard
86	Great Canfield Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
87	Little Hallingbury Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
88	Farnham Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
90	Hatfield Heath Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Poor
91	Chrishall Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Poor
97	Audley End House	Rural Area	1	Standard

Through club consultation, three clubs; Birchanger CC, High Roding CC and Saffron Walden CC believe their squares to be of good quality. This is consistent with non-technical assessment findings. In correlation with 77% of cricket squares in Uttlesford being rated as standard quality, most clubs believe their squares to be of standard quality.

The four grass squares assessed as being of poor quality are Langley Village Green, Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club, Hatfield Heath Cricket Club and Chrishall Cricket Club.

Common themes that have resulted in poor quality ratings are uneven outfield, less evidence of regular, appropriate maintenance regimes, such as rolling and wicket repairs, faded line markings and inadequate grass length on the outfield. In addition, two sites; Langley Village Green and Hatfield Heath Cricket Club, have roads running through the outfield, within the boundaries. Whilst these roads are not particularly busy, they can pose a health and safety risk to players.

Hatfield Heath CC reports that the square is maintained by volunteers from the Club; however, due to the square being located within public open space, it is unsurprising that pitch quality is impacted. This being said, the main reason for the square receiving a poor quality rating is the road, which results in the outfield being split in two. The Club has explored options of putting a diversion in place during match times; however, it has not received support from the Parish Council.

Consultation with Langley Parish Council suggests that Langley CC is no longer playing fixtures; however, this is believed to be a temporary decision. Whilst the Club is inactive, the green is still used for regular village activities including village fetes and rounders. This is likely to explain the observed lack of maintenance to the cricket pitch and should it reform and maintenance resume, quality may improve.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Chrishall Cricket Club receives a poor quality rating due to evidence of large cracks in the playing surface. The Club reports that this issue is becoming progressively worse and it requires support to rectify the problem. In addition, it highlights needing support with general square maintenance. Given the square is located on a primary school playing field, upkeep of the square to a good standard is likely to be challenging.

Whilst other clubs such as Hadfield Heath, Cloghams and Little Bardfield cricket clubs report cracking, this is likely to be attributed to the particularly dry weather experienced during the 2018 season. Other issues reported by clubs in relation to pitch quality can be seen in the table below.

Table 5.5: Key issues relating to grass square quality identified during club consultation

Club	Issues identified by clubs
Audley End CC	Occasional issues with outfield being used for events and parking. The Club does; however, have a good relationship with English Heritage (which also carry out elements of maintenance on this site) and this is becoming less of a problem.
Clavering CC	The pitch is on a site that once contained ponds. Therefore, it has heavy clay soil, which has moved greatly in 2017/ 2018 due to weather variances.
Farnham CC	The Club did have a Sunday team accessing the site; however, this club has now folded. Although not overly worried, it is now no longer receiving income from rental of its facilities, which will impact on funds available for general maintenance and upkeep.
Hatfield Heath CC	Road passing through outfield, splitting it into two. Have explored options of diverting traffic during matches; however, the Club has struggled to obtain support around this.
High Easter CC	Club is continuing to invest in the square to improve quality.
High Roding CC	Site does have issues with rabbits. The Club also has concerns regarding the potential future sale of land running along the edge of the boundary, as this would impact on the outfields size and quality.
Lindsell CC	With the Mower being owned by a local farmer and both the Mower & Roller due to be unfit for its service we are struggling to find the funds to replace either of them.
Little Hallingbury CC	Club describes outfield as being uneven.
Newport CC	The Club fees it needs to improve its square.
Radwinter CC	Club aspires to renovate its square, which is believes to be of poor quality.
Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC	Dry summer has had an impact on quality of square.
Stebbing CC	Club is working to improve square quality.
Thaxted CC	Ground is small with busy road to one side. Club has been offered a large field across the road; however, it would require substantial funding and lot of work from the club.

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 Groundsman.

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Table 5.6: Performance Quality Standard ratings

Quality rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches
Club (Standard)	A Club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations such as local authorities
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports (comprehensive/mini/verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

Ancillary facilities

All grass cricket squares in Uttlesford, except those at High Street Recreation Ground and Elsenham Cricket Club, are accompanied by ancillary facilities. The majority of sites are assessed as having good ancillary provision (16 sites), with the remaining sites receiving a standard quality rating (14 sites) or poor quality rating (eight sites). These findings are generally consistent with the views of responsive clubs.

Aforementioned, Elsenham Cricket Club does not have any ancillary facilities. This is the result of the pavilion being burnt down in 2016. Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC were accessing this site; however, due to a lack of facilities and the levels of funding required to develop new provision, it is exploring the possibility of using Molehill Green and lease agreement is currently being explored. This being said, there will be investment required at the Molehill Green site to bring both the pitch and ancillary facilities up to the required standard.

The Club explains how a lack of ancillary provision is impacting on player retention and the growth of its junior teams, as well as its ability to continue to run disability cricket sessions.

Audley End CC also has aspiration around ancillary provision at Audley End House. At present, its pavilion is old and does not contain any toilet provision. As such, it is working closely with English Heritage around developing a new pavilion on site, which is supportive of the proposal. At present, the Club is facing some challenging around development of the pavilion due to restrictions to building regulations on the site as a result of its historical importance.

The pavilion will be developed in links with Wendens Ambo CC. Audley End CC currently accesses Wendens Cricket Ground for some of its matches and this would allow Wendens CC to also use Audley End House. Audley End CC reports that a new clubhouse would support with its aspirations to re-establish its junior section, as well as explore the options of starting a women's team as identified in its club development plan.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.7: Ancillary facilities quality (grass wicket squares, site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Ancillary facility quality rating
4	Birchanger Social Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	1	Good
9	Cloghams Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	2	Standard
11	Dame Bradbury School	Saffron Walden	1	Standard
13	Dunmow Cricket Club	Great Dunmow	1	Poor
14	Elmdon Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	Good
15	Elsenham Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	No ancillary facilities
18	Felsted School	Rural Area	7	Poor
19	Flitch Green Community Centre	Rural Area	1	Good
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	Standard
24	Hargrave Park	Stansted Mountfitchet	1	Standard
30	High Easter Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Good
32	High Roding Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
33	High Street Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	No ancillary facilities
34	Hockerill Cricket Club	Rural Area	2	Good
35	Joyce Frankland Academy	Rural Area	1	Poor
36	Jubilee Field	Rural Area	1	Standard
38	Langley Village Green	Rural Area	1	Good
40	Lindsell Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Good
41	Little Bardfield Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Poor
44	Little Easton Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	Poor
46	Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust	Rural Area	1	Good
47	Newport Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	Poor
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	Good
52	Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
54	Roundbush Green	Rural Area	1	Good
55	Saffron Walden Cricket Club	Saffron Walden	1	Standard
56	Sampfords Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
59	Stansted Hall And Elsenham Cricket Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	1	Standard
60	Stebbing Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
61	Takeley Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Good
64	Thaxted Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Good
68	Waltons Park	Rural Area	1	Good
69	Wenden Cricket Ground	Rural Area	1	Standard
86	Great Canfield Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Good
87	Little Hallingbury Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Standard
88	Farnham Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Good
90	Hatfield Heath Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Poor
91	Chrishall Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	Good
97	Audley End House	Rural Area	1	Poor

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The majority of club consultation identifies that clubs view their facilities as functional and appropriate to meet their needs.

Several high scoring ancillary facilities have recently undergone renovation. These include the pavilions at Lindsell Cricket Club, Farnham Cricket club and Radwinter Recreation Ground. The latter two pavilions now provide separate social and changing areas and kitchen facilities. Radwinter Recreation Ground is now being accessed by Radwinter CC, which is in the process of re-establishing itself. The pavilion at Farnham CC was fully funded by the Club itself.

The pavilion at Flitch Green Community Centre are also relatively new, having been developed in 2016; however, this site is not currently being used by a club. Consultation with Flitch Green Community Centre highlights aspirations to bring a club to this site. It has been in talks with the ECB about this, as well as the potential of providing a kitchen in the pavilion to allow production of food and hot drinks for clubs using the site, as well as giving income opportunity. This will also benefit the football teams accessing this site.

Of the eight sites with poor ancillary provision, seven; Little Bardfield Cricket Club, Little Easton Recreation Ground, Newport Recreation Ground, Saffron Walden Cricket Club, Audley End House, Dunmow Cricket Club and Hatfield Heath Cricket Club are accessed by clubs. Hatfield Heath CC explains that its pavilion is only a temporary building, which is now in a poor condition. High Roding CC also rely on a porta cabin for its changing provision. The Club has aspirations to develop a new clubhouse, which would include both male and female changing rooms.

Saffron Walden CC reports that its pavilion is not fit for purpose, with no differentiated male and female changing facilities or disabled access. The latter being a key issue due to it having a disabled team. It is currently drawing up plans to carry out renovations.

Dunmow CC and Newport CC both describe the quality of their pavilions as poor, with a need for refurbishment due to age of the building. Neither club; however, has enough funds to carry out renovations. Similarly, Cloghams CC reports how a lack of funding means it cannot afford to replace its pavilions thatched roof, which is reaching the end of its lifespan. It has concerns that this will soon become a problem. This being said, it has recently been able to refurbish its kitchen through the England and Wales Cricket Trust Small Grant Scheme.

Little Eastons CC built its own clubhouse in the 80's and as such, does not have electricity, showers or toilets.

Audley End CC has a very basic clubhouse which is without toilet provision. Instead it has to access toilet facilities around 100m from its main clubhouse. This is not ideal and has had plans drawn up to improve its ancillary provision.

The ECB has highlighted that in order to ensure the future sustainability of cricket clubs across the District, investment (including through opportunities presented for developer contributions) should be directed to support clubs to improve the quality of facilities.

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NTP Quality

Of the NTPs in Uttlesford one, at Little Bardfield Cricket Club, is rated as good quality. Two are rated as poor and are located at Forest Hall School/ Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre and Saffron Walden County High School, both of which are school sites. The remaining three NTPs at Felsted School and Hockerill Cricket Club are assessed as standard quality.

Training facilities

Of the clubs in Uttlesford, 75% report having training facilities. Such facilities as Farnham, Hatfield Heath and Ashdon cricket clubs are; however, of poor quality. Two of these clubs, Farnham CC and Ashdon CC express no need to refurbish their practice facilities due to a lack of use. This is mainly attributed to these clubs not having a junior section. Similarly, although being functional, the practice facilities at Stebbing CC are mostly unused due to only having one men's team.

In contrast, due to demand Hatfield Heath CC is soon to develop a two-strip practice area with nets, a project it has secured funds to undertake.

Two clubs; High Roding CC and Lindsell CC have functional training facilities, albeit they do not meet ECB regulations. Eastons, Cloghams and Hockerill cricket clubs, have poor quality practice facilities and Hockerill CC expresses a need to reinstate these facilities.

Dunmow CC describes its training facilities as being of good quality despite being eight years old. The nets were originally provided by ECB funding.

A number of school sites offer indoor cricket training facilities. These sites are Dame Bradbury School, Felsted School, Joyce Frankland Academy and Saffron Walden County High School. Consultation identifies that there is; however, a need to improve the quality of these facilities. Whilst Dame Bradbury is highlighted as a good quality facility, it does not meet ECB indoor cricket dimensions. Additionally, the floor at Saffron Walden County High School is a sprung floor, making it unsuitable for cricket play.

There is a need for better quality indoor training facilities, which is resulting in exported demand for training, with clubs travelling to neighbouring authorities, including East Hertfordshire to access provision. For more information relating to indoor cricket, please see the Sports Facilities & Recreation Strategy Assessment Report that is being produced in conjunction with this report.

5.3: Demand

In total, there are 132 teams playing in Uttlesford from 34 clubs. As a breakdown, this equates to 68 senior men's, two senior women's, 61 junior boy's teams and one girl's junior team. The distribution of these teams across the clubs can be seen below.

Table 5.8: Summary of teams playing in Uttlesford

Club name	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Great Canfield CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Stansted CC	Stansted Mountfitchet	3	-	3	-

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Club name	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC	Stansted Mountfitchet	4	-	2	-
Hatfield Heath CC	Rural Area	2	-	-	-
Radwinter CC	Rural Area	1	1	1	-
Saffron Walden CC	Saffron Walden	9	1	21	1
Ashdon CC	Rural Area	2	-	-	-
Newport CC	Rural Area	2	-	-	-
Birchanger CC	Stansted Mountfitchet	2	-	-	-
Farnham CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Takeley CC	Rural Area	2	-	-	-
Thaxted CC	Rural Area	3	-	2	-
Hockerill CC	Rural Area	5	-	3	-
Little Bardfield CC	Rural Area	2	-	-	-
Rickling Ramblers CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Chrishall CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Stebbing CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Lindsell CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Aythorpe Roding CC	Rural Area	1	-	2	-
High Roding CC	Rural Area	2	-	12	-
Cloghams CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Dunmow CC	Great Dunmow	3	-	3	-
Eastons CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Little Hallingbury CC	Rural Area	2	-	-	-
Arkesden CC	¹⁹	1	-	-	-
Audley End CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Wenden CC	Rural Area	2	-	12	-
Hatfield Broad Oak CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
High Easter CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Sampfords CC	Rural Area	2	-	-	-
Great Chesterfords CC	Rural Area	2	-	-	-
Manuden CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Clavering CC	Rural Area	1	-	-	-
Elmdon CC	Rural Area	3	-	-	-
Total		68	2	61	1

The largest club in Uttlesford is Saffron Walden CC, consisting of nine senior men's teams, one senior women's team, 21 junior boys' teams and one junior girls' team. In total, this equates to 32 teams across both the senior and junior sections. Wenden CC and High Roding CC are also both large clubs with a total of 14 teams each.

At present only, Saffron Walden CC and Radwinter CC have competitive women's teams; however, a number of clubs have female members.

¹⁹ Arkesden CC do not have a home ground. Therefore, all of their fixtures are played away from home.

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It is worth noting that 20 of the junior teams accounted for in Table 3.8 are U10s through to U7s and as such, play Kwik cricket or softball formats of the game. These types of cricket are often played on the outfield or, where available, NTPs rather than on the main square, to protect wickets from additional use.

Across Uttlesford there are a high number of one team clubs. These clubs often find it difficult to field a full team due to a lack of players and as such some have made the decision to only play friendly fixtures. Clubs generally acknowledge that there is a need for a more joined up approach between clubs in the area in order to increase sustainability of provision and prevent clubs from folding.

Displaced demand

Whilst no teams from cricket clubs in Uttlesford are travelling outside of the authority to play matches, they are accessing indoor training facilities within neighbouring authorities.

Additionally, clubs report that due to the draw of big clubs, particularly in Chelmsford, players are playing for clubs that are not located within their authority of residence.

Participation trends

The ECB has unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019 to grow cricket in England and Wales from 2020-24. The strategy will deliver on cricket's purpose and ambition through six priorities; grow and nurture the core, inspire through elite teams, make cricket accessible, engage children and young people, transform women's and girls' cricket, support our communities.

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).

Despite the national decline, over half of responsive clubs (67%) report that number of senior players have remained static over the last three years, with a further three clubs; Wenden, Radwinter and High Roding, report an increase in senior players.

With regards to junior players, six clubs report member increases: Takeley, Hockerill, Wenden, High Roding, Stansted and Little Hallingbury cricket clubs. In contrast, Aythorpe Roding, Stansted Hall & Elsenham, Dunmow and Little Bardfield cricket clubs report a decrease in junior players.

As well as seeing an increase in both senior men's and junior players, Radwinter CC has also seen an increase in women's players, resulting in the formation of a women's team. This increase is attributed to the fact the Club is in the process of re-establishing itself.

This being said, whilst more dominant clubs in the District are seeing growth, due to the high number of clubs, some are finding it difficult to retain players. Aforementioned, clubs generally acknowledge that there is a need for a more joined up approach between clubs in the area in order to increase sustainability of provision and prevent clubs from folding.

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Future demand

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

Participation increases

Nine responding clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future. This amounts to an increase of ten senior teams (including one women's team at Audley End CC) and 13 junior teams. All remaining clubs report no future demand, with focus instead placed on retaining current participation levels.

Table 5.9: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams	
		Senior	Junior
Audley End CC	Rural Area	1	1
Aythorpe Roding CC	Rural Area	1	1
Hatfield Broad Oak CC	Rural Area	1	1
Hatfield Heath CC	Rural Area	1	1
High Roding CC	Rural Area	1	1
Little Bardfield CC	Rural Area	-	1
Radwinter CC	Rural Area	1	1
Saffron Walden CC	Saffron Walden	2	2
Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC	Stansted Mountfitchet	2	4
Total		10	13

From the table above, it can be seen that the majority of future demand is likely to be located in the Rural Area. Only Saffron Walden and Stansted Hall & Elsenham cricket clubs quantify future demand aspirations outside the Rural Area; in Saffron Walden and Stansted Mountfitchet respectively.

Within Essex significant resource is going into growing female participation, including through the Cluster Clubs Programme. This allows clubs to maintain their identity, whilst also working together and sharing resources to meet the needs of and grow various aspects of the game. In Uttlesford, it is hoped this will support with growing the women's and girl's game, allowing access to cricket for women and girls within 30 minutes of home. It is anticipated there will be four new cluster groups within the District. This will sit alongside further development programmes such as All Stars Cricket and the ECB's refreshed strategy called "Inspiring Generations" which was announced in January 2019.

On this basis, the ECB estimates the number of girls and women's teams to grow to eight and four respectively.

Population forecasts

In addition, team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2033) based on population growth. Using this, an increase of one senior men's team and nine junior boys' teams is expected.

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Table 5.10: Population growth by District (2033)²⁰

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate ²¹	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (18-55)	20,047	68	1:295	20,407	69	1
Senior Womens (18-55)	20,965	2	1:20965	21,466	1	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	6,879	53	1:130	8,085	62	9
Junior Girls (7-18)	6,469	1	1:6469	7,603	1	0

Table 5.11: Population growth by analysis area (2033)

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by analysis area)				
	Saffron Walden	Stansted Mountfitchet	Great Dunmow	Rural	Total
Senior Mens (18-55)	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Womens (18-55)	-	-	-	-	-
Junior Boys (7-18)	2	-	-	5	7
Junior Girls (7-18)	-	-	-	-	-

As can be seen in the table above, once future demand is broken down into individual analysis areas, it is forecasted that a total of seven teams will be generated, with demand split between the Rural and Saffron Walden analysis areas with five and two teams respectively.

Both population increases and future club aspirational demand will be used in the supply and demand analysis later on within this section.

Changes to media coverage could see an increased interest in cricket. In June 2017, the ECB announced new five-year media rights deals totalling £1.1 billion for first-class county and international matches played at home, from 2020-2024. The new deals include a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement, shaped by the Sky Ride initiative model Sky Sports previously developed with British Cycling.

The new deals also include a return to free to air television for live cricket, with the BBC to show coverage of international T20 matches, as well as domestic T20 competitions including the women's and new City-based franchise competition proposed for 2020. Together, significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPS and the impact should be reviewed over coming years.

²⁰There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

²¹Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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Summary of future demand

The table below highlights predicted future demand from the accumulation of club growth aspirations, future population (by analysis area) and ECB predictions for participation increases for women's and girls' cricket. This future demand will be carried forward into the supply and demand analysis tables later in this section.

Match equivalent sessions for future demand have been calculated using the average number of matches played per season (seven for senior matches and five for junior matches).

Table 5.12: Summary of future demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (teams)	Future demand (MES)
Saffron Walden	x2 senior men's teams x2 senior women's teams x2 junior girls' teams x4 junior boys' teams	58
Stansted Mountfitchet	x2 senior men's teams x4 junior boys' teams	34
Great Dunmow	No predicted future growth	-
Rural	x6 senior men's teams x2 Senior women's teams x2 junior girls' teams x12 junior boys' teams	126
Uttlesford	x10 senior men's teams x4 senior women's teams x4 junior girls' teams x20 junior boys' teams	218

Last Man Stands

Last Man Stands (LMS) is a social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game that is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on non-turf wickets. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own.

This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity. There is currently no LMS venue operating in Uttlesford with the closest venue located in Chelmsford.

Chance to Shine

Chance to Shine is a national charity which works closely with all 39 County Cricket Boards to reverse the decline in cricket within state schools. The Chance to Shine school programme is operating in all primary schools across Uttlesford to get both boys and girls playing and learning through cricket. This programme has direct links with clubs operating an All Stars Cricket programme.

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All Stars Cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC and Aythorpe Roding CC are registered All Stars Cricket (ASC) centres.

Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs and in turn have an effect on the usage and availability of provision. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ◀ Increase cricket activity for five to eight year olds in the school and club environment
- ◀ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition
- ◀ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle
- ◀ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment
- ◀ Use fun small sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game

Flitch Green Community Centre expresses aspirations to be an All Stars Cricket centre, starting in the 2019 season.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturday, with the majority of teams (34) playing on this day. There is; however, a significant amount of senior cricket being played on a Sunday, with 22 senior teams playing matches on this day.

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

5.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis as it is for other grass pitch sports. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per pitch per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a pitch to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

To help calculate spare capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality grass wicket should be able to take five (senior) matches per season (e.g. a square with 12 grass wickets can accommodate 60 matches) and a standard quality grass wicket should be able to accommodate four (senior) matches per season (e.g. a square with 12 grass wickets can accommodate 48 matches).

Where pitches are considered to be of poor quality, they are deemed to pose as a potential health and safety risk and consequently should not be accommodating match play. Subsequently, all sites assessed as being of poor quality will be considered to have no carrying capacity.

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These guidelines are 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

The ECB also suggests that a non-turf pitch can accommodate 60 matches per season. Only one non-turf pitch is reported as accommodating demand at The Grange Sports Ground. Earls Barton CC states that all its junior play takes place on the NTP, which equates to 14 match sessions per season.

Given that no non turf pitches are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season in Uttlesford, they are all considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity as they are generally accessed midweek by junior teams and can be used on a variety of days. For this reason, non-turf wicket capacity has been discounted from the table overleaf so that it does not distort the picture on grass wickets.

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Table 5.13: Cricket pitch capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Clubs using site	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season) ²²	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
4	Birchanger Social Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	Yes	Birchanger CC	1	Good	12	60	17	43
9	Cloghams Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Cloghams CC	1	Standard	5	20	10	10
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	Yes	Saffron Walden CC	1	Standard	8	32	40	8
11	Dame Bradbury School	Saffron Walden	Yes	-	1	Standard	3	12	-	-
13	Dunmow Cricket Club	Great Dunmow	Yes	Dunmow CC	1	Good	12	60	33	27
14	Elmdon Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	Elmdon CC	1	Standard	10	40	20	20
15	Elsenham Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC	1	Standard	8	32	11	21
18	Felsted School	Rural Area	No	-	1	Standard	13	52	-	-
			No	-	1	Standard	7	28	-	-
			No	-	1	Standard	4	16	-	-
			No	-	1	Standard	3	12	-	-
			No	-	1	Standard	3	12	-	-
			No	-	1	Standard	3	12	-	-
			No	-	1	Standard	3	12	-	-
19	Fritch Green Community Centre	Rural Area	Yes	-	1	Standard	6	24	-	24

²² At school sites which are unused for club cricket, it can be difficult to quantify use. In the capacity table they are listed as having no play; however, this will not be carried forward into calculations of actual spare capacity (table 3.12) due to unsecure tenure. As such, they are recorded as being at capacity.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Clubs using site	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season) ²²	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	Great Chesterford s CC	1	Standard	8	32	12	20
24	Hargrave Park	Stansted Mountfitchet	Yes	Stansted CC	1	Standard	10	40	23	17
30	High Easter Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	High Easter CC	1	Standard	6	24	9	15
32	High Roding Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	High Roding CC	1	Good	16	80	68	12
33	High Street Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	Hatfield Health CC	1	Standard	8	32	4	28
34	Hockerill Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Hockerill CC	1	Standard	6	24	24	-
			Yes		1	Standard	8	32	28	4
35	Joyce Frankland Academy	Rural Area	Yes	-	1	Standard	8	32	-	-
36	Jubilee Field	Rural Area	Yes	Clavering CC	1	Standard	8	32	10	22
38	Langley Village Green	Rural Area	Yes	-	1	Poor	6	-	-	-
40	Lindsell Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Lindsell CC	1	Good	6	30	9	21
41	Little Bardfield Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Little Bardfield CC	1	Standard	6	24	13	11
44	Little Easton Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	Easton CC	1	Standard	7	28	5	23
46	Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust	Rural Area	Yes	Manuden CC	1	Good	5	25	7	18
47	Newport Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	Newport CC	1	Standard	8	32	17	15
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	Radwinter CC	1	Standard	8	32	10	22

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Clubs using site	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season) ²²	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
52	Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Rickling Ramblers CC	1	Poor	10	-	10	10
54	Roundbush Green	Rural Area	Yes	Aythorpe Roding CC	1	Standard	10	40	20	20
55	Saffron Walden Cricket Club	Saffron Walden	Yes	Saffron Walden CC	1	Good	23	115	72	43
56	Sampfords Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Sampfords CC	1	Standard	9	36	9	27
59	Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	Yes	Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC	1	Standard	8	32	23	9
60	Stebbing Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Stebbing CC	1	Good	8	40	8	32
61	Takeley Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Takeley CC	1	Standard	8	32	9	23
64	Thaxted Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Thaxted CC	1	Standard	10	40	12	28
68	Waltons Park	Rural Area	Yes	Saffron Walden CC Ashdon CC	1	Standard	8	32	36	4
69	Wenden Cricket Ground	Rural Area	Yes	Wenden CC	1	Standard	6	24	22	2
86	Great Canfield Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Great Canfield CC	1	Standard	8	32	6	26
87	Little Hallingbury Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Little Hallingbury CC	1	Standard	9	36	7	29
88	Farnham Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Farnham CC	1	Standard	7	28	12	16

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Clubs using site	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season) ²²	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
90	Hatfield Heath Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Hatfield Heath CC	1	Poor	8	-	18	18
91	Chrishall Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	Chrishall CC	1	Poor	4	-	4	4
97	Audley End House	Rural Area	Yes	Audley End CC	1	Standard	7	28	17	11

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Spare capacity

The table below ascertains whether 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 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 30 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Uttlesford, totalling 615 match equivalent sessions per season. Where there is a significant amount of potential capacity available, this may not represent actual spare capacity, i.e. whether a pitch is available at the peak time.

Wenden Cricket Ground has been excluded from the capacity analysis on the basis that it does not exhibit enough spare capacity to accommodate another senior club team, based on an average of ten home matches per team each season. This is determined based on an average of seven home matches per team each season.

The following table therefore explores where spare capacity is identified on a Saturday (peak period) as this can be deemed actual spare capacity. Due to a high number of men's senior teams also playing their matches on a Sunday, actual spare capacity at this time is also analysed.

Table 5.14: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Spare capacity (MES)	Pitches available in the peak period (Saturday)	Pitches available on Sunday	Comments
4	Birchanger Social Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	43	-	1	No actual spare capacity at peak period due to two senior teams already accessing the site for matches; however, due to site having spare capacity, could accommodate an additional two senior teams on a Sunday. It could also accommodate additional midweek play.
9	Cloghams Cricket Club	Rural Area	10	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team based on capacity. Site could alternatively accommodate play on a Sunday or midweek (either junior or up to one adult team).
13	Dunmow Cricket Club	Great Dunmow	27	-	-	No actual spare capacity at peak period due to two senior teams already accessing the site for matches. The same applies for Sunday. With spare capacity existing at the site, it could; however, accommodate additional play midweek.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Spare capacity (MES)	Pitches available in the peak period (Saturday)	Pitches available on Sunday	Comments
14	Elmdon Recreation Ground	Rural Area	20	-	0.5	No actual spare capacity at peak period due to two senior teams already accessing the site for matches; however, it could accommodate one additional senior team on a Sunday. Alternatively, it could accommodate additional midweek play.
15	Elsenham Cricket Club	Rural Area	21	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate and additional two senior teams. Site could alternatively accommodate an additional senior team on a Sunday or be used for more midweek play. This being said, there is no ancillary provision currently available at this site, which will impact on potential use of the site.
19	Flich Green Community Centre	Rural Area	24	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate and additional two senior teams. The same applies for Sunday; however, based on existing spare capacity, the site could only provide for up to three senior teams in total.
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Rural Area	20	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team. Site could alternatively accommodate two senior teams on a Sunday or midweek.
24	Hargrave Park	Stansted Mountfitchet	17	-	0.5	No actual spare capacity at peak period due to two senior teams already accessing the site for matches; however, due to site having spare capacity, site could accommodate an additional senior team on a Sunday based on site capacity. It could accommodate additional midweek play.
30	High Easter Cricket Club	Rural Area	15	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team. Site could alternatively accommodate addition play on a Sunday or midweek (either junior or up to one adult team).

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Spare capacity (MES)	Pitches available in the peak period (Saturday)	Pitches available on Sunday	Comments
32	High Roding Cricket Club	Rural Area	12	-	-	No actual spare capacity at peak period due to two senior teams already accessing the site for matches; however, due to site having spare capacity, it could accommodate additional midweek play.
33	High Street Recreation Ground	Rural Area	28	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team based on site capacity. Site could alternatively accommodate addition play on a Sunday or midweek (either junior or up to one adult team).
36	Jubilee Field	Rural Area	22	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate and additional two senior teams. Site could also accommodate one additional senior team on a Sunday or midweek play (either junior or up to two adult teams).
40	Lindsell Cricket Club	Rural Area	21	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team. Site has potential to provide for two teams on a Sunday; however, based on existing spare capacity, site could only accommodate for a total of two more senior teams.
41	Little Bardfield Cricket Club	Rural Area	11	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team based on capacity. Site could alternatively accommodate addition play on a Sunday or midweek (either junior or up to one adult team).
44	Little Easton Recreation Ground	Rural Area	23	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate and additional two senior teams. Site could also accommodate addition play on a Sunday or midweek (either junior or up to one adult team).
46	Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust	Rural Area	18	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team based on capacity. Site could alternatively accommodate addition play on a Sunday or midweek (either junior or up to one adult team).

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Spare capacity (MES)	Pitches available in the peak period (Saturday)	Pitches available on Sunday	Comments
47	Newport Recreation Ground	Rural Area	15	-	0.5	No actual spare capacity at peak period due to two senior teams already accessing the site for matches. The site could; however, accommodate addition play on a Sunday or midweek (either junior or up to one adult team).
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	22	1	1.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate and additional two senior teams. Could also accommodate three senior teams on a Sunday or midweek; however, based on existing spare capacity, the site could only provide for three more senior teams in total.
54	Roundbush Green	Rural Area	20	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team. The same applies on a Sunday. Alternatively, site could accommodate play midweek.
55	Saffron Walden Cricket Club	Saffron Walden	43	-	-	No actual spare capacity at peak period due to two senior teams already accessing the site for matches; however, due to site having spare capacity, could accommodate additional midweek play.
56	Sampfords Cricket Club	Rural Area	27	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional two senior team. Site could alternatively accommodate addition play on a Sunday or midweek (either junior or up to two adult teams).
59	Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	9	-	-	No actual spare capacity at peak period due to two senior teams already accessing the site for matches; however, due to site having spare capacity, could accommodate additional midweek play.
60	Stebbing Cricket Club	Rural Area	32	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate and additional two senior teams. Site could also accommodate an additional senior team on a Sunday or for midweek play.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Spare capacity (MES)	Pitches available in the peak period (Saturday)	Pitches available on Sunday	Comments
61	Takeley Cricket Club	Rural Area	23	-	1	No actual spare capacity at peak period due to two senior teams already accessing the site for matches; however, due to site having spare capacity, could accommodate two additional senior teams on a Sunday. Also potential for more midweek play.
64	Thaxted Cricket Club	Rural Area	28	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team. This also applies on a Sunday. Additionally, there is potential for additional midweek play.
86	Great Canfield Cricket Club	Rural Area	26	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate and additional two senior teams. Site could alternatively accommodate an additional senior team on a Sunday, or more midweek play.
87	Little Hallingbury Cricket Club	Rural Area	29	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team. This also applies on a Sunday. Additionally, there is potential for additional midweek play.
88	Farnham Cricket Club	Rural Area	16	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team based on capacity. Site could alternatively accommodate addition play on a Sunday or midweek (either junior or up to one adult team).
97	Audley End House	Rural Area	11	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak period. Could accommodate an additional senior team based on capacity. Site could alternatively accommodate addition play on a Sunday or midweek (either junior or up to one adult team).

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Of the sites with potential spare capacity, 20 have actual spare capacity at peak period (Saturday). This being said, a number of these squares are rated as standard quality. This should be taken into account when considering the potential for them to accommodate additional play. It is important to ensure any additional play is not further detrimental to their quality.

The vast majority of spare capacity of cricket squares in Uttlesford is located in the Rural Area. Hargrave Park and Birchanger Social Club are the only sites outside of the Rural Area (both located in Stansted Mountfitchet) to have actual spare capacity, offering a total of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on Sunday.

All sites that have spare capacity but are unavailable at peak time (Saturday) are able to accommodate additional senior play on a Sunday, midweek or both. This is; however, again dependant on pitch quality.

Overplay

It is considered that five sites in Uttlesford are overplayed, totalling 48 matches per season. Four of the overplayed sites are located in the Rural Area, totalling 40 matches of overplay per season. The remaining site is Saffron Walden County High School, located in Saffron Walden. This square is currently overplayed by eight matches per season. This can be seen in the table below.

Table 5.15: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	1	8
52	Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	10
68	Waltons Park	Rural Area	1	6
90	Hatfield Heath Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	18
91	Chrishall Cricket Club	Rural Area	1	4
Total				48

The majority of identified overplay is a result of poor quality squares, with 32 match sessions being a result of squares having discounted capacity. Therefore, should the quality of these pitches be improved to a minimum of standard quality, only 22 match sessions of overplay would remain and would see spare capacity increase.

Squares which are of standard quality and identified as having overplay are Waltons Park, and Saffron Walden County High. Should quality at the latter be improved, making the square good quality, this would address any overplay at this site. At Waltons Park, if quality was again, improved to create a good quality square, overplay would be eradicated.

Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a resolution is recommended on overplayed squares.

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3.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand. The tables below look at available spare capacity at peak time for senior cricket (Saturdays) considered against overplay and future demand highlighted through club and ECB consultation and TGRs based on population growth. This is broken down by analysis area.

Match equivalent sessions for future demand have been calculated using the average number of matches played per season (seven matches for senior matches and five matches for junior teams).

Table 5.16: Capacity of grass wicket squares at peak period (Saturday) in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area

Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions)				
	Overplay	Displaced demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
-	8	-	8	58	66

At present, there is a shortfall of eight match sessions per season in Saffron Walden at peak period. Whilst this is fairly minimal, based on future demand this will increase to a shortfall of 66 match sessions per season. This picture is mirrored when looking at current and future capacity on a Sunday. The only capacity currently available on grass cricket provision in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area is midweek (43 match equivalent sessions per season).

In contrast, as can be seen below, Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area currently has actual spare capacity of 60 match equivalent sessions per season. Whilst this is reduced based on current demand, 26 match equivalent sessions of capacity remain. As such, there is enough provision within this analysis area to accommodate both current and potential future demand

Table 5.17: Capacity of grass wicket squares at peak period (Saturday) in the Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area

Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions)				
	Overplay	Displaced demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
60	-	-	60	34	26

Grass cricket provision in the Great Dunmow Analysis Area is currently at capacity. Based on no anticipated future demand being generated within the analysis area, the theme remains the same moving forwards. This picture is mirrored when looking at current and future capacity on a Sunday. The only spare capacity currently available on grass cricket provision in this analysis areas is midweek (27 match equivalent sessions per season).

Table 5.18: Capacity of grass wicket squares at peak period (Saturday) in the Great Dunmow Analysis Area

Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions)				
	Overplay	Displaced demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-

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Rural Analysis Area currently has a significant amount of capacity on grass cricket provision during peak period (386 match equivalent sessions). Whilst this reduces based on predicted future demand, 260 match equivalent sessions per season remain. As such, there is enough provision within this analysis area to accommodate both current and future demand.

Table 5.19: Capacity of grass wicket squares at peak period (Saturday) Rural Analysis Area

Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions)				
	Overplay	Displaced demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
424	38	-	386	126	260

Summary

In conclusion, overall there is sufficient cricket provision in Uttlesford to accommodate both current and future cricket demand; however, when broken down by analysis area, shortfalls are highlighted in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area. Whilst the current shortfall could be eradicated through pitch quality improvements at Saffron Walden County High School, which is overplayed by eight match sessions per season, the remaining future shortfall could not be accommodated on provision in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area alone.

Given that 43 match equivalent sessions per season do exist midweek within the Saffron Walden Analysis Area, there could be some consideration towards midweek participation through different formats of the game such as T20 cricket. It is the norm for junior cricket to be played midweek. With 30 of the 43 future match equivalent sessions per season being junior play, there would be 20 match equivalent sessions per season remaining midweek that could be utilised for senior cricket.

This being said, should all senior cricket demand take place on a Saturday, which is the most likely scenario additional capacity would be required in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area. This will be further explored in the subsequent Strategy and Action Plan.

Should the overplayed squares across the District improve in quality, this would significantly reduce overplay and further increase overall capacity. On this basis, there should be a priority placed on improving quality of poor and standard quality squares.

Further to this, with a high number of clubs identifying issues with membership numbers (as reflected in the demand section), and consequent concerns regarding sustainability, it is clear that a joined up, strategic approach to cricket development across Uttlesford is required. This will be further explored in the subsequent strategy and action plan report.

The ECB highlights that in order to ensure the future sustainability of cricket clubs across the District, it should be a priority to direct investment (including through opportunities presented for developer contributions) to support clubs to improve the quality of facilities. This includes ancillary facilities and training facilities where required.

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Cricket summary

- ◀ In total, there are 47 grass cricket squares in Uttlesford located across 40 sites, with two sites; Felsted School and Saffron Walden County High School having multiple squares. These sites have seven and two squares respectively.
- ◀ There are seven NTPs in Uttlesford. Three of these accompany grass wickets squares and four are standalone.
- ◀ The only cricket provision unavailable for community use in Uttlesford is at Felsted School.
- ◀ The non-technical assessment of available grass wicket squares found five squares to be good quality, 37 to be standard quality and five to be poor quality.
- ◀ Most clubs are considered to have security of tenure due to either owning or having a long term lease on their ground. Further to this, most clubs view their facilities as functional and appropriate to meet their needs.
- ◀ Of the eight sites with poor ancillary provision, seven; Little Bardfield Cricket Club, Little Easton Recreation Newport Recreation Ground, Saffron Walden Cricket Club, Audley End House, Dunmow Cricket Club and Hatfield Heath Cricket Club are accessed by clubs.
- ◀ Training facilities at Farnham, Hatfield Heath and Ashdon cricket clubs are of poor quality. However, Farnham CC and Ashdon CC report no need to refurbish these due to lack of use.
- ◀ In total, there are 132 teams playing in Uttlesford from 34 clubs. As a breakdown, this equates to 68 senior men's, two senior women's, 61 junior boy's teams and one girl's junior team.
- ◀ Despite the national decline, over half of responsive clubs (67%) report that number of senior players have remained static over the last three years, with a further three clubs; Wenden, Radwinter and High Roding, report an increase in senior players. Six clubs report junior member increases.
- ◀ Whilst the more dominant clubs in the District are seeing growth, a high number of clubs identify issues with membership numbers (as reflected in the demand section), and consequent concerns regarding future sustainability.
- ◀ Eight responding clubs report plans to increase the number of teams in the future, amounting to an increase of nine senior and 12 junior teams.
- ◀ The ECB estimates the number of girls and women's teams to grow to eight and four respectively, as a result of the Cluster Clubs Programme running alongside existing development programmes.
- ◀ Peak time demand for senior cricket is Saturday, whereas for junior cricket it is midweek.
- ◀ Of the sites with potential spare capacity, 20 have actual spare capacity at peak period (Saturday). This being said, a number of these squares are rated as standard quality.
- ◀ Six sites in Uttlesford are overplayed, totalling 48 matches per season. Four of these sites are in the Rural Area, totalling 40 matches of overplay per season.
- ◀ The majority of identified overplay is a result of poor quality squares, with 32 match sessions being a result of squares having discounted capacity.
- ◀ Overall, there is enough cricket provision in Uttlesford to accommodate both current and future cricket demand; however, when broken down by analysis area, shortfalls are highlighted in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area. Whilst the current shortfall could be alleviated through pitch quality improvements at Saffron Walden County High School, which is overplayed by eight match sessions per season, the remaining future shortfall could not be accommodated on provision in the Saffron Walden Analysis Area alone.

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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 Essex 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 at introductory level, 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
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	EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
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.

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.

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Club consultation

There is currently one hockey club; Saffron Walden HC playing in Uttlesford, which completed an online survey. In addition, three hockey clubs are based just outside Uttlesford (Braintree HC and Chelmsford HC) and were consulted to ensure any imported and exported demand was fully captured. Bishops Stortford HC was also contacted but arrangements for consultation were unsuccessful.

6.2: Supply

There are currently five full size, hockey suitable AGPs across four sites in Uttlesford. Two of the pitches are located at Felsted School, one of which, is sand filled whilst the other is sand dressed. The remaining three AGPs are also sand dressed and are located at Dunmow Leisure Centre, Joyce Frankland Academy and Saffron Walden County High School.

Saffron Walden County High School is marginally under full size (5m in width) at 100m by 60m and has no floodlighting.

All full size AGPs, with the exception of the sand dressed AGP at Felsted School are available for community use.

Table 6.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Uttlesford

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Surface type	Size (metres)
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	Yes	No	Sand dressed	100x60
18	Felsted School	Rural Area	Yes	Yes	Sand filled	100x65
			No	Yes	Sand dressed	100x65
35	Joyce Frankland Academy	Rural Area	Yes	Yes	Sand dressed	100x65
76	Dunmow Leisure Centre	Great Dunmow	Yes	Yes	Sand dressed	100x65

In addition, there are also three smaller size sand AGPs at Dame Bradbury School, Carver Barracks and Manuden Village Hall and Sports Trust. All three of these are sand filled and are mainly used for football training by local clubs.

Please refer to Figure 6.1 overleaf for the location of all hockey suitable AGPs in Uttlesford, regardless of size.

Future provision

As set out in the local plan, should the residential development take place on the current Helena Romanes School, land west and south-west of Great Dunmow will provide land for the provision of a new secondary school site, which will mitigate the loss of the former natural and artificial pitch provision. This will include the replacement of the full size, floodlit AGP (part of the adjoining Dunmow Leisure Centre site).

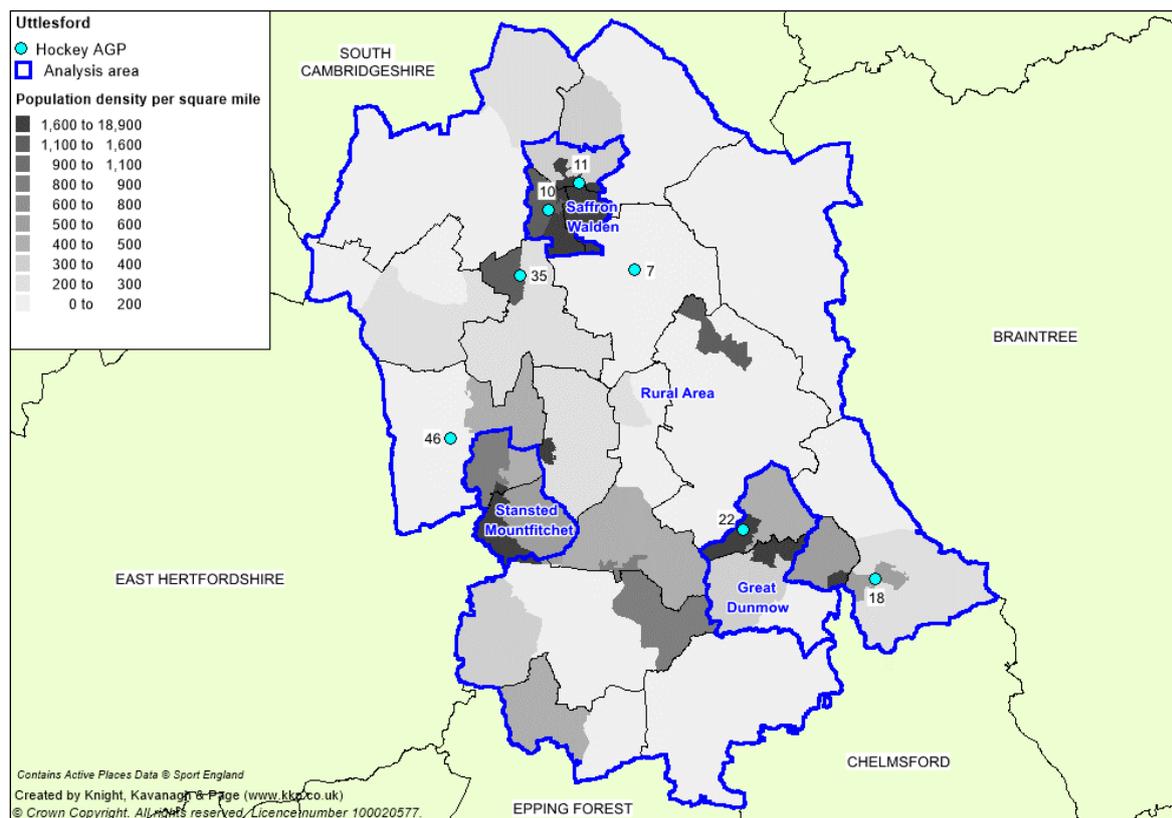
A recent proposal by Saffron Walden HC for a second AGP at Joyce Frankland Academy has had planning permission refused following changes to a housing development in close proximity. This may; however, be revisited in the future but would need to be considered in line with other AGPs in the area and strategic need.

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Management

The pitches at Felsted School and Saffron Walden County High School are solely managed by the schools themselves. The pitch at Dunmow Leisure Centre is managed by the site leisure operator; 1Life and the Joyce Frankland Academy pitch is managed by Saffron Walden HC.

Figure 6.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in Uttlesford



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).

On this basis, Joyce Frankland Academy and Dunmow Leisure Centre are readily available to the community, being available for the full 34 hours during the peak period.

The pitch at Felsted School is available for 13 hours during the peak period. This is due to the pitch only being accessible between 18:00 and 21:00 Monday to Friday. Saffron Walden County High School has limited usage at peak period. This is mainly attributed to a lack of floodlighting. At present, the pitch is only accessible on a Saturday 9:00-15:00.

Security of tenure

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Saffron Walden HC is considered to have security of tenure for the use of the AGP at Joyce Frankland Academy. The Club currently rents from the Charity Swancat, which holds the AGP in trust. The hockey club has first refusal on the pitch, with any remaining slots being let out to clubs from other sports (mainly football). Joyce Frankland School also hold the same agreement as the hockey club, having first refusal on use through the day for an annual fee.

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 and as such, sinking funds were not established.

Table 6.3: Age (where known) and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Surface	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	Sand dressed	1998	Poor
18	Felsted School	Rural Area	Sand filled	2010	Good
			Sand dressed	2005	Standard
35	Joyce Frankland Academy	Rural Area	Sand dressed	1994	Poor
76	Dunmow Leisure Centre	Great Dunmow	Sand dressed	2003	Standard

Of the five full size AGPs in Uttlesford, two pitches are rated as poor quality, two as standard quality and one as good quality following non technical assessment.

Based on the guidance of a ten year carpet life, all AGPs, except for the sand filled pitch at Felsted School, are due for a resurface.

The sand filled pitch at Felsted School is the only AGP which is assessed as good quality. The pitch is, however, nine years old and therefore approaching its recommended lifespan. It is observed as having good grip underfoot, clear line markings, dugouts and good quality nets. Whilst the sand dressed pitch has similar attributes, it does have a diminished underfoot grip. This is likely a result of carpet age, as well as being used for a range of curricular and extracurricular sport activity. This includes tennis during the summer months.

The two oldest pitches; Saffron Walden County High School and Joyce Frankland are both rated as poor quality. Both these pitches are currently accessed by Saffron Walden HC. Saffron Walden County High School is observed as having rips in the carpet and minor undulations, as well as having a less grip underfoot. In addition, the pitch does not have floodlighting. Consultation with the School highlights plans for identified rips to be repaired in the near future.

Saffron Walden HC is in agreement with the poor quality score from non technical assessment at the aforementioned sites. The Club states that the pitch at Joyce Frankland Academy needs to be resurfaced, with quality deteriorating each season. As a result of age, the pitch is observed through non technical assessment as having reduced underfoot grip, wear and tear to the playing surface and less prominent line markings.

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It reports that the charity through which it rents the pitch is looking into relaying the surface in the near future, using the sinking fund that was put in place when the pitch was developed in 1994. This is the only AGP in the District believed to have a sinking fund in place.

Dunmow Leisure Centre is not reported to have any specific quality issues. The main reasons for its quality score are its age and subsequent evidence of wear. This is unsurprising given it is used by pupils of Helena Romanes School throughout the day and then used by the community during evenings and weekends.

Ancillary provision

The AGP at Joyce Frankland Academy is served by a clubhouse belonging to Saffron Walden HC. The Club describes its ancillary facilities as adequate but in need of improvement. It has aspirations to extend and refurbish its clubhouse. The improvements would see the kitchen and social area extended and its changing rooms modernised. In addition, a new physio room and medic room would be added to the footprint of the building.

It had applied for planning permission for this as part of a housing development planning application, which was to be in close proximity to the site; however, following planning permission being rejected, the clubhouse improvements are now on hold.

The pitches at Felsted School and Saffron Walden County High School are both accompanied by changing facilities located within the school building. Whilst these are basic, they are functional and provide separate male and female changing, shower and toilet facilities.

6.3: Demand

There is one hockey club in Uttlesford; Saffron Walden HC, which has a total of 495 members (including junior members only attending training sessions). The Club has 32 competitive teams. When broken down this equates to eight men's, six women's, nine junior boys' and nine junior girl's teams. It reports having grown significantly over the last three years in both its senior and junior sections.

England Hockey suggests that Saffron Walden HC, Bishop Stortford HC and Braintree HC all service the Uttlesford area, meaning that there is exported demand.

Braintree HC reports that it services the Dunmow area of Uttlesford, as well as the whole of Braintree. Chelmsford HC also identifies that a number of players which attend Felsted School play at the Club. It suggests that most exported demand will be to Bishops Stortford HC.

EH Player Pathway

The Player Pathway (PP) is the junior talent development pathway. It encompasses the whole of the hockey landscape which includes club and school activity as well as the PP Development Centres (DCs). The purpose of the PP is to provide development opportunities for young people, which is fair, equitable and consistent. It is to ensure that a suitable level of coaching and competition is offered for people at the appropriate stage of their development and to maximise the chance they have of fulfilling their potential whether that potential is as a club or International player, coach or official. The PP can be accessed by playing at school, a local club or attending one of the local centres. There is one entry point into the PP centres which is at DC level. The first time a player accesses the player pathway they must enter at DC level.

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Development Centres (DCs) and Academy Centres (ACs)

DCs and ACs are local training centres for the U13 to U17 age groups. DCs are open to any hockey player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach, with ACs open to any player who has been nominated by a DC coach. After attending a DC, an AC is the next step on the player pathway. Included in the DCs/ACs are Goalkeeper (GK) Academies, which provide specific coaching sessions for goalkeepers.

Latent demand

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in hockey within Uttlesford but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 250 people, the majority of which are within the segment 'Chloe – Young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim' (22%) and Ben – Male, recent graduates with a 'work hard, play hard' attitude' (20%).

In comparison to the neighbouring authorities of Chelmsford and Cambridge, latent demand in Uttlesford is lower; however, both of these are cities, whilst Uttlesford is significantly more rural in its characteristics.

Future demand

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

Population forecasts

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

Table 6.4: Team generation rates (up to 2033)²³

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 ²⁴
Senior Men's (16-55)	21,210	8	1:2651	21,812	8	0
Senior Women's (16-55)	21,990	6	1:3665	22,758	6	0
Junior Boys (11-15)	2,853	10	1:285	3,427	12	2
Junior Girls (11-15)	2,739	6	1:457	3,223	7	1

Team generation rates based on future population, applied District wide, forecast one additional junior girls' team and two additional junior boys' teams to be generated by 2033.²⁵

²³ There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

²⁴ Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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Table 6.5: Team generation rates by analysis area (2033)

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by analysis area)				
	Saffron Walden	Stansted Mountfitchet	Great Dunmow	Rural	Total
Senior Mens (16-55)	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Womens (16-55)	-	-	-	-	-
Junior Boys (11-15)	-	-	-	1	1
Junior Girls (11-15)	-	-	-	1	1

Once TGRs are broken down into individual analysis areas it is forecasted that a total of two teams will be generated (one junior boy's and one junior girls' team), both in the Rural Analysis Area.

Team generation rates (TGRs) are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, TGRs cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, nationally, since 2012, hockey has seen a 65% increase in juniors taking up the sport within the club environment. This increase is expected to continue across all age groups in the future, especially given the success of Great Britain's women's team in the 2016 Rio Olympics and the anticipated legacy impact.

Though there remains a desire from EH to increase participation within the club/league based game, not all future demand may be realised entirely as new formalised teams playing at peak time. Some clubs may decide to offer pay and play opportunities to participants or offer small sided formats such in a bid to increase participation and club memberships by providing a different hockey offer.

Increased demand from new participants will lead to a requirement for increased capacity on available AGPs at peak time, but also midweek and on Sundays to deliver other formats of hockey activity. At present, it is not necessarily clear as to what format this may take or when it is likely to take place, however, it is clear that there will be a requirement for access to increased capacity on AGPs across the Borough. This should be considered when assessing demand for AGPs in the future, as not only will they be needed for peak match play times and midweek training to accommodate increased participation within the formalised hockey environment, but also throughout the week and at non-peak times to offer wider opportunities for play.

Participation increases

Saffron Walden HC believes there will be increases in the number of teams across all age and gender groups. A large club already, Saffron Walden HC aspires to grow further across both its senior and junior section. It states it aspires to grow by one more senior women's, four junior boys' and four junior girls' teams.

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Usage

The following table summarises the usage of the AGPs within the District.

Table 6.6: Usage of AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Hours available	Hours available in the peak period	Comments
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saturday: 12:00-15:00	Saturday: 12:00-15:00 Total: 3 hours in peak period	Used by Saffron Walden HC for adult matches on a Saturday.
18	Felsted School	Monday: 17.30-21.00 Tuesday: 18:30-21:00 Saturday: 14:00-21:00 Sunday: 9:00-21:00	Mon: 17.30-21.00 3.5 hrs Tues: 18:30-21:00: 2.5 hrs Sat: 14:00-21:00: 3 hrs Sunday: 9:00-21:00: 8 hrs Total: 17 hours in peak period	Currently accessed by Blue Hornets (Braintree HC) 9:00-14:00 on a Sunday. Also used by Dunmow United FC 18:30-19:30 on a Tuesday and 18:00-19:00 on a Thursday.
35	Joyce Frankland Academy	Mon-Fri: 17.00-22.00 Saturday: 09.00-17.00 Sunday: 09.00-17.00	Mon-Thurs: 17:00-21:00- 16 hours Fri: 17.00-19.00- 2 hour Sat-Sunday: 09.00-17.00- 16 hours Total: 34 hours in the peak period	Used by Saffron Walden HC for adult matches on a Saturday and junior training/matches on a Sunday. The Club also access the AGP for training 18:00-19:30 on a Monday, 19:00-22:00 on both Mondays and Thursdays, 19:00-20:30 on a Wednesday and 18:00-20:30 on a Friday.
76	Dunmow Leisure Centre	Mon-Fri: 17.00-22.00 Saturday: 09.00-17.00 Sunday: 09.00-17.00	Mon-Thurs: 17:00-21:00- 16 hours Fri: 17.00-19.00- 2 hour Sat-Sunday: 09.00-17.00- 16 hours Total: 34 hours in the peak period	Not much hockey use. Occasionally used as an overspill site for Braintree HC; however, site is well used for football training.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

England Hockey recommends that a full size, floodlit AGP can generally accommodate four matches in the peak period (Saturday) or eight teams playing on a home and away basis.

At present there are eight senior teams using the AGP at Joyce Frankland Academy for home matches (four matches in the peak period on a home and away basis) and as such, this pitch is played to capacity.

The remaining six senior teams play matches at Saffron Walden County High School. In theory, this would see three matches being played on the AGP per week at peak period; however, due to the Club only having access to the pitch for three hours on a Saturday (due to school fixtures) and there being no floodlighting, in reality only two matches per week are being played. This relies on fixtures for teams across the two sites accessed by Saffron

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Walden HC being well coordinated and often playing more away matches. On this basis, this site cannot accommodate any further play at peak period.

When considering future demand at peak time (based on both population and club growth aspirations) it is predicted that one additional senior (women's) team will be created. Given that there are a further two available hockey suitable AGPs in Uttlesford, hypothetically this additional demand could be accommodated. However, due to the distance between the current sites, and the AGPs at Felsted School (35-minute drive time) and Dunmow Leisure Centre (25-minute drive time) this is most likely to be unfeasible.

This being said, England Hockey reports that Saffron Walden HC does have players from the south of the District. As such, travel distance may not necessarily be a barrier to participation and requires further exploration.

Alternative options could consist of future developments providing additional AGP provision should future demand be realised or accessing provision in neighbouring authorities, where AGPs may be better located in terms of distance. This will; however, require further exploration, particularly with regards to supply and demand in that area.

In order to maintain sufficient supply to accommodate current demand, there is an imminent need to address pitch quality. Whilst this is likely to be possible at Joyce Frankland Academy due to Swancat having a sinking fund in place, this will be more challenging at Saffron Walden County High School given the lack of sinking fund and restriction on funding opportunities due to a lack of floodlighting. As previously mentioned, some efforts are; however, being made to address quality issues at this site with the rips in the carpet soon to be repaired.

With regards to junior demand, Saffron Walden HC does not identify any concerns with accommodating either current or future demand. This is likely due to the fact that junior hockey fixtures, especially for younger age groups, are played on a more ad hoc basis. Furthermore, younger age groups do not play on a full-size pitch, allowing more matches to take place at once if necessary.

Hockey summary

- ◀ There are currently five full size, hockey suitable AGPs in Uttlesford, located across four sites. Two are located at Felsted School. There are also three smaller sized, hockey suitable AGPs.
- ◀ Three of the full-size AGPs are located in the Rural Area, with one full-size AGP located in each the Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow analysis areas. There is no hockey suitable provision in the Stansted Mountfitchet Analysis Area.
- ◀ The pitch located at Saffron Walden County High School is not floodlit and falls just short of the full size pitch dimensions (by 5m in width).
- ◀ All AGPs, with the exception of the sand filled AGP at Felsted School are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the five full size AGPs in Uttlesford, two are assessed as poor quality, two as standard and one as good.
- ◀ All AGPs, except for the sand filled pitch at Felsted School, are due to be resurfaced. The pitch at Felsted School is also approaching a likely resurface requirement.
- ◀ Joyce Frankland Academy and Dunmow Leisure Centre are readily available to the community, being available for the full 34 hours during the peak period.
- ◀ The pitch at Felsted School is available for 13 hours during the peak period. Saffron Walden County High School has limited usage at peak time. This is mainly attributed to a lack of floodlighting.
- ◀ There is one hockey club; Saffron Walden HC based in Uttlesford providing a total of 20 teams.
- ◀ Braintree HC, Chelmsford HC and Bishops Stortford HC are all likely to service parts of Uttlesford.
- ◀ Population growth (applied through TGRs) predict an additional junior girls' and two junior

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boys' teams to be generated by 2033.

- ◀ Saffron Walden HC reports likely growth across all age and gender groups. It states it would like to grow by one senior women's, four more junior boys' and four more junior girls' teams.
- ◀ In theory there is enough hockey suitable AGP provision to accommodate both current and future demand in Uttlesford. However, this would require securing access to sites which are located a significant distance away from current home grounds.
- ◀ Further to this, there is an imminent need to address pitch quality at the two AGPs which are currently in use for club hockey to ensure continued use.
- ◀ Whilst this is likely to be possible at Joyce Frankland Academy due to Swancat having a sinking fund in place, this will be more challenging at Saffron Walden County High School given the lack of sinking fund and restriction on funding opportunities due to a lack of floodlighting.

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PART 7: BOWLS

7.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Uttlesford are flat green. Bowls England is the governing body responsible for ensuring effective governance of outdoor flat green bowls across the Country. The flat green bowling season runs from May to September.

Consultation

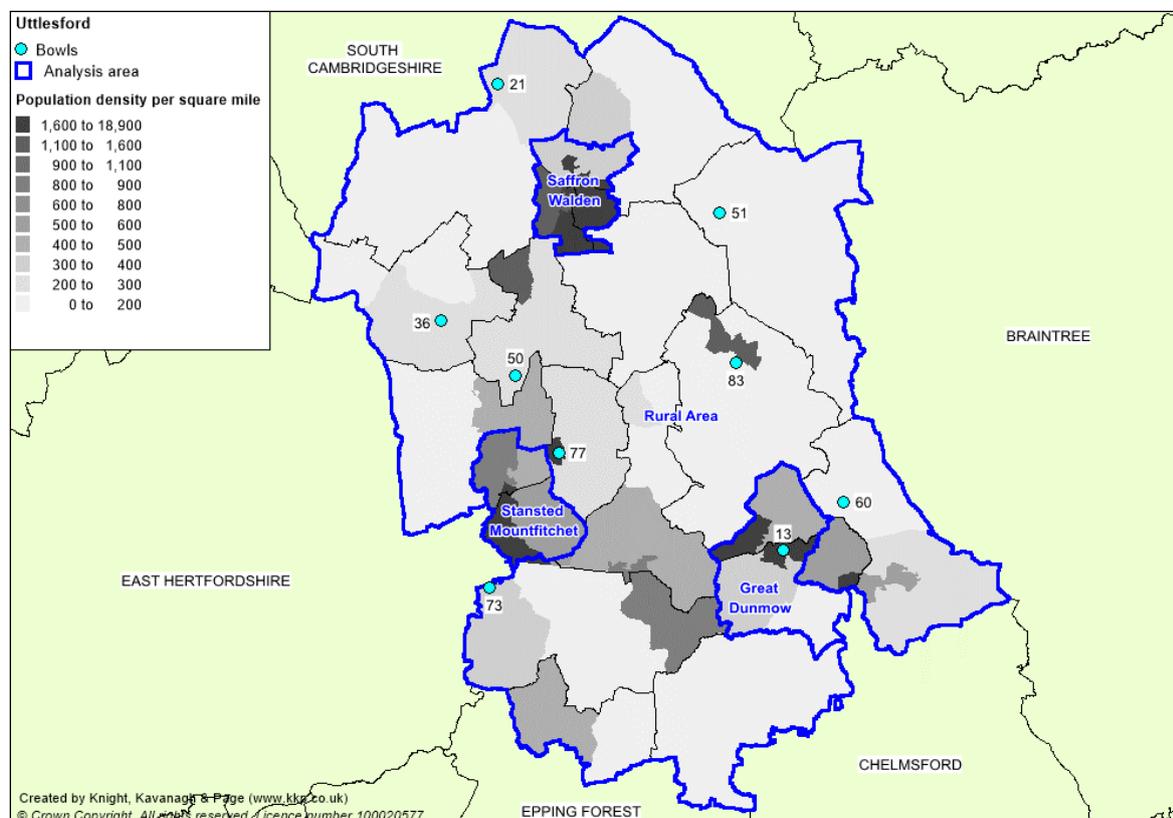
There are ten bowls clubs identified as playing in Uttlesford. All clubs were sent consultation requests in the form of an online survey with unresponsive clubs chased via telephone where contact details were identified. Four clubs; Eisenham BC, Radwinter BC, Stansted Mountfitchet BC and Thaxted BC were responsive whilst Quendon BC, Saffron Walden BC, Dunmow BC and Great Chesterford BC. Stebbing BC and Clavering BC were unresponsive. This results in a 40% response rate.

7.2: Supply

Quantity

There are 11 bowling greens in Uttlesford, located across ten sites. Two of these are located at Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club. All 11 greens are available for community use.

Figure 7.1: The map below shows the location of the ten greens across Uttlesford



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Table 7.1: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Type	Floodlit?	Number of greens
13	Dunmow Bowls Club	Great Dunmow	Flat	Yes	1
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Flat	No	1
50	Quendon Bowls Club	Rural Area	Flat	No	1
36	Jubilee Field	Rural Area	Flat	No	1
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Flat	No	1
60	Stebbing Bowls Club	Rural Area	Flat	No	1
73	Bishop's Stortford Bowls Club	Rural Area	Flat	No	2
77	Elsenham Bowls Club	Rural Area	Flat	No	1
83	Thaxted Bowls Club	Rural Area	Flat	No	1
98	Stansted Recreation Ground	Stansted Mountfitchet	Flat	No	1

In addition, Turpin Indoor Bowls Club is the only indoor bowls facility in Uttlesford. A purpose-built centre, it was built in 1996 and refurbished in 2004. It has six rinks and is rated above average quality. There is an aspiration to increase footfall at the site and consideration is being given to modifying its design to generate better links with users of the skatepark on the site (via café/vending facilities). For more information relating to indoor bowls, please see the Sports Facilities & Recreation Strategy Assessment Report that is being produced in conjunction with this report.

Security of tenure

Of the responsive clubs, two; Stansted Mountfitchet BC (which plays at Stanstead Recreation Ground) and Thaxted BC own their ground. As such, these clubs are considered to have security of tenure. Elsenham BC is also considered to have security of tenure, with 37 years remaining on its 60 year lease from Elsenham Parish Council.

Radwinter BC has an agreement with Radwinter Parish Council whereby if the Club maintains the green, it does not have to pay rent. This does not; however, provide security of tenure.

Quality

Following a non-technical assessment of greens in Uttlesford, nine greens are assessed as good quality and two as standard quality. The table below summarises the quality on a site-by-site basis.

Table 7.2: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Management	Number of greens	Quality of green
13	Dunmow Bowls Club	Great Dunmow	Sports Club	1	Good
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Parish Council	1	Good
36	Jubilee Field	Rural Area	Trust	1	Good
50	Quendon Bowls Club	Rural Area	Club	1	Good
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Sports Club	1	Good
60	Stebbing Bowls Club	Rural Area	Club	1	Good
73	Bishop's Stortford Bowls Club	Rural Area	Sports Club	2	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Management	Number of greens	Quality of green
77	Elsenham Bowls Club	Rural Area	Sports Club	1	Good
83	Thaxted Bowls Club	Rural Area	Sports Club	1	Standard
98	Stansted Recreation Ground	Stansted Mountfitchet	Sports Club	1	Standard

Of the responsive clubs, two; Stansted Mountfitchet BC and Radwinter BC feel the non-technical site assessments are reflective of their views of green quality.

Thaxted BC believes that its green is of standard quality; however, does report some issues with grass coverage and drainage, as well as the green having a slight slope. These issues are representative of observations from site visit.

Elsenham BC states that its green is of standard quality rather than good quality due issues with drainage and dog fouling.

In general, except for Thaxted Bowling Club, the grass coverage on greens is identified as being good, as is the evenness of the playing surface, condition of the ditches and boards and the surrounding pathways.

Accessibility

Responding clubs state that players generally travel between two and five miles to access facilities. The only exception to this is Stansted Mountfitchet BC, that reports players are traveling five or more miles to access its facilities.

The clubs also report that the proportion of players from outside Uttlesford using their facilities is between one and 25%.

Ancillary facilities

All responding clubs report having access to a clubhouse or pavilion. Radwinter BC and Elsenham BC describe having good ancillary facilities, with toilets, a kitchen and storage space. Both also have disabled access. Elsenham BC rents its facility out for events; however, feels it could be better utilised by the local community. This would also provide additional income and increase sustainability.

Whilst content with the facilities it has access to, Radwinter BC does highlight issues with electricity supply to its pavilion. At present, supply is connected to the former larger recreation ground pavilion, which is soon to be closed following the development of a new one. It expresses that it would like more support from the charity running the recreation ground.

Thaxted BC believes its ancillary facilities are of standard quality. Whilst Stansted Mountfitchet BC describes its facilities as poor and in need of refurbishment. Whilst it would like to expand the footprint of its pavilion, this is not possible due to a lack of space.

Floodlighting

The green located at Dunmow Cricket Club has floodlights. Floodlighting provides additional opportunity for access for training and matches during the evenings and increases a sites capacity, especially during the winter. Floodlit bowling greens are; however, relatively rare across the country.

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7.4: Demand

Current demand

There are ten bowls clubs playing in Uttlesford. Across the four responsive clubs there is a total of 209 members. Where known, this is broken down into male, female and junior members in the table overleaf.

Table 7.3: Current club membership for bowls clubs in Uttlesford²⁶

Club name	Current			
	Senior male	Senior female	Juniors	Total
Stansted Mountfitchet BC	34	14	0	48
Elsenham BC	40	20	2	62
Thaxted BC	39	18	0	57
Radwinter BC	31	10	1	42
Quendon BC	-	-	-	-
Saffron Walden BC	-	-	-	-
Stebbing BC	-	-	-	-
Clavering BC	-	-	-	-
Dunmow BC	-	-	-	-
Great Chesterford BC	-	-	-	-
Total	144	62	3	209

Based on known club information, the largest club playing in Uttlesford is currently Elsenham BC, with a total of 62 members. This is closely followed by Thaxted BC, with a total of 57 members.

Two responsive clubs; Elsenham and Radwinter report having junior members. These clubs have two members and one member respectively.

Despite there being a decline in senior membership for bowls nationally, both Stansted Mountfitchet BC and Elsenham BC report an increase in senior members over the last three years and Radwinter BC describes membership numbers as remaining consistent.

Only one club; Elsenham BC, reports decreases in membership. This is across both its senior and junior sections. This is attributed to players mainly leaving the area or moving to different clubs.

Future demand

Using ONS projections (2016-2041), the number of persons aged 65 and over living in Uttlesford is likely to increase continuously from 17,096 in 2017 to 29,783 in 2041, representing an increase of 74.2%. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for bowling greens may increase greatly over this period.

All four responsive clubs describe aspirations to increase membership. Where quantified this can be seen below.

²⁶ The demand information for Quendon, Saffron Walden, Stebbing and Clavering bowls clubs is unknown.

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Table 7.4: Future membership aspirations quantified by clubs

Club name	Current		
	Senior male	Juniors	Total
Stansted Mountfitchet BC	20	10	30
Elsenham Bowls Club	40	40	80
Thaxted Bowling Club	10	4	14
Radwinter Bowls Club ²⁷	-	-	-
Total	70	54	124

Elsenham BC has the most ambitious growth aspirations. It reports wanting to increase both its senior and junior section by 40 members. It plans to do this through open days, including ones with schools and local groups. It would also like to run junior competitions with free entry and offer of cash prizes.

Stansted Mountfitchet BC would like to increase by 20 senior and ten junior members. It hopes to achieve this through open days, as well as advertising in the parish council information pack and through business networking.

Thaxted BC would like to increase by ten senior and four junior members. Similarly, to the other two clubs, it plans to hold open days, as well as offer coaching sessions and advertise more through its newsletter and website.

Latent demand

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 119 people who would like to participate in the sport within Uttlesford. The most dominant segment is 'Ralph and Phyllis' - Retired couples, enjoying active and comfortable lifestyles (30%).

7.5 Capacity 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/evening when a popular league is operating but may be empty for the rest of the week.

Although Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, it does recognise that any outdoor bowls club (six rinks) that doesn't have 60 members would have 'capacity' to accommodate more members. On this basis, we have used 60 members as a guide to whether greens may be overplayed or requires further investigation to fully determine its capacity. Further to this, as a guide, at least 20 members are required for a green to generally be sustainable.

²⁷ Radwinter BC does not quantify its growth aspirations.

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Table 7.5: Current and future bowling green capacity

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Quality	Total members (current demand)	Number of greens	Recommended site capacity (members)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional members	Future capacity based on growth aspirations of clubs (where specified)
13	Dunmow Bowls Club	Great Dunmow	Good	-	1	60	-	-
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Good	-	1	60	-	-
36	Jubilee Field	Rural Area	Good	-	1	60	-	-
50	Quendon Bowls Club	Rural Area	Good	-	-	-	-	-
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Good	42	1	60	18	-
60	Stebbing Bowls Club	Rural Area	Good	-	-	-	-	-
73	Bishop's Stortford Bowls Club	Rural Area	Good	-	2	120	-	-
77	Elsenham Bowls Club	Rural Area	Good	62	1	60	2	82
83	Thaxted Bowls Club	Rural Area	Standard	57	1	60	3	11
98	Stansted Recreation Ground	Stansted Mountfitchet	Standard	48	1	60	12	18

Based on current demand (where known), one green; Elsenham Bowl Club, is overplayed. This is; however, only a minimal amount of overplay by just two members and can therefore be accommodated. The remaining three greens have enough spare capacity to accommodate more play, although it is also worthy of note that some of the greens may also accommodate pay and play which is not factored into the capacity figures.

In terms of future capacity, Elsenham BC highlights aspiration to grow by a total of 80 members. This would increase the greens current overplay of two to 82 members. However, achieving this full level of increase is highly ambitious. Based on aspirations for membership growth, both Thaxted Bowls Club and Stansted Recreation Ground would also become overplayed by 11 and 18 members respectively.

Radwinter BC does not quantify growth aspirations; however, capacity on the green at Radwinter Recreation Ground would allow for an increase of 18 members before the green reaches its recommended capacity based on Bowls England guidelines. As previously mentioned, the 60-member capacity is just a guideline and further investigation to fully determine capacity is required for each individual green.

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7.6 Conclusions

In summary, where membership is known, greens can support current demand, with potential to accommodate further club members. This is with the exception of Elsenham Bowls Club, which has a minimal overplay of two members.

When looking at the future picture based on club growth aspirations, the overplay at Elsenham Bowls Club would increase significantly if the level of growth is achieved. However, given the green is assessed as good quality, if this is sustained, then certainly in the short term overplay is likely to be manageable with future growth being monitored.

In addition, both Thaxted Bowls Club and Stansted Recreation Ground would become overplayed by 11 and 18 members respectively if future growth was achieved. Although this level of overplay is likely to be manageable, there is a clear need to improve the quality of both greens which are identified as poor and standard quality respectively.

Therefore, priority should be placed on ensuring that existing levels of provision are sustained, and green quality and ancillary provision is improved where necessary to allow for continued use and to accommodate future growth.

Bowls summary

- ◀ There are 11 flat greens located across ten sites in Uttlesford. Two are located at Bishop's Stortford Bowls Club. Eight bowling greens are located in the Rural Area, with one green located in each the Stansted Mountfitchet and Great Dunmow analysis areas.
- ◀ Of the responsive clubs, three; Stansted Mountfitchet BC Thaxted BC and Elsenham BC, are considered to have security of tenure.
- ◀ Two clubs; Stansted Mountfitchet BC and Thaxted BC own their greens, whilst Elsenham BC has a long term lease. Radwinter BC is not considered to have security of tenure due to a non-contractual agreement.
- ◀ Following a non-technical assessment of greens in Uttlesford, nine greens are assessed as good quality and two as standard quality.
- ◀ All responding clubs report having access to a clubhouse to pavilion.
- ◀ Whist content with the facilities it has access to, Radwinter BC does highlight issues with electricity supply to the bowling club pavilion.
- ◀ There are ten bowls clubs playing in Uttlesford. Across the four responsive clubs there is a total of 209 members.
- ◀ Despite there being a decline in senior membership for bowls nationally, both Stansted Mountfitchet BC and Elsenham BC report an increase in senior members over the last three years and Radwinter BC describes membership numbers as remaining consistent.
- ◀ All four responsive clubs describe aspirations to increase membership number.
- ◀ Using ONS projections (2016-2041), the number of persons aged 65 and over living in Uttlesford is likely to increase continuously from 17,096 in 2017 to 29,783 in 2041, representing an increase of 74.2%. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for bowling greens may increase greatly over this period.
- ◀ In summary, where membership numbers are known, greens can support current demand, with potential to accommodate further club members. Except for Elsenham Bowls Club, which has a minimal overplay of two members.
- ◀ When looking at the future picture based on club growth aspirations, the overplay at Elsenham Bowls Club would increase (if achieved) and both Thaxted Bowls Club and Stansted Recreation would become overplayed by 11 and 18 members respectively. However, further investigation to fully determine capacity is required for each individual green.

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PART 8: TENNIS

8.1: Introduction

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

Consultation

There are 11 tennis clubs in Uttlesford; Of these, nine were responsive to consultation requests totalling a response rate of 82%. The two clubs which were unresponsive were Dunmow TC and The Sampfords TC. As such, any information regarding these clubs has been obtained through online research.

8.2: Supply

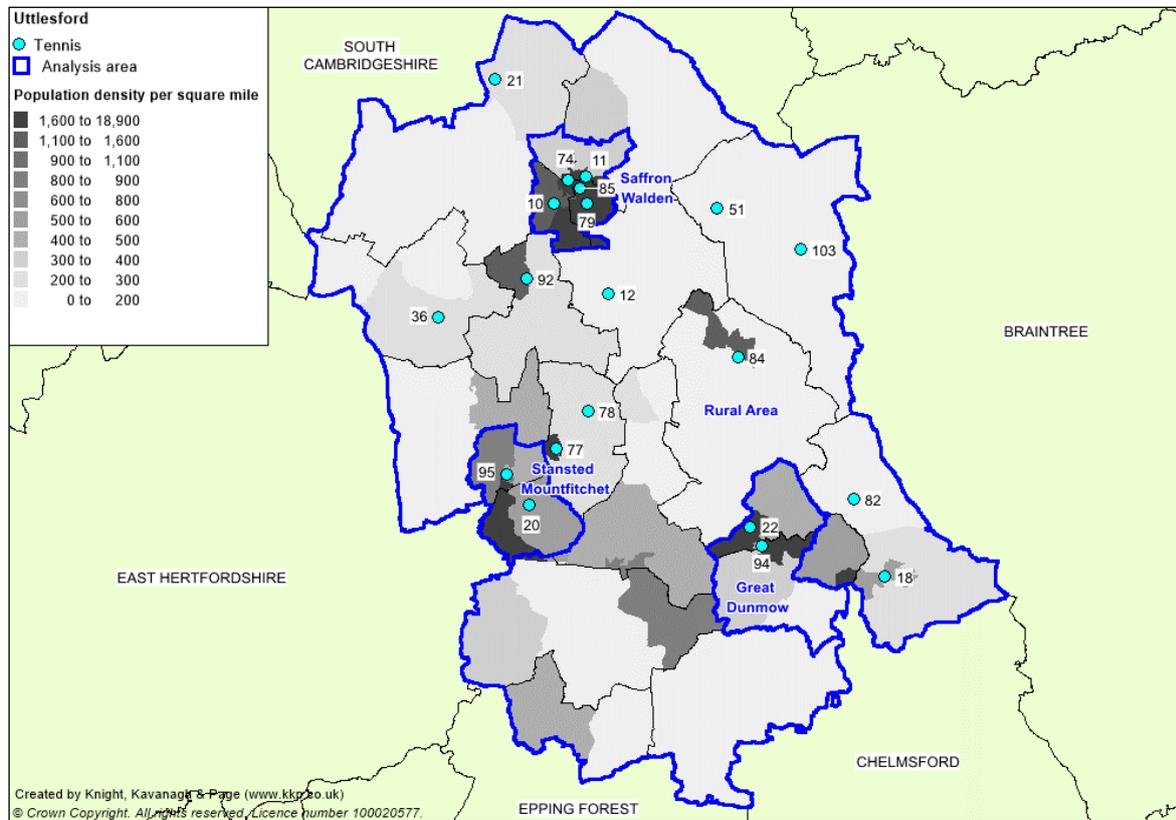
There are 58 outdoor tennis courts identified in Uttlesford across 20 sites, with 56 courts being available for community use across 19 sites. The only site which is not available for community use is Dame Bradbury School. There are no indoor tennis courts provided in Uttlesford.

The majority of tennis provision is located in the Rural and Saffron Walden analysis areas, containing 27 and 22 courts respectively. The Stansted Mountfitchet and Great Dunmow analysis areas have comparable levels of provision, with four courts located in the former. Great Dunmow contains the remaining five courts.

For the purposes of this report, availability for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs. This also includes availability for social use or pay and play. Figure 8.1 identifies the location of current tennis courts in Uttlesford. For a key to the map, see Table 8.1.

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Figure 8.1: Location of tennis provision in Uttlesford



Disused provision

Friends School (Walden School) was closed in 2017. There were two macadam tennis courts at the site which are now disused.

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Table 8.1: Summary of provision site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Site user	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	-	School	Yes - unused	7	No	Macadam	Poor
11	Dame Bradbury School	Saffron Walden	-	School	No	2	No	Macadam	Poor
12	Debden Recreation Ground	Rural Area	-	Parish Council	Yes - unused	2	No	Concrete	Poor
16	Elsenham Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Elsenham TC	Sports Club	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
18	Felsted School	Rural Area	-	School	Yes - unused	8	No	Macadam	Poor
						3	No	Grass	Poor
20	Forest Hall School/ Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre	Stansted Mountfitchet	-	School	Yes - unused	2	No	Macadam	Poor
21	Great Chesterford Recreation Ground ²⁸	Rural Area	-	Parish Council	Yes - unused	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
22	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	Great Dunmow	-	Local Authority	Yes - unused	3	Yes	Macadam	Poor
36	Jubilee Field	Saffron Walden	Clavering TC	Local Authority	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	-	Parish Council	Yes - unused	1	No	Macadam	Standard
74	Castle Hill Tennis Club	Saffron Walden	Castle Hill TC	Sports Club	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Standard
						2	No	Grass	Standard
78	Henham Tennis Club	Rural Area	Henham TC	Sports Club	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
79	Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre	Saffron Walden	-	Local Authority	Yes - unused	2	Yes	Concrete	Standard
82	Stebbing Tennis Club	Rural Area	Stebbing TC	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
84	Thaxted Tennis Club	Rural Area	Thaxted TC	Sports Club	Yes	2	Yes	Astroturf	Standard
85	Grove Tennis Club	Saffron Walden	Grove TC	Sports Club	Yes	4	Yes	Astroturf	Good

²⁸ Junior tennis courts

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Site user	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type	Court quality
						1	No	Macadam	Standard
92	Newport Village Tennis Club	Rural Area	Newport Village TC	Sports Club	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good
94	Dunmow Tennis Club	Great Dunmow	Dunmow TC	Sports Club	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
95	Stansted Tennis Club	Stansted Mountfitchet	Stansted TC	Sports Club	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
103	The Sampfords Lawn Tennis Club	Saffron Walden	The Sampfords LTC	Sports Club	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Standard

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Development plans

The following clubs have outlined development plans to increase the quality of existing provision at of their respective sites. There are no identified plans to create additional tennis court provision in Uttlesford.

Table 8.2: Club development plans

Site ID	Club	Development plans
74	Castle Hill TC	The Club plans to create one hard court in replacement of a pre-existing grass court.
78	Henham TC	Two courts need resurfacing and fencing. Potential need to refurbish floodlighting.
82	Stebbing TC	Courts and floodlighting to be resurfaced in next ten years.
84	Thaxted TC	Resurface Astroturf courts and install new fencing.
85	Grove TC	Resurfacing of a macadem court to an astro turf surface.
92	Newport Village TC	Plans for courts to be repainted/relined in 2019.

Floodlighting

Of the 56 courts available for community use, 22 are floodlit across nine sites. There are four club sites which are not floodlit. Providing floodlighting could provide opportunities to increase capacity and boost participation where required. Club courts without floodlighting are:

- ◀ Clavering TC (Silver Jubilee Field)
- ◀ Castle Hill TC
- ◀ Henham TC
- ◀ The Sampfords Lawn TC

Court type

Macadam is the most common playing surface for community available courts within Uttlesford, with 43 courts (74%) courts being this type. The remaining courts types are artificial turf (10%), grass (9%) or concrete (7%).

Quality

Of the courts which are available for community use, 17 are good quality (30%), 14 are standard quality (25%) and 25 are poor quality (45%).

Table 8.3: Summary of court quality (community use only)

Good	Standard	Poor
17	14	25

The 17 good quality tennis courts are situated across seven sites. Of these, six are associated with tennis clubs. Great Chesterford Recreation Ground is the only good quality site without an attached club, although it should be noted that both courts located at this site are specifically for junior tennis and as such, would be unsuitable to accommodate the majority of demand associated with a community tennis club.

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The following clubs are identified as having access to good quality courts:

- ◀ Elsenham TC
- ◀ Clavering TC
- ◀ Newport Village TC
- ◀ Stebbing TC
- ◀ The Grove TC
- ◀ Stansted TC

Of the standard quality courts, 11 are accessed by clubs; located at Castle Hill, Henham, Thaxted, Grove and Dunmow tennis clubs.

The remaining standard quality courts are located at Radwinter Recreation Ground and Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre; however, these courts are not currently used by any community tennis club.

Thaxted TC highlight that its courts have continually decreased in quality over the past three years due to ageing and subsequent wear and tear. The Club does; however, highlight plans to resurface both courts and improve the surrounding fencing.

No community tennis clubs are identified as accessing poor quality courts. The courts assessed as poor quality through non-technical assessment share similar characteristics including lack of grip underfoot, loose gravel and evidence of moss. The latter resulting in courts being slippery, particularly during wet weather.

The maintenance of non club courts is also considered to be basic and infrequent, as opposed to club maintained courts, which tend to receive more specialised and dedicated maintenance regimes. In the main, sites which are identified as being poor quality are located at school sites are used for curricular activity aside from tennis, such as netball.

Ancillary provision

Grove, Thaxted, Stebbing and Stansted tennis clubs assess their ancillary facilities to be either of good or adequate quality, meeting the needs of current members.

Elsenham, Castle Hill and Henman tennis clubs highlight that changing facilities at their home site are of overall poor quality. This is mostly a consequence of age and high levels of use. Whilst functional, these facilities would benefit from refurbishment.

Newport Village TC highlight that its clubhouse has no water or electricity and consequently during the winter months, the facility is not fit for purpose.

Ownership and management

There is a mix of ownership and management of tennis courts within Uttlesford. All nine clubs which were responsive to consultation manage their respective home sites on a day to day basis and are responsible for the upkeep of the facilities.

Ownership of the facilities, however, varies; Elsenham, Henman, Stebbing and Thaxted tennis clubs all own their home facilities, whilst facilities at both Grove TC and Newport Village TC are owned by charitable trusts.

Facilities at Stansted TC and Clavering TC are owned by parish councils and Castle Hill TC is owned by a private estate. Management and ownership of Dunmow TC and The Sampfords LTC is unknown.

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Security of tenure

In the main, security of tenure for tennis clubs in Uttlesford is considered to be secure. Stansted TC did highlight that its existing 21 year lease arrangement with Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council is coming to its conclusion; however, it does not envisage any issues with lease renewal.

Clavering TC highlights that it has no formal arrangement regarding use of Jubilee Field; however, this is not perceived to be an issue for the Club.

8.3: Demand

There are 11 tennis clubs in Uttlesford which collectively account for 1,328 members (senior members and 551 junior members), as shown in the table below.

Table 8.4: Summary of club membership

Name of club	Number of members		Total
	Seniors	Juniors	
Clavering TC	70	30	100
Elsenham TC	50	20	70
Henham TC	70	30	100
Castle Hill TC	46	15	61
Grove TC	160	150	310
Stansted TC	60	40	100
Stebbing TC	110	85	195
Thaxted TC	51	23	74
Newport Village TC	75	25	100
Dunmow TC	69	126	195
The Sampfords LTC	16	7	23
Total	777	551	1,328

Grove TC is by far the largest club in the area, serving 160 senior and 150 junior members. In comparison, the smallest club is Castle Hill TC, which caters for 61 members (46 senior and 15 junior).

Future demand

Four clubs outline plans to increase membership, this is quantified in the table below. Planned membership growths equates to a total of 60 members.

Table 8.5: Potential future demand identified by clubs

Club	Senior future demand	Junior future demand	Total future demand
Elsenham TC	5	5	10
Thaxted TC	10	15	25
Stebbing TC	15	-	15
Newport Village TC	5	5	10
Total	35	25	60

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Unmet and latent demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to courts. At present there is no identified unmet demand in Uttlesford.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population, should they have access to more or better provision. Both Castle Hill TC and Stebbing TC reports that if they had access to additional tennis courts at their respective home sites, they would be able to accommodate additional demand.

Parks tennis

Parks tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by Local Tennis Leagues which affiliates to the LTA and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

There is not a Parks Tennis League currently operating in Uttlesford.

Tennis Tuesdays

After being trialled in London in 2014, the LTA launched Tennis Tuesdays in partnership with sportswear brand Nike. The initiative focuses on increasing women's participation in tennis and skill development with a key fundamental social element, seeking to engage women in new and innovative ways to help break down barriers to female participation. Sessions are available to all abilities and are structured based on four ability levels ranging from beginner to advanced, each week based on one of six themes ranging from improving specific techniques to tactical awareness and match play. Sessions run from May to October, taking place every Tuesday evening for an hour.

As it stands there are no Tennis Tuesdays sessions running within Uttlesford and there are also none running in neighbouring local authorities.

Informal tennis

It is considered that all courts in Uttlesford 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 at parish council sites throughout the summer months following events such as Wimbledon, whereas no education sites report any regular demand.

LTA Clubspark Programme

The LTA has recently developed a programme to change the way in which people access local authority managed tennis courts, mainly at park sites. As well as providing free access the programme can also operate a remotely managed charging policy and seeks to secure courts through an online booking system (Clubspark) which allows members access through using a fob or access code system through electronic gates.

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Not only does this deter misuse use of courts but it also allows genuine tennis participation to be more effectively tracked and monitored, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed and used. This online booking system sends an automated email as evidence as part of a self-policing system for managing court bookings.

Another advantage of securing access is to make tennis courts revenue generating rather than open access. This revenue generation acts to form a sinking fund for the repair and eventual resurfacing of the courts at each site, therefore making courts more sustainable in the long-term.

Tennis opened up

The vision within the new LTA strategy is 'Tennis opened up'. This focuses on increasing participation by making tennis relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. In order to make this a reality there will be seven key areas of focus; visibility, innovation, investment, accessibility, engagement, performance and leadership.

In relation to facilities, in making tennis more accessible, there will be a focus on increasing the awareness of affordable tennis opportunities and making it easy for people to find and access tennis facilities.

With regards to investment, there will be support for community facilities and schools, with the LTA evolving its facility investment strategy to deliver the right tennis facilities and operating models. Furthermore, there will be support for clubs around growth, membership retention, increasing participation and financial sustainability.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

The LTA advises that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. Indoor courts can accommodate 200 members with air domed courts being able to host 100. As grass courts are only available for 12 weeks of the year they are not included in membership numbers. Club membership, where known and club home site capacity is summarised in the table overleaf.

Table 8.6: Supply and demand analysis

Name of club	Current demand	Future demand	Site capacity	Capacity rating
Clavering TC	100	-	80	20
Elsenham TC	70	10	120	40
Henham TC	100	-	80	20
Castle Hill TC	61	-	40	21
Grove TC	310	-	280	30
Stansted TC	100	-	180	80
Stebbing TC	195	15	180	30
Thaxted TC	74	25	120	21
Newport Village TC	100	10	80	30
Dunmow TC	195	-	120	75
The Sampfords LTC	23	-	40	17

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8.5: Conclusion

Seven club sites are identified as operating over the recommended capacity, based on guidelines provided by the LTA. At present, this is most significant at Dunmow Tennis Club, which is currently operating over capacity by 75 members.

As previously identified, both Castle Hill TC and Stebbing TC outline latent demand and therefore a lack of capacity is already a prominent issue at both sites. The four remaining clubs with identified overplay do not identify capacity as being problem.

Targeted work is required at specific club sites to better accommodate current demand and future growth. This may involve exploring the potential of satellite sites for clubs across sites which are not currently being accessed or are underutilised. It is also recommended to protect and where possible enhance the existing stock of tennis club facilities via appropriate maintenance and management support. This will be further explored in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

Whilst the available analysis highlights that there is likely an adequate supply of tennis courts across the area (when also considering courts not currently accessed by clubs), it is important to also consider the critical factors of how people access and discover courts to play tennis. LTA insight demonstrates that over 50% of all people who play between 1-11 times a year will do so in a non-club environment, for those who play monthly this figure remains at 40%. For those who play weekly the percentage share does split more evenly, showing 40% of weekly players doing so in clubs vs 30% in a non-club environment.

Therefore, its recommended to protect and where possible enhance the existing stock of tennis facilities via appropriate maintenance and management support to ensure adequate provision remains for those who seek regular tennis activity, whilst also encouraging consideration of how access and use can be improved across all tennis facilities to enable more informal play. This could include clubs creating links with other courts in close proximity to provide overspill or cater for pay and play users.

Tennis summary

- ◀ There are 58 tennis courts identified in Uttlesford, of which, 56 courts are available for community use. The Rural and Saffron Walden analysis areas contain the majority of tennis provision in Uttlesford, with a total of 49 courts located within the two areas.
- ◀ Of the 56 courts available for community use, 22 are floodlit across nine sites.
- ◀ Most courts have a macadam surface, representing 74% of existing supply.
- ◀ Of courts which are available for community use; 17 courts assessed as good quality, 14 as standard quality and 25 as poor quality.
- ◀ There are 11 tennis clubs in Uttlesford which collectively account for 1,328 members (senior members and 551 junior members).
- ◀ Seven club sites are identified as operating over capacity guidelines, with two clubs (Castle Hill TC and Stebbing TC) outlining that lack of capacity is a prominent issue.
- ◀ Targeted work is required at specific club sites to better accommodate current demand and future growth. This may involve exploring the potential of satellite sites for clubs at sites which are not currently being accessed for community tennis.

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PART 9: NETBALL

9.1: Introduction

England Netball governs netball in England. Levels of participation are quickly increasing, with over 100,000 affiliated members and at least one million women and girls playing during a typical week. The NGBs aim is to provide its members and partners with the best possible service and experience in sport.

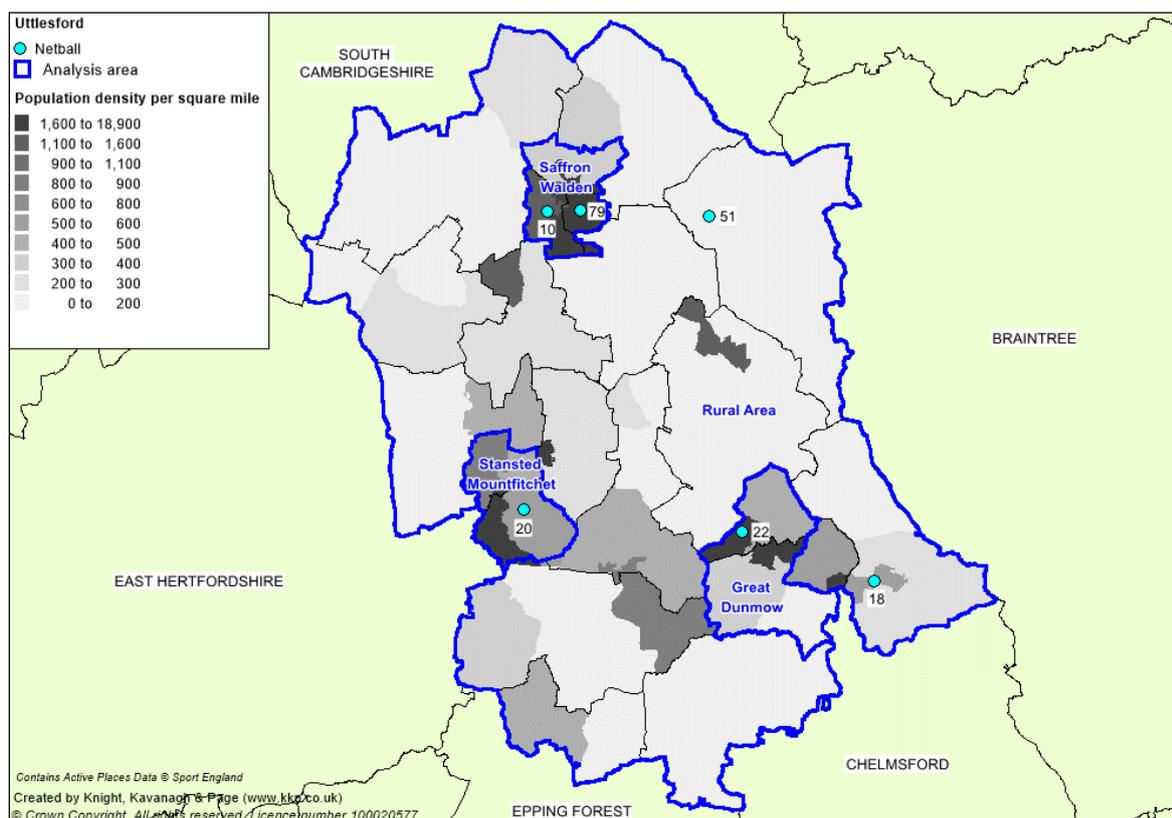
Consultation

Phone call consultation was carried out with England Netball, as well as a representative from Swan NC. Great Dunmow Junior NC and Saffron Hawks NC were unresponsive to consultation requests. Any information regarding these two clubs has been obtained through internet research.

9.2: Supply

There are 24 outdoor netball courts in Uttlesford located across six sites. The Figure below shows the location of all netball courts in the area.

Figure 9.1: Location of netball courts in Uttlesford



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Table 9.1: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Community use?	Quality rating
10	Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	7	No	Yes - unused	Poor
18	Felsted School	Rural Area	8	No	Yes - unused	Poor
20	Forest Hall School/ Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre	Stansted Mountfitchet	2	Yes	Yes - unused	Poor
22	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	Great Dunmow	4	Yes	Yes	Standard
51	Radwinter Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1	No	Yes - unused	Poor
79	Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre	Saffron Walden	2	Yes	Yes	Standard

As shown in the table above, netball courts are relatively evenly distributed in Uttlesford. The Rural and Saffron Walden analysis areas both contain nine courts. However, these are all of poor quality, except for those located at Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre in Saffron Walden. The Stansted Mountfitchet and Great Dunmow analysis areas contain two and four courts respectively.

Court type

All outdoor netball courts in Uttlesford have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

Overmarking

Whilst it does help with usage levels and sustainability, an issue for netball nationally is that many of its courts are dual use tennis courts. This limits accessibility (especially during the summer when tennis nets are often permanently in place) and also impacts on quality due to higher levels of wear and tear. In Uttlesford, all 26 courts are overmarked with tennis markings.

Floodlighting

Floodlit outdoor netball courts enable all year round evening use, thus allowing winter netball activity to take place as well as the more common summer netball activity. In Uttlesford nine courts are floodlit across three sites; Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre and Great Dunmow Leisure Centre.

Quality

Following site assessments, most netball courts (18) are assessed as poor quality. These courts are located at Saffron Walden County High School, Felsted School, Forest Hall School/ Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre and Radwinter Recreation Ground.

Poor quality ratings at all of these sites are attributed to evidence of moss or lichen on the playing surface, resulting in poor grip under foot. Site assessment also identifies fading line markings at Felsted School and Forest Hall School/ Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre. The latter is also reported to have loose gravel and a sloping gradient, which is also

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identified as a quality issue at Saffron Walden County High School. Forest Hall School/ Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre is currently accessed by Swan NC.

In the main, sites which are identified as being poor quality are located at school sites. School courts are often heavily used for multiple curricular activities including tennis. Further to this, the maintenance of such courts is often considered to be basic and more infrequent. This is likely to play a factor in school sites in Uttlesford remaining unused despite being available for community use.

The courts at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre, which are accessed by Great Dunmow Junior NC are assessed as standard quality, alongside the courts at Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre, which are used by Swan NC.

The courts at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre do not receive a good quality rating due to fading of line markings and a sloping to the court surface.

A point to note, Swan NC believes the courts at Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre and Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre to be of poor quality. The Club states that there is a lack of good quality outdoor courts in the Uttlesford area. As such, it is looking at using a new leisure centre being developed in neighbouring East Hertfordshire (providing six, floodlit courts), to start a new junior league next season. This league will run alongside the adult league already in operation.

It is also considering the potential of having this site as its home facility; however, it has concerns given that a high number of club members are from the Saffron Walden area and would have to travel a distance to access the new site.

9.3: Demand

There are three netball clubs active in Uttlesford. Consultation highlights that whilst these clubs train indoors, they play their matches on outdoor courts.

Swan NC currently has 160 junior and 60 adult members. In the junior section, the Club is currently operating two teams per age group, with three teams at u15's.

The junior section currently plays all its matches at a central venue (Great Baddow High School) in neighbouring Chelmsford. This is the central venue for the Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League, with all matches being played on a Saturday.

Adult teams from the Club play in either the Cambridgeshire League or the Bishop's Stortford Netball League and play matches at Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre and Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre.

Through online research, it is believed that Saffron Hawks NC has four adult and five junior teams. The teams are playing across four leagues; Hertfordshire County Netball League, Chelmsford Ladies Winter League, Broxbourne Netball League and Cambridge District Junior League.

Training

Consultation with Swan NC suggests the majority of its training takes place indoors at leisure centres and schools; however, due to sports halls being in high demand, it is hard to obtain any additional space for increases in demand.

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The Club states that should good quality, floodlit outdoor courts be available, it would be keen to move some training demand outside. Especially as this would better replicate match play conditions, with all matches being played on outdoor courts. Should it be able to expand its volunteer and coaching network, it could also use this as an opportunity to grow as a club, with additional capacity being created.

Play Netball

Play Netball provides a pay and play netball league that is designed for more casual, social players and teams. It requires no affiliation to England Netball and enables participants to join as individuals, with Play Netball then assigning them to a team. All leagues are held on outdoor courts, with a new season beginning as soon as the previous season ends (meaning activity takes place all year round).

There are currently no Play Netball Leagues in Uttlesford. The nearest Play Netball league is located in Cambridge.

Powerplay Netball

Powerplay is a commercial company operating football, cricket, basketball and netball leagues throughout the UK, available for all to join. There are currently no Powerplay Netball Leagues in Uttlesford. The nearest Powerplay netball league is located in Cambridge.

Back to Netball

Back to Netball sessions are running across England and provide women of all ages a gentle re-introduction to the sport. Sessions cover the basics of the game including passing, footwork and shooting and finish with a friendly game. Since its creation in 2010, over 60,000 women have taken part.

Swan NC runs Back to Netball sessions three times a week. Two sessions take place at Lord Butler Leisure Centre (one Thursday evening 8:00pm-9:00pm and one Saturday morning 10:00am-11:00am). A session also runs on a Wednesday evening 8:00pm-9:00pm at the Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre. The Club reports that it has 50 regular attendees to these sessions.

Walking netball

Walking netball has evolved from a growing demand for walking sports. It is a slower version of the game and has been designed so that anyone can play, regardless of age and fitness levels.

Swan NC runs a walking netball session on the indoor courts at Lord Butler Leisure Centre. This takes place at the same time as its Back to Netball Session from 10:00am- 11:00am.

High 5

High 5 is a version of netball that has five players instead of the usual seven, eliminating the positions of wing attack and defence. It is designed specifically for children aged 9-11, using fun and variety to get them into the game, polish skills and aid fitness. A key part of High 5 is players rotating around positions as this allows all participants to experience every position.

The Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League runs a High 5 league at Great Baddow High School in the neighbouring authority of Chelmsford.

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Latent demand

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool²⁹ enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball within Uttlesford but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 284 people, which is generally in line with authorities of similar size.

This is mostly made up of 'Chloe' - Young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim (34%), 'Alison – Mums with comfortable, but busy, lifestyle (20%) and 'Helena' – Single professional women, enjoying life in the fast lane (17%).

In addition to above, Swan NC reports it has waiting lists of up to 16 for each age group. At present it does not have access to enough good quality courts, or sufficient resources with regards to coaches and volunteers to accommodate this demand.

9.4 Conclusion

It appears there is a reasonable level of demand for netball in Uttlesford, as well as latent demand. Whilst there is likely enough provision to accommodate this demand, the quality of available outdoor courts available needs improvement.

Based on the above, priority should be placed on improving the existing provision, with a focus on sites currently being accessed by clubs (Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre and Great Dunmow Leisure Centre).

Good quality, floodlit courts could provide opportunity for clubs wishing to expand. This will; however, need further exploration. Furthermore, this will need to be considered in line with the potential of Swan NC moving to the neighbouring authority of East Hertfordshire.

Netball summary

- ◀ There are 26 outdoor netball courts in Uttlesford across seven sites, all of which are available for community use. Provision is relatively evenly spread across the District, with nine courts located in the Saffron Walden and Rural analysis areas and four courts in each of the Stansted Mountfitchet and Great Dunmow analysis areas.
- ◀ All outdoor netball courts in Uttlesford have a macadam surface.
- ◀ In Uttlesford, all 26 courts are overmarked with tennis markings.
- ◀ Following site assessments, most netball courts (18) are assessed as poor quality. These courts are located at Saffron Walden County High School, Felsted School, Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Great Dunmow Leisure Centre and Radwinter Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Swan NC states that there is a lack of good quality outdoor courts in the Uttlesford area. As such, it is looking at using a new leisure centre being developed in neighbouring East Hertfordshire for both training and setting up a new junior league.
- ◀ In Uttlesford nine courts are floodlit across three sites; Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre, Lord Butler Fitness & Leisure Centre and Great Dunmow Leisure Centre.
- ◀ There are three netball clubs active in Uttlesford. Consultation highlights that whilst these clubs train indoors, they play their matches on outdoor courts.
- ◀ Great Baddow High School in neighbouring Chelmsford is the central venue for the Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League. As such, there is some exported demand for junior match play.
- ◀ Swan NC are running walking netball, Back to Netball sessions across two sites; Forest Hall School/Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre and Lord Butler Leisure Centre.
- ◀ The Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League runs a High 5 league at Great Baddow High School in the neighbouring authority of Chelmsford.
- ◀ There is a high demand for netball in Uttlesford, as well as latent demand. Whilst there is likely

²⁹ See Appendix 2

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enough provision to accommodate this demand, the quality of courts available needs improvement.

PART 10: ATHLETICS

10.1: Introduction

Athletics is administered across the United Kingdom by UK Athletics, including responsibility for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of the sport, anti-doping protocol, health and safety, facilities and, training and coach education and permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics (EA) and many of the functions EA delivers to support clubs locally is through the Club Support Manager (CSM) network. The role of the CSM is to work strategically to provide high-quality support and guidance to a number of affiliated clubs and groups in the area. This work is to support clubs in building long-term sustainable structures and high-quality environments for current and new members and the wider local community.

Consultation

Saffron Walden Striders and Walden Triathlon Club were both consulted via telephone. However, attempts to contact Bishops Stortford Running Club were unsuccessful.

10.2: Supply

There are currently no purpose-built athletics facilities in Uttlesford.

Running clubs generally use a variety of other spaces such as parks and recreation grounds, for example, Great Dunmow Recreation Ground and also the general road network to participate. It is therefore essential to ensure that particularly in parks that the infrastructure is adequately able to accommodate such high levels of usage in relation to ensure path quality, access to toilet facilities and car parking.

There is a link to be made in relation to cross referencing with the Uttlesford Open Space Study which is currently being developed alongside this PPS in relation to both open space provision including parks provision but also in relation to the public rights of way (PROW). For example, ensuring the quality of key footpaths is maintained and road crossings are adequately provided.

10.3: Demand

There are three prominent running clubs; Saffron Striders Running Club, Bishops Stortford Running Club and Yak Yak.

Saffron Striders Running Club meet on a Tuesday evening at Lord Butler Leisure Centre, whilst Bishops Stortford Running Club meets at its clubhouse on Beldams Lane, also on a Tuesday evening. At present Yak Yak is using accessible open spaces to run sessions across a variety of days. Additionally, there is a triathlon club; WaldenTri, located in Uttlesford.

Bishops Stortford Running Club

Bishops Stortford Running Club has several hundred members from across East Herts and West Essex. The Club also has a multi-sport section (Stortford Tri), providing triathlon, duathlon, swimming and biking coaching and activities.

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It caters for all abilities, offering coaching and racing opportunities for both on and off-road running.

Saffron Striders Running Club

Saffron Striders Running Club has around 170 members, which is made up of male and female members. The Club caters for all levels of runner. It meets at Lord Butler Leisure Centre every Tuesday evening, as well as running circuit training on Thursdays through the summer months and a ten-week beginner course each spring. It is this beginners' course that it attributes to a significant increase in members. The catchment of this club covers Saffron Walden and the surrounding villages.

The Club reports having between 50 and 60 members attending its Tuesday road running sessions. With regards to competing, it participates in the Essex Championships for both road running and track running, as well as competing in the cross-country series. In addition, it organises an annual 5k league.

It aspires to have a dedicated clubhouse as its main base. It also wants to develop a junior section; however, without a dedicated site, where it can provide none road running activities this is difficult.

Yak Yak

Yak Yak is an informal running club for women and children in the Saffron Walden area. The club has grown significantly over the last few years and now has approximately 70 members, which range significantly in age. The aim of the Club is to provide an opportunity for women and children to get active in a friendly environment, where they can feel comfortable and confident to participate in running. Sessions include fun activities, as well as running technique and development advice.

It used to run its sessions as Friends School (Walden School); however, this site closed in 2017. At present, sessions are being held at varying times, including during the school holidays and taking place on available, accessible open space.

It aspires to have a base such as a clubhouse to further increase the social opportunities which are important to its members. It highlights it would be happy to share this space with other clubs in the area. Whilst some formal athletics provision would be welcomed, should this not be possible, it expresses a need for well lit, well maintained open spaces, with pathways suitable for running activity. Lighting both within the open spaces and the pathways and green corridors connecting them are also identified to be key. Especially for those members who chose to meet to run around the local area.

WaldenTri

WaldenTri is made up of both an adult and junior section. Both of these sections have grown over the last few years, now with approximately 84 and 180 members respectively.

The Club is currently using Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre for swim training (adult section on a Wednesday evening and junior section every other Saturday); however, it does not have a specific base for either running or cycling sessions. Whilst it meets at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre before going road running, this is not a dedicated club facility. Similarly to running, for cycling sessions it is training on the roads. This is; however, reported as not being ideal for beginners or individuals who are not confident to ride on the road.

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Through the summer, the junior section trains on a Monday evening at Carver Barracks. There are also occasional open water swimming sessions in Bishops Stortford and the neighbouring authority of Cambridge.

Both WaldenTri and Saffron Striders Running Club are both linked to a recently developed club; Walden Track and Field, which aims to get local young people involved in a variety of athletic disciplines. The Club hopes to expand through links to local secondary schools following previous success of establishing a local primary school cross country league. This involved 11 primary schools across the Saffron Walden and took place at the Walden School Playing Fields. The league ran for several years before the closure of the school in 2017.

Consultation with both WaldenTri and Saffron Striders sees an expressed demand for a home base. Not just to support with the growth of junior participation but also to allow for revenue generation. Both clubs would be happy to consider a joined up approach, potentially alongside other sporting clubs in the area to make such a facility more sustainable.

Further to this, there is a desire for more off road provision for running and cycling not just to allow for better connections between Saffron Walden and surrounding rural villages but also to provide a safer option for participation in the sports both within a club setting and for those choosing to participate recreationally.

Parkrun

Parkrun is a series of weekly five kilometre(k) runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of parks and open space across 850 locations in 12 countries including the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Parkrun events are all ability runs open to all aged 14 years and older, whilst there are shorter 2k Junior Parkrun events available on Sunday mornings for runners aged four to fourteen years old. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to receive a printed barcode which gives them access to all Parkrun events.

Parkrun actively promotes local clubs as part of its weekly events in order to advertise them to runners who may potentially be interested in joining a club, whilst approximately 10% of current Parkrun participants are already associated to running clubs. It is common for local clubs to also support Parkrun events through volunteering.

There is currently a Parkrun event at Great Dunmow Recreation Ground. This may; however, soon be moving to a site in Saffron Walden.

Great Run Local

Great Run Local is a network of running events which operate very much like Parkrun in that they too are free, weekly and volunteer driven. It differs, however, in that distances offered are flexible, but generally include two routes at 2k and 5k in order to encourage participation of all abilities.

There are no Great Run Local events currently hosted in Uttlesford, with the nearest event at Newmarket in the Forest Heath District.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

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The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

RunTogether

RunTogether is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. The role of RunTogether is to provide enjoyable, supportive and inclusive running opportunities across England in the form of set routes, running groups and access to programmes such as Find a Guide and Mental Health Ambassadors.

Saffron Striders Running Club and Bishops Stortford Running Club are RunTogether groups.

Latent demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,730 people who would like to participate in the sport within Uttlesford. The most dominant segment is 'Tim' – settling down males, sporty male professionals, buying a house and settling down with partner (21%).

Saffron Walden Striders reports latent demand, with regular enquires as to whether it operates a junior section.

Future demand

England Athletics reports that there is generally a current growth being experienced in relation to athletics and running.

It is to be expected that the popularity of the Parkrun events and national running events, as well as demand for RunTogether groups, will increase in the future following national trends.

Compact athletic facilities³⁰

England Athletics has adopted UKA's strategic position that we should concentrate on preserving and improving the existing stock of 400m tracks rather than seeking to build additional ones. However, there are areas in the country where journey time to the nearest full size outdoor track is longer than ideal, and there are places where good coaching has created significant demand despite the lack of a local athletics facility.

³⁰ More details of this concept can be found at <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/other-design-guidance>.

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The Compact Athletics concept is intended to fill this gap, providing training facilities in places where there is insufficient demand, funding or land to accommodate a full-size track.

A Compact Athletics facility can take a number of forms, but essentially provides a strip of synthetic track plus some capacity for jumps and throws, enabling core athletic skills to be taught, enjoyed and developed.

Athletics summary

- ◀ There is currently no purpose-built athletics facility in Uttlesford.
- ◀ There are three prominent running clubs; Saffron Striders Running Club, Bishops Stortford Running Club and Yak Yak, as well as a successful triathlon club operating in the area; WaldenTri.
- ◀ Saffron Striders Running Club and Bishops Stortford Running Club are also RunTogether groups.
- ◀ WaldenTri, Saffron Striders and Yak Yak report demand for a dedicated home base, to support with the growth of junior participation and increase social opportunities, as well as allowing for revenue generation. The clubs would be happy to consider a joined-up approach, potentially alongside other sporting clubs in the area to make such a facility more sustainable.
- ◀ In addition to latent demand expressed through Sport England's Segmentation Tool, Saffron Striders also reports latent demand to establish a junior section. However, it currently feels unable to achieve this without a dedicated clubhouse base.
- ◀ It is to be expected that the popularity of the Parkrun events and national running events, as well as demand for RunTogether groups, will increase in the future following national trends.
- ◀ Based on latent demand in the area, there is likely demand to consider operating more running events such as Parkrun in the area.

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. Whilst the NPPF was updated was reviewed in 2018, policies relating to sport having not significantly changed.

The 'promoting healthy and safe 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 Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period. The Strategy is presently in draft and is due for publication in 2018.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

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£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy, the FA has commissioned a national piece of work. Over the next two years, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment (FA, Premier League and DCMS) will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

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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.
- ◀ 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 (2016-2021)

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*

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- ◀ **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*

Inspiring Generations Strategy

The ECB’s refreshed strategy called “Inspiring Generations” was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women’s and girls’ cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ◀ Investing in girls’ county age group cricket.
- ◀ Delivering a girls’ secondary school programme.

There will be a structured pathway for women and girls in both softball and hardball cricket.

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7’s offering

England Hockey Strategy

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

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

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

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The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

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

British Tennis Strategy 2019

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

Vision: tennis opened up

Mission: to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
 - The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone

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5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Although the Plan is currently being updated, this version remains the most up to date available. 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.

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 March 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.

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

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

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by

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an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.

- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

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The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims “To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England”.

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 the 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.