



WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT APRIL 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non turf pitch
PPOSS	Playing Pitch Strategy and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
SCB	Sussex Cricket Board
TGR	Team Generation Rate
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under
WDC	Wealden District Council

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

1. Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed by Wealden District Council (WDC) to undertake an assessment of all formal playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the district to assist it to strategically plan for the future.
2. This is the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment Report for Wealden. It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and other outdoor sports in accordance with Sport England's PPOSS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS (2013) and Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014) (ANOG) used for non-pitch sports. Both guidance documents detail a stepped approach that, for pitch sports, is separated into five distinct stages, with similar stages set out in ANOG:
 - ◀ 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
 - ◀ Stage D: Strategy & Action Plan
 - ◀ Step 9: Develop conclusions & recommendations
 - ◀ Step 10: Develop an action & implementation plan
 - ◀ Stage E: Implementation
 - ◀ Step 11: Apply and deliver the Strategy
 - ◀ Step 12: Keep the Strategy robust and up to date
 - ◀ Step 13: Adopt, monitor and review the PPS
3. Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the subsequent strategy document. This Assessment and subsequent Strategy will run to 2039, in line with the new Local Plan subject to annual monitoring and review taking place. If no review has taken place in three years from the date of the baseline data being collated, then the PPOSS will no longer be considered up to date or robust.

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1.2 Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

4. The primary purpose of the PPOSS is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities meets the local and community needs of both existing and future residents across Wealden District. The Strategy will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and will provide a robust and objective justification for future sporting provision.
5. 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. Paragraph 98 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.

Why the PPOSS is being developed

6. Wealden District Council is preparing a new Local Plan which will set out a vision and framework for the future development of the area up to 2039 and will make decisions on the location, amount and type of development needed in the district.
7. The Council undertook a Regulation 18 Direction of Travel Consultation in November 2020. This included a dedicated chapter on health and well-being including providing a number of policy options.
8. Paragraphs 98 of the NPPF states that Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate as relevant.
9. Paragraph 99 of the NPPF discusses assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.
10. An up-to-date PPOSS will form a key element of the Council’s evidence base to support its emerging health and well-being policies and the Local Plan as a whole.
11. This may provide opportunities to develop new playing pitches or improve the quality of existing playing pitches in Wealden in response to housing developments that create additional demand for pitches (as well as the accompanying ancillary offer) [by use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator](#). Where possible, this will be aligned to existing community sport clubs in Wealden which play an integral part in providing sport and physical activities to the local community
12. The Council already does much to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the population through its work in housing, environmental health, planning, leisure, economic development and other services. The Council is keen to build on this in partnership with others and recognises that the health of its residents and workforce is vital to the prosperity, sustainability and wellbeing of the district.

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14. Improved health does not happen by chance - it requires co-ordinated action by many agencies – both inside and outside the traditional health sector including through local community leadership models. With increasing pressures on the NHS and local government, the Council's Health and Well-Being Strategy (2022-2025) is designed to encourage increased responsibility and self-awareness alongside addressing health and wellbeing inequalities.
15. Key health issues for Wealden residents include:
 - ◀ Obesity
 - ◀ Physical inactivity
 - ◀ An increasingly ageing population creating a series of additional needs
16. The Health and Well-Being Strategy drew from a range of source material from local to national and presents them in a Wealden context. It references the five outcomes within Sport England's 'Towards an Action Nation' strategy in alignment with the Council's Corporate Plan objectives.
17. The Strategy identified key outcome areas where the Council, in conjunction with partners, could make the most difference to residents and set out projects in the Action Plan to progress these in a practical way including:
 - ◀ Physical and mental wellbeing (Including individual development)
 - ◀ Health Coach Pilot project
 - ◀ Walking opportunities
 - ◀ Dementia forums/ activities
 - ◀ Social and community development
 - ◀ Promoting open space and countryside assets such as the Cuckoo Trail
 - ◀ Targeted activities in a variety of settings- retirement living sites, leisure centres, community centres, village halls and recreation grounds
 - ◀ Community Grant Programme and funding support
 - ◀ Economic development
 - ◀ Workplace Health
 - ◀ Apprenticeships and Career Development

Aims of the Wealden Playing Pitch Strategy

- ◀ To protect playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities for the long term benefit of sport and that disused and lapsed playing fields are lost only where there is clear evidence that they are surplus to requirements;
- ◀ To promote a sustainable approach to the provision of new playing pitches;
- ◀ To ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand;
- ◀ To ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer term aspirations;
- ◀ To inform the development of relevant planning policies and the emerging Local Plan.

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Objectives of the Wealden Playing Pitch Strategy

- ◀ To engage with Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies (NGB's) and use the national PPS methodology to provide the project with a structure proven across the rest of England;
- ◀ To provide a robust evidence base on the current and future demand and need for playing pitches taking into account existing supply whilst assessing the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing provision that can be used by multiple Council departments and other stakeholders for a wide range of future projects;
- ◀ To gather a representative evidence base, by achieving a high response rate from the surveys sent to clubs, schools and parish councils/community organisations;
- ◀ To identify cross boundary NGB issues, the nature and location of any overuse, unmet demand and spare capacity for play across all pitch types and sports including all elements of current and future demand;
- ◀ To establish clear, prioritised, specific and achievable recommendations and actions to address the key issues around pitch provision and participation;
- ◀ To provide an estimated base cost for any additional provision/ upgrades of existing provision that is recommended using the Sports England cost guidance as a starting point; and
- ◀ To provide evidence that will help to protect existing supply of playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities, to enhance playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities and to provide new playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Management arrangements

18. 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, and to the required quality standard to meet Sport England guidance.
19. Further to this, a Steering Group is and will continue to be responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Wealden District Council, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).
20. It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPOSS has been finalised and adopted for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:
 - ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPOSS.
 - ◀ Ensure implementation of the PPOSS's recommendations and action plan.
 - ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPOSS.
 - ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

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Scope

21. The following are the key outdoor sports in Wealden and as such are included within the scope:
- ◀ Cricket
 - ◀ Football (including 3G pitches)
 - ◀ Rugby union
 - ◀ Hockey (artificial grass pitches)
 - ◀ Bowls
 - ◀ Tennis
 - ◀ Netball
 - ◀ Stoolball
22. There is no rugby league known to be played in Wealden. To that end, regionally, there is just one known rugby league club in the whole of the Sussex region; Brighton & Hove Rugby League Club. Rugby league does therefore not feature in the forthcoming assessment.
23. For the non-pitch sports, (i.e., tennis, bowls, and netball) 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 NPPF. Please note that although this is less prescriptive than the PPS Guidance, the same approach is applied to provide a full supply and demand assessment for each sport.

Study area

24. The study area comprises the whole of Wealden District Council's administrative area. Due to its size, Wealden is broken into smaller subsections known as analysis areas. Five are identified and are constructed using LSOA boundaries. In some instances, these do not align with ward boundaries and therefore there are some joint inclusions of wards in the table below.

Table 1.1: Analysis areas by ward

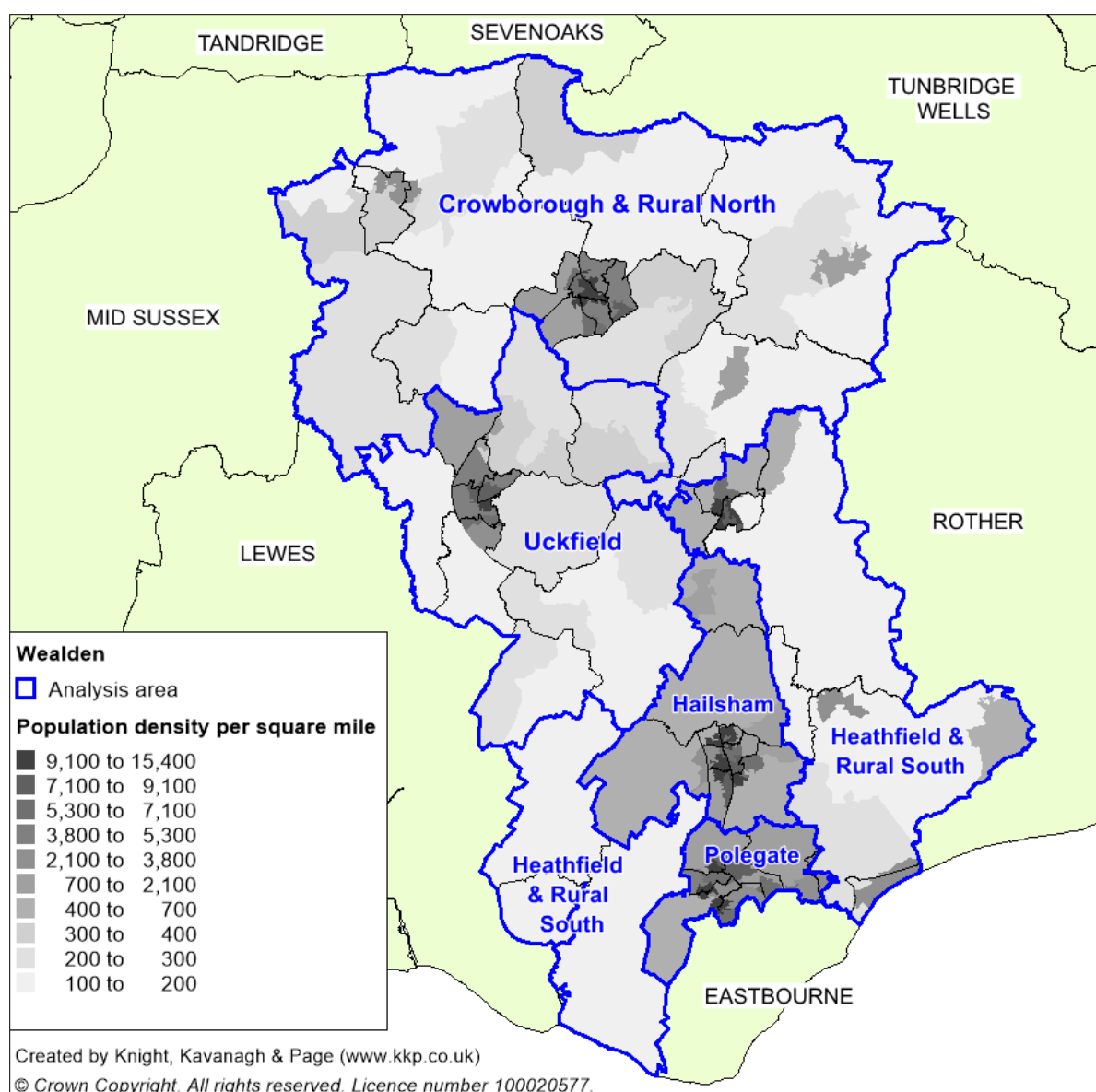
Analysis area	Wards	
Hailsham	Arlington	Hailsham Central
Hailsham	Hailsham East	Hailsham North West
Hailsham	Hailsham North	Hailsham South
Hailsham	Hailsham West	Horam & Punnetts Town
Hailsham	Hellingly	
Polegate	Herstmonceux & Pevensey Levels	Polegate South & Willingdon Watermill
Polegate	Lower Willingdon	Stone Cross
Polegate	Polegate Central	Upper Willingdon
Polegate	Polegate North	
Crowborough & Rural North	Crowborough Central	Danehill & Fletching
Crowborough	Crowborough Jarvis Brook	Forest Row
Crowborough	Crowborough North	Framfield & Cross-in-Hand
Crowborough	Crowborough South East	Frant & Wadhurst
Crowborough	Crowborough South West	Hadlow Down & Rotherfield
Crowborough	Crowborough St. Johns	Hartfield
Crowborough	Horam & Punnetts Town	Mayfield & Five Ashes
Crowborough	Maresfield	Withyham

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Analysis area	Wards	
Heathfield & Rural South	Arlington	Horam & Punnetts Town
Heathfield	Heathfield South	Pevensey Bay
Heathfield	Hellingly	South Downs
Heathfield	Herstmonceux & Pevensey Levels	Heathfield North
Uckfield	Arlington	Maresfield
Uckfield	Buxted	Uckfield East
Uckfield	Chiddingly, East Hoathly & Waldron	Uckfield New Town
Uckfield	Danehill & Fletching	Uckfield North
Uckfield	Framfield & Cross-in-Hand	Uckfield Ridgewood & Little Horsted
Uckfield	Hadlow Down & Rotherfield	

Figure 1.1: Wealden analysis area split



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25. Analysis areas have been created for reporting purposes. Sports catchment areas do not naturally fall into defined administrative areas and that needs to be taken into account when assessing current and future provision for pitch sports.
26. However, for the purpose of this report, the Heathfield and Rural South Analysis Area is a dual construct of both the lower eastern and western flanks of the District (which includes the large urban settlement of Heathfield). This has been established through two factors; an understanding that many settlements within this catchment fall within The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and that subsequently there is not expected to be high levels of housing development within it. The second reason is based on the catchment having a relatively limited supply of provision (as identified further in this report).
27. This structure allows for any forthcoming recommendations on developer contributions or need for new outdoor sport provision to be defined on a localised level. This is important as it is anticipated that there will be a much higher level of growth within the Hailsham and Polegate analysis areas and this split allows for a more accurate assessment (and subsequent recommendations) about issues within the defined Heathfield and Rural South Analysis Area.
28. Cross boundary issues have been explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries.

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

29. A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in Wealden 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.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

30. Sport England's 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'](#), under facilities, then planning application.
 - ◀ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which together with any run off area, is of 0.2ha or more, and 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.
31. Although the statutory definition of a pitch is one that meets a minimum size of 0.2ha, this PPOSS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch. This PPOSS 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).
32. As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the outdoor sports facilities within Wealden; however, there may be instances, for example, on school sites or private sites where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report, including those which are disused or lapsed, they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

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Quantity

33. 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.
34. 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

35. Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of provision also influences actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:
- ◀ **Community use** - facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
 - ◀ **Available but unused** - facilities 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** - facilities 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 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

Quality

36. The capacity of provision to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.
37. It is not just the quality itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the outdoor sports facility and ancillary facilities will determine whether provision is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.
38. The quality of all outdoor sports facilities identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability.

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39. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.
40. 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

41. Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for outdoor sports facilities (i.e. recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment.

Demand for outdoor sports facilities in Wealden tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◆ Organised competitive play
 - ◆ Organised training
 - ◆ Informal play
42. Current and future demand for outdoor sports facilities is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.
 43. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet demand is known to currently exist but is unable to access sports facilities; latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better quality provision. Exported and imported demand refers to those sports users who are playing outside of their local authority of choice.
 44. 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.
 45. 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.
 46. 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.

Future demand/population growth

47. The current resident population in Wealden is 161,475 (2019 MYE). By 2039 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, [in line with the new Local Plan](#)) [Wealden's population is projected to increase to 177,461](#) representing an increase of 15,986 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 9.9%) according to ONS data.
48. The PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan (Stage D) will also contain several housing growth scenarios to test what additional demand will be generated throughout the Local Plan period to 2039.

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Future demand

49. Alongside current demand, it is important for the PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using ONS population projections, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.
50. 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.
51. Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the population increases in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the team generation rates and is presented on a sport by sport basis.
52. Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand, especially for non-pitch sports (where team generation rates are not applicable) include:
 - ◆ Recent trends in the participation.
 - ◆ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
 - ◆ Feedback from clubs on their plans to develop additional teams/attract additional members.
 - ◆ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

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

53. Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Wealden. 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.

Understand the situation at individual sites

54. 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.
55. 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.	

56. 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.

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Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

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

57. 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).
58. For all remaining non-pitch sports (i.e. bowls, netball and stoolball) 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

59. 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 as a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.
60. Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

Identify the key findings and issues

61. By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Wealden. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Strategy and Action Plan for Wealden.

Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)

62. 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.
63. The scenario testing generally occurs in the Strategy report that follows on from this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL PITCHES

2.1: Introduction

64. The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in Wealden is Sussex FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.
65. This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches) which are the preferred AGP (artificial grass pitch) surface type for football. In future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

66. To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has now been produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.
67. The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment through the Football Foundation into football facilities over the next ten years.
68. Each LFFP builds 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). LFFP's also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This includes 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.
69. LFFPs 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.
70. It is important to recognise that an 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.
71. The [Wealden LFFP](#) was completed in 2019 and identifies 14 potential projects for investment which are outlined in this section and the 3G section of the report. The subsequent Strategy will go on to recommend any changes/update to these project lists.

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Consultation

72. There is a total of 34 clubs identified as playing in Wealden. The larger clubs in Wealden were offered an opportunity to engage in virtual face to face consultation to allow them to feedback in more detail on issues relating to supply and demand. The remaining clubs were issued an online survey which was distributed by KKP and the Sussex County FA. The following clubs were met with face to face:

- ◀ AFC Uckfield Town
- ◀ Crowborough Athletic FC
- ◀ Hailsham Town FC
- ◀ Hailsham United Juniors FC
- ◀ Heathfield and Horam FC
- ◀ Jarvis Brook FC
- ◀ Pevensey and West Ham Juniors FC
- ◀ Rotherfield FC
- ◀ Rotherfield Juniors FC
- ◀ SC Pass and Move
- ◀ Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC
- ◀ Wadhurst United Juniors FC
- ◀ Welcroft Park Rangers FC

73. Through both face-to-face meetings and survey responses, a 77% club response rate and a 93% team response rate has been achieved. Consultation with Sussex County FA confirms that all key community grassroots clubs have been consulted with.

2.2: Supply

74. The audit identifies a total of 140 grass football pitches in Wealden across 66 sites. Of the pitches, 110 are available, at some level, for community use across 51 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites and are identified later in Table 2.13.
75. As presented in the table below, the Crowborough & Rural North Analysis Area contains the most football pitches in Wealden with 57 identified (equating to 41% of overall provision). In contrast, the Heathfield & Rural South Analysis Area contains the least provision with 14 pitches identified (10% of overall provision).

Table 2.1: Summary of all grass football pitches

Analysis area	Number of pitches Adult	Number of pitches Youth 11v11	Number of pitches Youth 9v9	Number of pitches Mini 7v7	Number of pitches Mini 5v5	Number of pitches Total
Crowborough & Rural North	17	6	6	19	9	57
Hailsham	15	0	4	6	5	30
Heathfield & Rural South	7	2	0	4	1	14
Polegate	3	3	4	2	4	16
Uckfield	9	1	5	4	4	23
Total	51	12	19	35	23	140

Table 2.2: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	Number of pitches Adult	Number of pitches Youth 11v11	Number of pitches Youth 9v9	Number of pitches Mini 7v7	Number of pitches Mini 5v5	Number of pitches Total
Crowborough & Rural North	15	4	6	14	8	47
Hailsham	8	0	4	5	5	22
Heathfield & Rural South	6	2	0	4	1	13
Polegate	2	0	3	2	2	9
Uckfield	9	1	5	2	2	20
Total	40	7	18	27	18	110

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76. Of all 110 available pitches, 40 (36% of all available provision) are adult size which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is not ideal for youth players at U13-U16 and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.
77. Eight available pitches are youth 11v11 size representing 7% of the available supply, which is low in relation to the proportion of youth teams (47 teams – 20% of all teams) which should be playing matches on this size pitch. This issue often results in teams fast tracking youth sides to play on adult pitches given the relatively recent introduction of youth 11v11 pitches within football in the UK.
78. In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. Please refer to the table below for more detail.

Table 2.3: FA recommended grass/3G pitch sizes

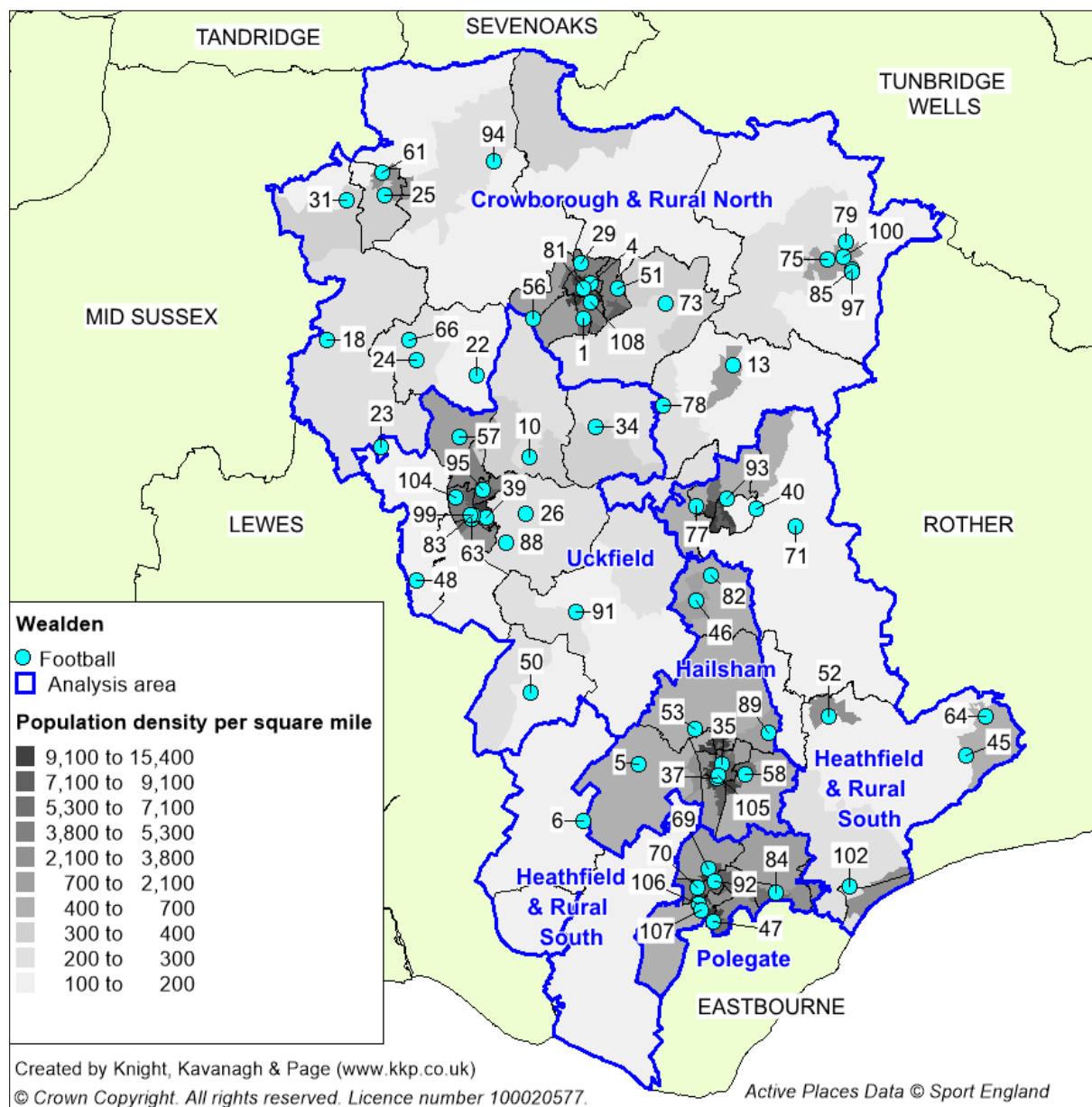
Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61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

Lapsed/disused provision

79. Playing fields which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which 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'.
80. Lapsed sites fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/field which fails to meet its policy.
81. In the case of Wealden there is one known lapsed site in the Polegate Analysis Area situated off Eastbourne Road near the Oak Lodge and Hill View care home (BN26 5DU).
82. Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.2 overleaf identifies all football pitches servicing Wealden. For a key to the map, see Table 2.13.

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Figure 2.1: Football pitch locations



Pitch quality

83. The quality of football pitches across Wealden have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:
- ◆ Good
 - ◆ Standard
 - ◆ Poor
84. The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%).

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86. Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they are able to accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality.
87. 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.
88. The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use. In total, 30 pitches are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard and 29 as poor. Many of the good quality pitches are aligned to adult football teams which compete in high performance league competitions such as Hailsham Town FC.

Table 2.4: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Analysis area	Adult pitches Good	Adult pitches Standard	Adult pitches Poor	Youth pitches Good	Youth pitches Standard	Youth pitches Poor	Mini pitches Good	Mini pitches Standard	Mini pitches Poor
Crowborough & Rural North	9	3	3	2	4	4	4	16	2
Hailsham	2	4	2	0	2	2	1	3	6
Heathfield & Rural South	3	1	2	1	1	0	2	3	0
Polegate	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	2	2
Uckfield	6	1	2	0	4	2	0	4	0
Total	20	9	11	3	14	8	7	28	10

89. Poor quality non-technical audit scores are a result of issues relating to natural drainage problems, basic maintenance regimes and limited demand for affiliated football at single pitch sites. This often results in pitches not being maintained or appropriately prepared for competitive matches.
90. Of the 31 pitches located at unavailable education sites, just under half (48%) are deemed to be poor quality. This is due to the sites providing basic maintenance regimes (aligned to limited budgets) which broadly consist of general grass cutting and line marking as appropriate throughout the curricular year. When accounting for curricular use, extracurricular use and community demand, obvious signs of wear and tear become apparent.
91. Poor quality pitches available to the community are located at sites listed below. Some of these sites (identified in Table 2.13) also contain pitches which are standard quality.
- ◀ Berwick Playing Field
 - ◀ Buxted Recreation Ground
 - ◀ Court Meadow Playing Field
 - ◀ Heathfield Community College
 - ◀ Horam Recreation Ground
 - ◀ Huggets Lane Recreation Ground
 - ◀ Lime Park
 - ◀ M.O.D
 - ◀ Maresfield Recreation Ground
 - ◀ Maurice Thornton Playing Field
 - ◀ Ninfield Recreation Ground
 - ◀ Polegate War Memorial Ground
 - ◀ The Red Lion
 - ◀ Town Croft
 - ◀ West Park

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The FA's Pitch Improvement Strategy

92. The FA has a general pitch improvement strategy which has been developed in partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council-maintained sites.
93. In addition, the FA's Strategy also aims to focus on developing improved maintenance with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority-maintained sites.
94. Further to the above, the Football Foundation and the FA have recently developed a new pitch maintenance grant fund that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund; however, clubs, leagues and or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure and/or a proforma is in place.

FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

95. 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. As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Grounds Management Association (GMA, formerly Institute of Groundsman ship).
96. The FA in partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) has developed a Grass Pitch Improvement and Maintenance Programme that can be utilised by grassroots football clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches.
97. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a Grass Pitch Assessment Report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.
98. Following a Grass Pitch Assessment Report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified in order to improve the quality of their pitches. Clubs can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams to obtain the relevant maintenance equipment.
99. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' on the Grass Pitch Assessment Report they are then eligible to apply for Grass Pitch Funding through the [Football Foundation through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund](#), a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or if categorised as 'good' to sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030.
100. All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, National League System Clubs at Steps 1-6 and charities (with an annual turnover of under £500,000).
101. In the case of Wealden, two sites have recently received Pitch Power assessments, those being Ninfield Recreation Ground and Rotherfield Sports Club. The Ninfield Recreation Ground

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site has a quality assessment of 'basic', that being the second lowest grading on a scale of one to five. Comparatively, the youth11v11 pitch at Rotherfield sports club has been graded as poor, whilst the adult pitch has been assessed as good.

102. The LFFP for Wealden identifies nine sites for targeted pitch improvements. Prioritisation of these sites was based on a rationale of selecting sites with large numbers of pitches which are in poor condition; thus optimising impact on capacity.

The nine selected sites are:

- ◀ Alderbrook Playing Field
- ◀ Bede's School
- ◀ Goldsmiths Recreation Ground
- ◀ Horam Recreation Ground
- ◀ Lime Kiln Playing Field
- ◀ Maurice Thornton Playing Field
- ◀ Sparrows Green Recreation Ground
- ◀ West Park
- ◀ Wolfe Recreation Ground

103. The forthcoming PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan will determine if the list of priority sites in the LFFP requires amendment and whether there is a case to include new sites or remove sites based on assessed demand.

Ancillary facilities

104. Similar to football pitches, the quality of ancillary facilities in Wealden has been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation. The ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing.
105. Table 2.5 presents a quality summary of provision at sites which provide dedicated changing rooms and pavilions. Education sites are not included in the list as none are considered to provide dedicated changing facilities for the benefit of community football.

Table 2.5: Summary of ancillary facility quality

Site ID	Site name	Management	Ancillary facility quality
1	Alderbrook Playing Field	Club	Good
6	Berwick Playing Field	Town Council	Standard
10	Buxted Recreation Ground	Town Council	Good
13	Court Meadow Playing Field	Town Council	Standard
18	Danehill Recreation Ground	Town Council	Standard
22	Fairwarp Sports Field (Queen Elizabeth II Sports Field)	Town Council	Standard
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Town Council	Good
24	Fords Green	Town Council	Standard
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Club	Good
29	Goldsmiths Recreation Ground	Town Council	Good
34	Hadlow Down	Town Council	Poor
37	Hailsham Town FC	Club	Good
45	Hooe Recreation Ground	Town Council	Standard
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Town Council	Good
47	Huggets Lane Recreation Ground	Town Council	Standard
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	Town Council	Standard
51	Lime Kiln Playing Field	Club	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Management	Ancillary facility quality
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Town Council	Standard
56	M.O.D	Town Council	Poor
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Town Council	Standard
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Town Council	Poor
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	Town Council	Good
70	Polegate War Memorial Ground	Town Council	Standard
71	Punnets Town Recreation Ground	Town Council	Standard
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Club	Standard
77	Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground	Town Council	Standard
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Town Council	Good
85	The Field	Town Council	Standard
88	The Oaks	Club	Good
89	The Red Lion	Private	Poor
91	The War Memorial Ground	Town Council	Standard
93	Tower Street Recreation Ground	Town Council	Standard
94	Town Croft	Town Council	Poor
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	Town Council	Good
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground	Town Council	Poor
104	West Park (Uckfield)	Town Council	Poor
105	Western Road Recreation Ground	Club	Good
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Town Council	Standard

106. Sites which are listed as poor quality are all dated and have clear evidence of wear and tear throughout. Each requires modernisation to ensure it remains fit for usage in the future.

107. The following sites listed below have been excluded from Table 2.5 as they do not have any form of ancillary provision.

- ◀ Harland's Farm
 - ◀ Lime Park
 - ◀ Medway Park (Forest Row)
- ◀ New Barn Lane
 - ◀ William Daly Recreation Ground

108. The LFFP for Wealden identifies two sites which require refurbishment or replacement to suitably accommodate high levels of affiliated football demand. These are; Maurice Thornton Playing Field and West Park. Additionally, the plan recognises the broader need for an increase in suitable ancillary provision development in the South of the District to accommodate existing demand and anticipated growth due to increasing levels of residential development.

109. In the case of both Maurice Thornton Playing Fields and West Park, consultations with Hailsham United Juniors for the former site and Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors for the latter both highlight intentions to significantly renovate existing provision as to improve quality. Maurice Thornton Playing Fields is currently serviced by a large brick building with two poor quality changing rooms, no hot water or working cooker as to service players on match days. Comparatively, West Park also features a large brick building with four changing rooms.

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Security of tenure

110. Most teams in Wealden rent pitches from their respective parish/town council. The tenure of these sites is secure, i.e. there is a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS. An exception to this is found at schools and academies which although may allow community use, are able to terminate community access at any time, unless a written community use agreement is in place. As an example, Willingdon Community School is a site which is used for affiliated football but as there is no long-term agreement in place with the site user Willingdon Athletic FC, it could in theory, be asked to vacate the site at short notice.
111. The following is a full list of schools that have grass football pitches but do not currently allow community use:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ◀ Bede's Senior School | ◀ Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School |
| ◀ Greenfields School | ◀ St Mary's Catholic School |
| ◀ Grovelands CP School | ◀ St Mary's School |
| ◀ Hailsham Primary Academy | ◀ St Phillip's Catholic Primary School |
| ◀ Laughton Community Primary School | ◀ Sacred Heart School |
| ◀ Nutley CE Primary School | ◀ Wadhurst C of E Primary School |
| ◀ Polegate School | |
112. For school sites that are available to the community, it is recommended that clubs enter into community use agreements to ensure long-term access. In Wealden, no schools are identified as having formal community use agreements for access to their respective playing fields.

Football pyramid demand

113. 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 six steps and a regional feeder league, there are with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The step system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.
114. Clubs playing within the National League System (NLS) must adhere to ground grading requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 6 clubs. [Please refer to the FA website](#) for the full specifications for each.
115. In Wealden, there are three clubs which compete in the NLS; AFC Uckfield Town (Step 5), Crowborough Athletic FC (Step 5) and Hailsham Town FC (Step 6). In addition, there are a further three clubs competing within regional feeder leagues, those being Rotherfield FC, Willingdon Athletic FC and Jarvis Brook FC.

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Table 2.6: Non-league football teams in Wealden:

Team	League	Level
AFC Uckfield Town FC	Southern Combination Premier Division	Step 5
Crowborough Athletic FC	Southern Combination Premier Division	Step 5
Hailsham Town FC	Southern Combination Division One	Step 6
Jarvis Brook FC	Southern Combination League Division 2 (Regional Feeder League)	Regional Feeder League
Rotherfield FC	Mid-Sussex Football League Premier Division (Regional Feeder League)	Regional Feeder League
Willingdon Athletic FC	Mid-Sussex Football League Premier Division (Regional Feeder League)	Regional Feeder League

116. The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they must achieve the appropriate ground grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard.
117. It is important to note that from a ground grading perspective, the jump from a regional feeder league to Step 6 is significant and that as a minimum, sites require a floodlit pitch with hardstanding areas for fans, turnstiles for fan entry and therefore all the clubs currently at this level in Wealden would require a serious overhaul of their existing sites to meet the relevant criteria.
118. Both Jarvis Brook FC, based at Line Kiln Playing Field and Willingdon Athletic FC based at Huggets Lane Recreation Ground state (through consultation) a specific aspiration to progress through the NLS. If promoted, the Club would have to relocate from Huggets Lane Recreation Ground which is a dual-purpose football and cricket site.
119. Jarvis Brook FC, which at the time of writing, sit second in the table in the Southern Combination League Division Two, state efforts to try and ground share if promoted. Efforts to collaborate with Crowborough Athletic were unsuccessful whilst the possibility of sharing with AFC Uckfield Town remains hopeful.
120. Finally, in regard to Rotherfield FC, if promoted, the pitch shall require floodlights, a perimeter fence and a covered stand which is not feasible at its current site, Rotherfield Sports Club. However, consultation highlights that the Club does not want to relocate or ground share, meaning it will be unable to be promoted.

Women's National League System

121. Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System (WNLS) similar to the adult men's system which provides structure to the women's game. As seen in the table below this ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 7 with each tier requiring differing ground grading requirements.

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

Level	League	Grading category
Tier 1	FA Women's Super League	Step S1
Tier 2	FA Women's Championship	Step S2
Tier 3	FA Women's National League Premier Division (Northern and Southern)	Step W1
Tier 4	FA Women's National League Division 1	Step W2

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Level	League	Grading category
	North / Midlands / South East / South West	
Tier 5	Regional Premier Division	Step W3
Tier 6	Regional Division One	-
Tier 7	County Leagues	-

122. Although women's clubs within the WNLS still require ground grading requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's NLS. Ratings range from Step S1 to W3 each with differing minimum requirements. Step S1 and S2 in the WNLS is akin to Step 3 and 4 of the men's NLS, however, not identical. The system is also 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.
123. In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women's league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes were implemented from the start of the 2018-19 season and saw the top league, FA Women's Super League Tier 1, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at Tier 2 for a maximum of 12 teams.
124. In the case of Wealden, there are no clubs competing within the WNLS.

2.3: Demand

125. Through the audit and assessment, 236 teams from 34 clubs are identified as playing in Wealden. This consists of 50 adult men's, one adult women's, 60 youth boys', 18 youth girls' and 107 mini mixed teams.
126. The Crowborough & Rural North Analysis Area provides for the highest number of teams, with 85. The Analysis Area with the fewest number of teams is Polegate, with 14 teams identified as operating within this area of Wealden.
127. Please note that demand is based on the number of teams each club planned to field during the 2020/2021 season (as identified through consultation and/or via affiliation data). This is by means of taking into account what play would have taken place had there not been a pandemic, rather than what actually took place, with Covid-19 and subsequent restrictions limiting activity.

Table 2.8: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Wealden

Analysis area	Number of teams Adult	Number of teams Youth 11v11	Number of teams Youth 9v9	Number of teams Mini 7v7	Number of teams Mini 5v5	Number of teams Total
Crowborough & Rural North	21	18	11	29	6	85
Hailsham	7	6	8	17	6	44
Heathfield & Rural South	9	10	0	16	7	42
Polegate	5	3	2	3	1	14
Uckfield	9	11	9	12	10	51
Total	51	48	30	77	30	236

128. Mini 7v7 football is the most prominent format of play, whilst mini 5v5 is the least common.

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Women's and girls' demand

129. There are 19 dedicated women/girls' teams across seven clubs playing in Wealden, representing just 7% of the total number of teams. These are provided at the following clubs:
- ◀ Crowborough Athletic FC
 - ◀ Hailsham United Juniors FC
 - ◀ Heathfield and Horam FC
 - ◀ Hooe FC
 - ◀ Pevensey and Westham FC
 - ◀ Uckfield Grasshoppers Juniors FC
 - ◀ Wadhurst United FC
130. The FA currently has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation by 50%. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities become suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.
131. With the 2022 UEFA Women's Euro's scheduled to be held in the UK and England playing in Sussex, the legacy plan of the event is set to significantly develop women's and girls' football across the country. Sussex County FA will be working to use this event as a catalyst for an increase in localised participation in Wealden.

Exported demand/imported

132. Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of the study area, despite being registered in Wealden. Likewise, imported demand is demand from neighbouring authorities accessing pitches in Wealden to play competitive matches.
133. As of the 2020/21 football season, there are several cases of imported and exported demand within Wealden for match play. Examples of sites that are used by clubs located within Wealden include: Eastbourne Sports Park (Eastbourne), Netherfield Recreation Ground (Rother) and Lamberhurst Playing Field (Tunbridge Wells).
134. The following is a full list of Wealden based clubs that access football pitches outside of Wealden District:
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| ◀ Pevensey and Westham FC | ◀ SC Pass and Move FC |
| ◀ Polegate Town FC | ◀ Wadhurst United FC |
| ◀ Punnett's Town FC | ◀ Willingdon Athletic FC |
135. All of the clubs outlined above are situated near a boundary between Wealden and a neighbouring district, meaning that it is less surprising that exported demand has been identified. None of these clubs express a specific desire to relocate back into Wealden specifically due to the relatively small drive times from players homes.

Latent demand

136. Latent demand refers to potential demand; clubs that would like to field more teams but currently do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack of pitches, appropriate facilities, and qualified coaches. Clubs that report latent demand relating to facilities and the reasons provided for this latent demand can be seen below.

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Table 2.9: Latent demand summary

Club	Need for more match pitches	Need for more/better training facilities	Need for better/more appropriate changing provision
AFC Uckfield Town		X	
Buxted FC	X		X
Crowborough Athletic FC			
Fairwarp FC		X	X
Hailsham Town FC		X	X
Hailsham United Juniors FC	X	X	X
Heathfield and Horam FC		X	X
Herstmonceux FC		X	X
Jarvis Brook FC		X	
Link Football Coaching Hellingly FC	X	X	X
Maresfield Dynamo's Junior FC	X	X	
Nutley FC	X		X
Pevensey and West Ham Juniors FC	X	X	X
Polegate Town FC		X	X
Rotherfield FC	X		X
Rotherfield JFC	X	X	
SC Pass and Move FC	X	X	X
Uckfield Grasshoppers Juniors FC	X		X
Wadhurst United Juniors FC		X	
Welcroft Park Rangers FC	X	X	X
Willington Athletic FC		X	

137. As can be seen by Table 2.9, the greatest issue identified is the lack of training facilities located within Wealden, with 16 clubs stressing this as a major problem. Several clubs also made reference to the lack of pitches and poor ancillary provision impacting upon the possibility of expanding.

Unmet demand

138. Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. No unmet demand was expressed by responsive clubs.

Future demand

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

Participation increases

140. There are 17 clubs which report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. In total, these potential demand increases would lead to the creation of 31 teams (if aspirations are realised).

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Table 2.10: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
Buxted FC	Uckfield	1 x U14 boys	Youth 11v11	0.5
Crowborough Athletic FC	Crowborough & Rural North	1 x U8 mixed 1 x U9 mixed	Mini 7v7	1
Hailsham Town FC	Hailsham	1 x 9v9 boys	Youth 9v9	0.5
Heathfield and Horam FC	Heathfield & Rural South	1 x 9v9 boys	Youth 9v9	0.5
Herstmonceux FC	Heathfield & Rural South	1 x 11v11 boys	Youth 11v11	0.5
Hooe FC	Heathfield & Rural South	1 x U7 mixed	Mini 5v5	0.5
		2 x U13 girls	Youth 11v11	1
Jarvis Brook FC	Crowborough & Rural North	1 x U8 mixed	Mini 7v7	0.5
Link Football Coaching Hellingly FC	Hailsham	2 x U14boys	Youth 11v11	0.5
		1 x U11 girls	Youth 9v9	0.5
		2 x U7mixed	Mini 5v5	1
		2x U9 mixed	Mini 7v7	1
Maresfield Dynamo Junior FC	Uckfield	1 x U15 boys	Youth 11v11	0.5
Maresfield Village FC	Uckfield	1 x adult men's	Adult	0.5
Nutley FC	Crowborough & Rural North	1 x U11 boys	Youth 9v9	0.5
Polegate Town FC	Polegate	1 x adult men's	Adult	0.5
Rotherfield JFC	Crowborough & Rural North	1 x U9 mixed	Mini 7v7	0.5
SC Pass and Move FC	Heathfield & Rural South	2 x U7 mixed	Mini 7v7	1
Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC	Uckfield	1 x adult women	Adult	0.5
		2 x U7 boys	Mini 5v5	1
Wadhurst United FC	Crowborough & Rural North	1 x adult men's	Adult	0.5
Welcroft Park Rangers FC	Hailsham	1 x adult women	Adult	0.5
		1 x U11 boys	Youth 9v9	0.5
		1x U15 boys	Youth 11v11	0.5

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.

141. Future demand aspirations have been aggregated by Analysis Area and pitch format and are detailed in the table below.

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Table 2.11: Potential increases by analysis area

Analysis area Future demand (match equivalent sessions)	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Totals
Crowborough & Rural North	0.5	-	0.5	2	-	3
Hailsham	1	1.5	1	1	1	5.5
Heathfield & Rural South	-	1.5	0.5	1	0.5	3.5
Polegate	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
Uckfield	1	1	-	-	-	3
Total	3	4	2	4	2.5	15.5

Population increases

142. Team generation rates (TGRs) 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. ONS population growth is applied to the TGRs to identify a predicted number of teams that will be generated. As such, TGRs are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth up to 2039. TGRs are based on population forecasts which are in line with Wealden Local Plan timeline
143. As seen below, based on ONS projections, it is forecasted that there will be an increase in football demand equivalent to two senior men's teams. There are no expected increases in other age groups or for the senior women's teams.

Table 2.12: Team generation rates (2039)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate (TGR)	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams (2039)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (16-45)	20,845	50	1:417	21,736	52	2
Senior Women (16-45)	22,047	1	1:22047	22,319	1	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	5,594	56	1:100	5,649	56	0
Youth Girls (12-15)	5,308	7	1:758	5,404	7	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	2,022	38	1:53	1,815	38	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	1,828	7	1:261	1,747	7	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	3,755	47	1:80	3,461	47	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	3,446	30	1:115	3,350	30	0

Age group team numbers differ from Table 2.7 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

144. When reviewing growth by each of the five analysis areas, there is not enough focused growth anticipated to grow new teams within each settlement. Instead, it is more likely that any new demand will join pre-existing teams. On this basis, no new growth is anticipated based on ONS forecast projections.
145. Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that this predicted level of growth is exclusively based on future population forecasts and does not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport.

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146. Similarly, they cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focus towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing female participation within Wealden and nationally which, as mentioned previously, is likely to lead to more women's and girls' teams in the future and therefore increase demand for pitches.
147. Outside of women's and girls' increases, given the large amounts of future demand identified through population forecasts, it is considered unlikely that aspirations from clubs will happen exclusively of population growth. Instead, it is thought that the ambitions will be absorbed within the increases.

FA Wildcats centres

148. FA 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.
149. In Wealden, Wildcat Centres are run by Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC and Wadhurst United Juniors FC.
150. In light of The FA's aspirations to increase female participation in football by 50% (Game Changer Strategy) and the establishment and foreseen future effect of the Wildcats programme, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through population growth. However, this is not able to be quantified through the Wildcats programme due to it being dependent on the localised success of the programme.

Future demand summary

151. On balance, total future demand in Wealden should only account for participation increases on the basis that population forecasts do not anticipate the creation of any dedicated teams.
152. In total 17 football clubs outline plans to increase the number of teams they currently provide over the lifespan of the PPOSS, which will contribute to an additional demand for facilities. As such, future demand equates to the growth of 31 teams.
153. The PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan will contain a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development.

2.4: Capacity analysis

154. The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality.
155. The following ratings were used in Wealden:

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

Table 2.13 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play 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

156. 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, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP.
157. 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.
158. In Wealden, one match equivalent session of demand has been attributed to each pitch based at school sites to account for curricular demand. This is based on consultation and the expectation that all pitches are in use, as well as experience of how school sites use pitches from other strategies both locally and nationally.

Informal use

159. Most football pitches in the area are located within 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. Informal use is not accounted for in the capacity analysis on the basis that it cannot be quantified on a site by site basis. However, it can be expected at popular sites such as Victoria Pleasure Ground, that there will be a higher level of demand on each pitch (from informal use) over and above that identified.

Peak time

160. It is important to understand what the peak time for football pitch access is, to accurately understand the supply and demand balance for football pitches. Peak time access translates to when the high demand is for pitch access during a week. In Wealden, the peak time for adult football is Saturday afternoon and for all other formats of football it is Sunday mornings.

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Table 2.13: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site	Club	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ¹	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ² (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
1	Alderbrook Playing Field	Crowborough Athletic FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	0	Pitch is used for first team fixtures only. Spare capacity during peak period is discounted due to it being a stadia pitch with no wider access permitted.
1	Alderbrook Playing Field	Crowborough Athletic FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	0.5	Pitch is used by Crowborough Athletic FC. Pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES on Saturday's.
1	Alderbrook Playing Field	Crowborough Athletic FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	Youth 9v9	1	Good	3	4	1	0	Pitch is used for six junior teams within the Club. Spare capacity discounted due to lack of availability during the peak period.
6	Berwick Playing Field	-	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1	1	0	Site is accessed by Welcroft Park Rangers FC. Pitch has spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
10	Buxted Recreation Ground	Buxted FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult (9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	1	0	Pitch is overplayed by 1 MES due to being used by two adult teams and two youth sides on the over marked adult pitch.
13	Court Meadow Playing Field	-	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	0	1	1	0	Pitch has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
18	Danehill Recreation Ground	-	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Pitch is accessed by Lindfield Juniors FC. Pitch has spare capacity of 0.5 MES during peak period
18	Danehill Recreation Ground	-	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Standard	1	4	3	0	Pitch is accessed by Lindfield Juniors FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
22	Fairwarp Sports Field (Queen Elizabeth II Sports Field)	Fairwarp FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	2	Standard	1	8	7	1	Pitches are used by two Fairwarp FC mini teams. Both pitches have 0.5 MES on Sundays.
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Fletching FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Good	1	3	2	0	Pitches used by Fletching FC firsts and reserves teams. Pitch has no spare capacity during peak period.
24	Fords Green	Nutley FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	3	Standard	1	6	1	0	No spare capacity during peak period.
24	Fords Green	Nutley FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	9v9			0.5	2	1.5	0	Pitch is used by Nutley FC's and one junior team. No spare capacity is available during peak period.
24	Fords Green	Nutley FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7			0.5	4	3.5	0	Pitch is used by one Nutley FC youth team. No spare capacity is available during peak period.
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Forest Row FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	3.5	3	0.5	0	Pitch is used heavily by Forest Row FC and is overplayed by 0.5 MES.
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Forest Row FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	7v7	1	Good	2	6	4	0	Pitch is used by Forest Row FC junior teams. No spare capacity during peak period.

¹ Pitch sizes in brackets denotes overmarked pitches

² 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	Club	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ¹	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ² (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
29	Goldsmiths Recreation Ground	Crowborough Athletic FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	3	Good	0.5	9	8.5	2.5	Pitch is used as overspill for Crowborough Athletic U23's team.
34	Hadlow Down MW Cricket Club	Crowborough Athletic FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Pitch is used by Crowborough Athletic junior teams. Pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES during peak periods.
34	Hadlow Down MW Cricket Club	Crowborough Athletic FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	5v5	1		2	4	2	0	Pitch is used by Crowborough Athletic junior teams. Pitch has no spare capacity during peak periods.
37	Hailsham Town FC	Hailsham Town FC	Hailsham	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	1	3	2	0	Pitch is used by Hailsham Town FC seniors and U23's. No spare capacity during peak periods.
39	Harlands Farm	Uckfield Grasshoppers Juniors FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Good	1	3	2	0.5	Pitch is used by Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC. Pitch has spare capacity for Saturday afternoon fixtures.
39	Harlands Farm	Uckfield Grasshoppers Juniors FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	0.5	Pitch is used by Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC. Pitch has spare capacity for Saturday afternoon fixtures.
45	Hooe Recreation Ground	Hooe FC	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Good	2	3	1	0	Pitch is used by Hooe FC and Sidley United FC. No spare capacity during peak periods
45	Hooe Recreation Ground	Hooe FC	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Good	2	6	4	0	Pitch is used by Hooe FC. No spare capacity during peak periods
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Horam FC	Hailsham	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	1	2	1	0.5	Pitch is used by Heathfield and Horam Juniors. Pitch has spare capacity for 0.5 MES on Saturday afternoons.
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Horam FC	Hailsham	Yes	Town Council	Secure	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Pitch is used by Heathfield and Horam FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Horam FC	Hailsham	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	2	Poor	2	4	2	0	Pitches are used by Heathfield and Horam FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Horam FC	Hailsham	Yes	Town Council	Secure	5v5	1	Standard	1	4	3	0	Pitches are used by Heathfield and Horam FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
47	Huggets Lane Recreation Ground	Willingdon Athletic FC	Polegate	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0	Pitch is used by Willingdon Athletic FC and is overplayed by 0.5 MES.
47	Huggets Lane Recreation Ground	Willingdon Athletic FC	Polegate	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Pitch is used by Willingdon Athletic FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
47	Huggets Lane Recreation Ground	Willingdon Athletic FC	Polegate	Yes	Town Council	Secure	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Pitch is used by Willingdon Athletic FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	AFC Uckfield Colts	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Pitch is used by AFC Uckfield Colts on Sundays. Pitch has spare capacity for 0.5 MES during peak periods.

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Site ID	Site	Club	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ¹	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ² (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
51	Lime Kiln Playing Field	Jarvis Brook FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	1	3	2	0	Pitch is used by Jarvis Brook FC. Pitch has no spare capacity during peak periods.
51	Lime Kiln Playing Field	Jarvis Brook FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	2	3	1	0	Pitch is used by Jarvis Brook FC. Pitch has no spare capacity during peak periods.
51	Lime Kiln Playing Field	Jarvis Brook FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	Youth 11v11	1	Good	2.5	4	1.5	0	Pitch is used by Jarvis Brook FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
51	Lime Kiln Playing Field	Jarvis Brook FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	7v7	1	Good	2	6	4	0	Pitch is used by Jarvis Brook FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
51	Lime Kiln Playing Field	Jarvis Brook FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	7v7	1	Good	2.5	6	3.5	0	Pitch is used by Jarvis Brook FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
51	Lime Kiln Playing Field	Jarvis Brook FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	5v5	1	Good	2	6	4	0	Pitch is used by Jarvis Brook FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
52	Lime Park	Herstmonceux FC	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Pitch is used by Herstmonceux FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Link Football Coaching Hellingly FC	Hailsham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Pitch is used by Link Football Coaching Hellingly FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Link Football Coaching Hellingly FC	Hailsham	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	5v5	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	Pitch is used by Link Football Coaching Hellingly FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
56	M.O.D	-	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	9v9	1	Poor	0	1	1	0	Pitch has spare capacity during peak periods. Pitch is meant to be used by Crowborough Athletic FC however is not used by the club due to poor quality. Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
56	M.O.D	-	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	9v9	1	Poor	0	1	1	0	Pitch has spare capacity during peak periods. Pitch is meant to be used by Crowborough Athletic FC however is not used by the club due to poor quality. Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Maresfield Dynamo Junior FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	0	Pitch is used by Maresfield Dynamo Junior FC and Maresfield Village FC. Pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES.
	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Maresfield Village FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Pitch is used by Maresfield Dynamo Junior FC and has no spare capacity during peak periods.
	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Maresfield Dynamo Junior FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	Pitch is used by Maresfield Dynamo Junior FC and has no spare capacity during peak periods.
	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Maresfield Dynamo Junior FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	5v5	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	Pitch is used by Maresfield Dynamo Junior FC and has no spare capacity during peak periods.

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Site ID	Site	Club	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ¹	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ² (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Hailsham United Juniors FC	Hailsham	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	2	1	1	0	Pitch is used Hailsham United Juniors FC and is overplayed by 1 MES
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Hailsham United Juniors FC	Hailsham	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0	Pitch is used Hailsham United Juniors FC. Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Hailsham United Juniors FC	Hailsham	Yes	Town Council	Secure	9v9	1	Poor	2	1	1	0	Pitch is used Hailsham United Juniors FC. Pitch has no spare capacity during peak periods.
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Hailsham United Juniors FC	Hailsham	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Pitch is used Hailsham United Juniors FC. Pitch has no spare capacity during peak periods.
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Hailsham United Juniors FC	Hailsham	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Pitch is used Hailsham United Juniors FC. Pitch has no spare capacity during peak periods.
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Hailsham United Juniors FC	Hailsham	Yes	Town Council	Secure	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Pitch is used Hailsham United Juniors FC. Pitch has no spare capacity during peak periods.
58	Maurice Thornton Playing Field	Hailsham United Juniors FC	Hailsham	Yes	Town Council	Secure	5v5	1	Poor	0	2	2	0	Pitch is unused. Spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.
61	Medway Park (Forest Row)	-	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Standard	0	4	4	1	Pitch has spare capacity for 1 MES during peak periods.
63	New Barn Lane	Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Good	1.5	1	0.5	0	Pitch is used by Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC. No capacity in the peak period.
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	SC Pass and Move	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	3	2	1	0	Pitch is used by SC Pass and Move FC and Ninfield FC. No capacity in the peak period.
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	SC Pass and Move	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	0	Pitch is used by SC Pass and Move FC. No capacity in the peak period.
70	Polegate War Memorial Ground	Polegate Town FC	Polegate	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Pitch is used by Polegate Town FC. No capacity in the peak period.
71	Punnett's Town Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Horam FC	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0	Pitch is used by Heathfield and Horam FC. No capacity in the peak period.
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Rotherfield FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0	Pitch is used by Rotherfield FC. No capacity in the peak period.
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Rotherfield FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	Youth 11	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Pitch is played at capacity by Rotherfield FC.
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Rotherfield FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	9v9	1	Good	0.5	4	3.5	0	Pitch is used by Rotherfield FC. No capacity in the peak period.
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Rotherfield FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Club	Secure	7v7	1	Good	2.5	6	3.5	0	Pitch is used by Rotherfield FC. No capacity in the peak period.
77	Sheepsetting Lane Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Horam FC	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Good	2	3	1	0	Pitch is used by Rotherfield FC. No capacity in the peak period.

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79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Wadhurst United FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Pitch is used by Wadhurst United FC. Pitch has capacity for 0.5 MES during peak period.
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Wadhurst United FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	2	Standard	3	8	5	0	Pitches are used by Wadhurst United FC. No capacity in the peak period.
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Wadhurst United FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	5v5	2	Standard	1	8	7	1	Pitches are used by Wadhurst United FC. Pitch has capacity for 1 MES in peak period.
85	The Field	Wadhurst United FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	Pitch is used by Wadhurst United FC. No capacity in the peak period.
88	The Oaks	AFC Uckfield Town	Uckfield	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	0.5	3	2.5	0	Pitch is used by AFC Uckfield Town FC. No capacity in the peak period due to being a stadium site.
89	The Red Lion	-	Hailsham	Yes	Club	Secure	9v9	1	Poor	0	1	1	0	Pitch is unused. Spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.
91	The War Memorial Ground	-	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Pitch is unused, giving 1 MES of spare capacity in peak periods.
92	William Daly Recreation Ground	-	Polegate	Yes	Town Council	Secure	9v9	3	Standard	0	6	6	3	Three unused pitches. Three MES of spare capacity.
92	William Daly Recreation Ground	-	Polegate	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Standard	0	4	4	1	Pitch is unused, giving 0.5 MES of spare capacity in peak periods
92	William Daly Recreation Ground	-	Polegate	Yes	Town Council	Secure	5v5	1	Standard	0	4	4	1	Pitch is unused, giving 0.5 MES of spare capacity in peak periods
93	Tower Street Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Horam FC	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Youth 11v11	1	Good	2	4	2	0	Pitch is used by Heathfield and Horam FC. No spare capacity during peak period.
93	Tower Street Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Horam FC	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Good	1	6	5	0	Pitch is used by Heathfield and Horam FC. No spare capacity during peak period.
94	Town Croft	Hartfield FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0	Pitch is used by Hartfield FC. No spare capacity during peak period.
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	AFC Uckfield Town Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	1	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0	Pitch is used by AFC Uckfield Town and Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC. No spare capacity during peak period.
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground	Pevensey and West Ham FC	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Pitch is used by Pevensey and West Ham FC. Spare capacity for 0.5 MES during peak period.
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground	Pevensey and West Ham FC	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	1	Standard	3	4	1	0	Pitch is used by Pevensey and West Ham FC. No spare capacity during peak period.
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground	Pevensey and West Ham FC	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	Town Council	Secure	5v5	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Pitch is used by Pevensey and West Ham FC. Spare capacity for 0.5 MES during peak period.

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Site ID	Site	Club	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ¹	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ² (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
104	West Park (Uckfield)	Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC	Uckfield	Yes	Town Council	Secure	9v9	2	Poor	8	2	6	0	Pitches overplayed by 6 MES.
105	Western Road Recreation Ground	Hailsham Town FC	Hailsham	Yes	Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0	Pitch is used by Hailsham Town FC and Welcroft Park Rangers FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
105	Western Road Recreation Ground	Hailsham Town FC	Hailsham	Yes	Club	Secure	7v7	1	Good	2.5	6	3.5	0	Pitch is used by Hailsham Town FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
106	Willingdon Community School	Willingdon Athletic FC	Polegate	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult	1	Standard	0	2	2	0	Capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
106	Willingdon Community School	Willingdon Athletic FC	Polegate	Yes	School	Unsecure	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Pitch is used by Willingdon Athletic FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
106	Willingdon Community School	Willingdon Athletic FC	Polegate	Yes	School	Unsecure	5v5	2	Standard	0	4	4	0	Capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Crowborough Athletic FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	2	2	0	0	Pitch is used by Crowborough Athletic FC. No spare capacity.
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Crowborough Athletic FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	9v9	1	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	Pitch is used by Crowborough Athletic FC. No spare capacity during peak periods.
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Crowborough Athletic FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	7v7	2	Standard	0	8	8	2	Pitches are unused, leaving 2 MES of spare capacity.
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Crowborough Athletic FC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	Secure	5v5	4	Standard	0	16	16	4	Pitches are unused, leaving 4 MES of spare capacity.

Site ID	Site	Club	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ³	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ⁴ (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
4	Beacon Academy	-	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
5	Bede's Senior School	-	Hailsham	No	School	Unsecure	Adult	3	Good	3	9	6	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
5	Bede's Senior School	-	Hailsham	No	School	Unsecure	Adult	4	Poor	4	4	0	0	Pitch at capacity with curricular use.
31	Greenfields School	-	Crowborough & Rural North	No	School	Unsecure	7v7	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
33	Grovelands CP School	-	Hailsham	No	School	Unsecure	Adult	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
33	Grovelands CP School	-	Hailsham	No	School	Unsecure	7v7	2	Standard	1	4	3	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

³ Pitch sizes in brackets denotes overmarked pitches

⁴ 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	Club	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ³	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ⁴ (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
35	Hailsham Community College	-	Hailsham	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
35	Hailsham Community College	-	Hailsham	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
36	Hailsham Primary Academy	-	Hailsham	No	School	Unsecure	7v7	1	Poor	1	2	3	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
40	Heathfield Community College	-	Heathfield & Rural South	No	School	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Pitch at capacity with curricular use.
50	Laughton Community Primary School	-	Uckfield	No	School	Unsecure	7v7	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
66	Nutley CE Primary School	-	Crowborough & Rural North	No	School	Unsecure	9v9	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Pitch at capacity with curricular use.
69	Polegate School	-	Polegate	No	School	Unsecure	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Pitch at capacity with curricular use.
75	Sacred Heart School	-	Crowborough & Rural North	No	School	Unsecure	7v7	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
78	Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School	-	Crowborough & Rural North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
78	Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School	-	Crowborough & Rural North	No	School	Unsecure	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
81	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	-	Crowborough & Rural North	No	School	Unsecure	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
82	St Mary's School	-	Hailsham	No	School	Unsecure	7v7	1	Standard	1	4	3	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
83	St Phillips Catholic Primary School	-	Uckfield	No	School	Unsecure	7v7	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
83	St Phillips Catholic Primary School	-	Uckfield	No	School	Unsecure	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
83	St Phillips Catholic Primary School	-	Uckfield	No	School	Unsecure	5v5	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
84	Stone Cross School	-	Polegate	No	School	Unsecure	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
95	Uckfield College	-	Uckfield	Yes	School	Secure	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
95	Uckfield College	-	Uckfield	Yes	School	Secure	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

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Site ID	Site	Club	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ³	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ⁴ (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
97	Uplands Community College	-	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	School	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
97	Uplands Community College	-	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	School	Secure	7v7	1	Standard	1	4	3	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
97	Uplands Community College	-	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	School	Secure	7v7	1	Standard	1	4	3	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
100	Wadhurst C of E Primary School	-	Crowborough & Rural North	No	School	Unsecure	7v7	1	Standard	1	4	3	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
106	Willingdon Community School	Willingdon Athletic FC	Polegate	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
106	Willingdon Community School	Willingdon Athletic FC	Polegate	Yes	School	Unsecure	9v9	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
106	Willingdon Community School	Willingdon Athletic FC	Polegate	Yes	School	Unsecure	5v5	2	Standard	1	4	3	0	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
107	Willingdon Primary School	-	Polegate	No	School	Unsecure	11v11	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Pitch at capacity with curricular use.

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Spare capacity

161. To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity identified in Table 2.13 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.
162. 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. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for high level match play, such as at stadia sites like AFC Uckfield Town.
163. Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to their already low carrying capacity. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn, can aid the improvement of pitch quality.
164. Unless tenure is considered secure through the operator, school sites that are currently available for community use but unused are also not considered to have actual spare capacity as the full availability of these pitches cannot be relied upon in the long term.
165. Given the above, actual spare capacity in Wealden equates to 22.5 match equivalent sessions per week (provided across 14 sites and 30 pitches). This has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type below.

Table 2.14: Summary of actual spare capacity

Analysis area Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Crowborough & Rural North	3.5	0.5	-	4.5	5
Hailsham	0.5	-	-	-	-
Heathfield & Rural South	-	0.5	-	-	0.5
Polegate	-	-	3	1	1
Uckfield	1.5	1	-	-	-
Total	5.5	2	3	5.5	6.5

166. In addition to the above, it is worthy of note that 16 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity has been discounted due to either sites having unsecure tenure or poor pitch quality.

Match equivalent sessions (MES)

167. Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate, at this stage, for the comparable unit to be MES but may for example include training sessions and informal use.
168. At this stage, MES does not equate to a number of pitches. This will be fully determined, and recommendations will be made accordingly within the Strategy and Action Plan.

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Overplay

169. Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). Once pitches become overplayed, their ability to accommodate match fixtures deteriorates due to issues relating to wear and tear and a difficulty in recovering after match play.
170. In total, 11 pitches across eight sites are identified as being overplayed. Total overplay equates to 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week. There is no overplay identified on youth 11v11, mini 7v7 or mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 2.15: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Crowborough & Rural North	0.5	-	-	-	-
Hailsham	1.5	-	1	-	-
Heathfield & Rural South	1	-	-	-	-
Polegate	0.5	-	-	-	-
Uckfield	3	-	6	-	-
Total	6.5	-	7	-	-

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

171. Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the current demand and future demand balance (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions.
172. Total future demand in Wealden accounts for participation increases. As a reminder, 17 clubs' report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide equating to a potential growth of 31 teams. TGRs (when applied by analysis area level) do not forecast the growth of any teams, therefore the combined future demand equates to 31 teams for all age brackets.
173. The table below highlights the position of adult pitch provision in Wealden. On a district wide basis, there is a current shortfall of capacity of adult provision to accommodate existing demand (caused by small levels of overplay in four analysis areas). Future demand would further exacerbate the current shortfall.

Adult pitch analysis

Table 2.16: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area Demand (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity in match equivalent sessions	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Crowborough & Rural North	3.5	0.5	3	0.5	2.5
Hailsham	0.5	1.5	1	1	2
Heathfield & Rural South	-	1	1	-	1
Polegate	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
Uckfield	1.5	3	1.5	1	2.5
Total	5.5	6.5	1	3	4

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Youth 11v11 pitch analysis

Table 2.17: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area Demand (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity in match equivalent sessions	Overplay	Current total	Future demand in match equivalent sessions	Total
Crowborough & Rural North	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
Hailsham	-	-	-	1.5	1.5
Heathfield & Rural South	0.5	-	0.5	1.5	1
Polegate	-	-	-	-	-
Uckfield	1	-	1	1	-
Total	2	-	2	4	2

174. The current picture is that there is a sufficient supply of provision of youth 11v11 pitches in Wealden to accommodate existing demand, with no analysis areas identifying a shortfall. Future demand creates additional shortfalls resulting in an overall district shortfall.

Youth 9v9 pitch analysis

Table 2.18: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area Demand (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity in match equivalent sessions	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Crowborough & Rural North	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Hailsham	-	1	1	1	2
Heathfield & Rural South	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Polegate	3	-	3	-	3
Uckfield	-	6	6	-	6
Total	3	7	4	2	6

175. Overall, there is insufficient supply of youth 9v9 pitches in Wealden to accommodate both current and future levels of demand. However, all current shortfalls are based within the Uckfield Analysis Area with the remaining areas having sufficient capacity. Small future shortfalls emerge in those areas which are currently at capacity.

Mini 7v7 pitch analysis

Table 2.19: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area Demand (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity in match equivalent sessions	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Crowborough & Rural North	4.5	-	4.5	2	2.5
Hailsham	-	-	-	1	1
Heathfield & Rural South	-	-	-	1	1
Polegate	1	-	1	-	1
Uckfield	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5.5	-	5.5	4	1.5

176. The table above shows that there is a sufficient supply on mini 7v7 pitches in Wealden to accommodate current levels and future levels of demand.

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Mini 5v5 pitch analysis

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area Demand (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity In match equivalent sessions	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Crowborough & Rural North	5	-	5	-	5
Hailsham	-	-	-	1	1
Heathfield & Rural South	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-
Polegate	1	-	1	-	1
Uckfield	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6.5	-	6.5	2.5	4

177. The table above shows that there is a sufficient supply on mini 5v5 pitches in Wealden to accommodate current levels and future levels of demand.

2.6: Conclusion

178. Having considered supply and demand position of each format of football pitches, it is evident that the overall position is there is broadly a sufficient supply of provision in the District to accommodate current demand. When accounting for future demand, shortfalls are apparent for adult pitches, and both formats of youth pitches. Sufficient capacity is anticipated to accommodate demand for mini pitches.

Table 2.21: Summary of supply and demand in Wealden

Pitch format Demand (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity In match equivalent sessions	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	5.5	6.5	1	3	4
Youth 11v11	2	-	2	4	2
Youth 9v9	3	7	4	2	6
Mini 7v7	5.5	-	5.5	4	1.5
Mini 5v5	6.5	-	6.5	2.5	4

179. Only adult and youth 9v9 pitches show current shortfall, however, shortfalls emerge on youth 11v11 pitches when accounting for future demand. In the main, shortfalls are apparent due to overplay across specific club sites and a stock of pitches being poor quality and thus not suitable for match play.

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Football – grass pitch summary

- ▶ The current supply of football provision is broadly sufficient in accommodating football demand on all pitch types. The one exception to this is for adult and youth 9v9 pitches where a shortfall is identified.
- ▶ Future demand reduces spare capacity on most pitch types and creates a shortfall on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches which totals 12 match equivalent sessions per week (combined).

Supply:

- ▶ The audit identifies a total of 140 grass football pitches across 65 sites. Of these, 110 are available, at some level, for community use across 50 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

Quality:

- ▶ Of the 110 pitches which offer community use, 30 pitches are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard quality and 29 as poor quality. Identified good quality pitches are formed through a combination of pitches aligned to adult football teams which compete in high performance league competitions and well-maintained recreation grounds.

Affiliated football demand:

- ▶ Through the audit and assessment, 236 teams from 34 clubs are identified as playing in Wealden. This consists of 50 adult men's, one adult women's, 60 youth boys', 18 youth girls' and 107 mini mixed teams.
- ▶ Future demand equates to the growth of 31 teams, there is based on club aspirations. Team Generation Rates do not forecast the specific growth of any teams.
- ▶ The PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan will contain a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development.

Supply vs demand analysis conclusions:

- ▶ There is broadly a sufficient supply of provision in Wealden to accommodate demand on youth 11v11, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types.
- ▶ There are existing shortfalls on adult and youth 9v9 pitches.
- ▶ Future demand reduces available capacity and creates small shortfalls on youth 11v1 and youth 9v9 pitches amount to 12 match equivalent sessions per week (combined).
- ▶ There is spare capacity for mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches both now and in the future.

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PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) PITCHES

3.1: Introduction

180. Third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches utilise longer fibres with a combination of rubber and sand infill to offer heightened performance. They are predominately used for football matches but most commonly for football training. They can also be used for rugby matches dependent upon being constructed to World Rugby Regulation 22.
181. Competitive football can take place on 3G artificial grass pitches that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the [FA Pitch Register](#). As such, a growing number of 3G artificial grass pitches are now used for competitive match play, provided that the performance standard meets FIFA Quality (previously FIFA One Star), as well as for training purposes. Football training does, however, take place on hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (please refer to Part 6: Artificial grass pitches for greater explanation on pitch specifications) but is not the preferred option.
182. 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.
183. 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 artificial grass pitch used for any form of competitive rugby or contact training must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.
184. [England Hockey's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy \(updated June 2018\)](#) advises that third generation artificial grass 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 artificial grass pitches 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.

185. 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 PPOSS as 3G pitches can be and are used for other sports including rugby union, rugby league, lacrosse and American football, amongst others.

3.2: Current provision

186. 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); however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 100 x 60 metres (inclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate.

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187. On the above basis, there is one full size 3G pitch provided in Wealden. There are also two small sided pitches of varying scales located within the area, both of which are located at education sites. A breakdown of the supply is below.

Table 3.2: 3G pitch supply summary:

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch size	Surface type	Number of pitches	Floodlit?
33	Grovelands C P School	Hailsham	No	39m x 17m	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	1	No
35	Hailsham Community College	Hailsham	No	70m x 30m	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	1	No
95	Uckfield College	Uckfield	Yes	110 x 70m	Long pile 3G (60mm) with shock pad	1	Yes

188. The full-size pitch at Uckfield College is available for community use and provides opportunities for local sport clubs to train and play competitive matches.
189. The small-sided pitch at Hailsham College is not available for community use. This is on the basis that there is a 19:00 floodlight restriction due to its proximity to neighbouring residential properties.
190. The College is working with local residents to come to a resolution around an extension of the floodlighting restrictions to provide more opportunities for usage throughout winter. Consultation with Hailsham Active confirmed that it is aware of the situation and is working towards resolving this.
191. The pitch at Groveland CP School pitch is unavailable for community use due to not being floodlit and therefore not being an accessible offer for clubs in darker months.

Management

192. Management of the 3G pitch at Uckfield College is undertaken by the school during curricular hours and Freedom Leisure Centre from 17:00 till 21:30 midweek and 08:00 to 16:00 on weekends. Consultation with Uckfield College highlights that Freedom Leisure's lease agreement for the site is scheduled to expire during 2022.
193. Hailsham Community College is managed in house by the School, despite its current designation of being unavailable for community use. The pitch at Grovelands Primary School is not available for use and historically this has always been the case.

Future provision

194. The list of projects below are firstly those identified in the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) which are those known by Sussex County FA and the Football Foundation. The latter are those identified during consultation during the PPOSS development.

Wealden LFFP

195. The Wealden LFFP identifies four full size 3G pitch projects and one small sided with the aim of satisfying midweek training demand for all football clubs in Wealden.

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196. The LFFP analysis is less detailed than that of the PPOSS and therefore the broad geographical remit of the LFFP does not align to the specific analysis area breakdown used within the PPOSS.
197. Given that the LFFP is a live document informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, it may need to be re-assessed following the findings and recommendations of this study. Any significant changes in demand since the LFFP was produced is likely to result in 3G pitch shortfalls increasing or decreasing, as determined later in this section of the report, meaning additions or alterations may be required. The potential projects in the LFFP are as follows:
- ◀ Beacon Academy
 - ◀ Bede's School
 - ◀ Goldsmiths Recreation Ground (small sided 3G pitch)
 - ◀ Uplands Community College Sports Centre
 - ◀ Hailsham (catchment area)
198. The validity of these projects will be assessed in the PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan with recommendations around portfolio inclusions or expulsions. This will include consideration for new aspirations which have come about following the plans completion. These are detailed below.

Wealden Sports Hub

199. Plans to develop a new leisure offer is underway and being led by Wealden District Council. The Council has purchased a 15-acre site in the Northwest region of Hailsham near the Boship Roundabout on the A22 to develop. The sports facility mix is yet to be determined; however, it is expected that a 3G pitch(s) will be part of the on-going facility conversation. Conversations have also been held with the RFU and Hellingly RFC with the possibility of the proposed 3G provision to be World Rugby 22 compliant.

Uplands Community College Centre

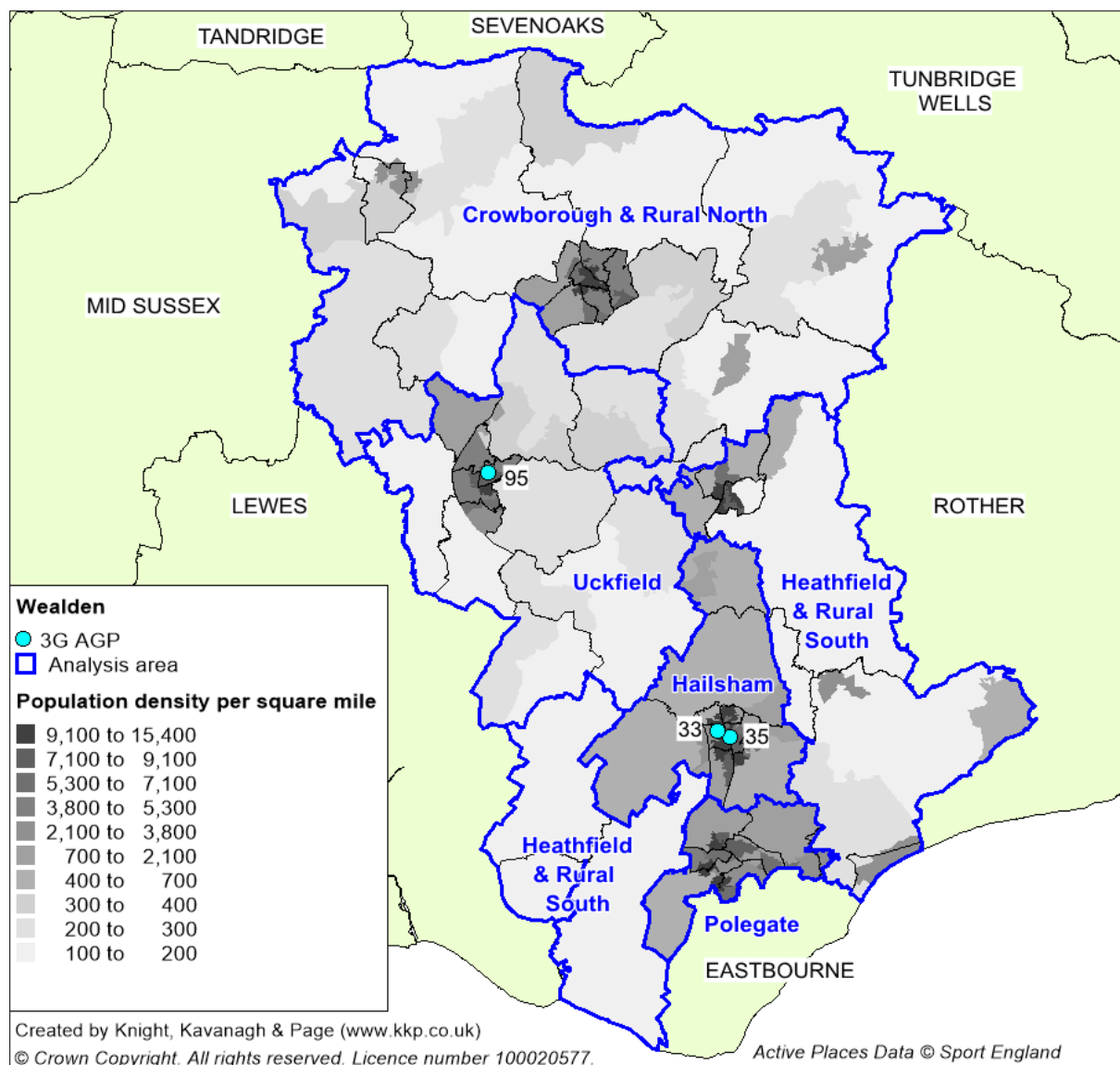
200. Local consultation identifies that Uplands Community College Centre has an aspiration to develop a full size 3G pitch at the school site to cater for both curricular and community demand. Consultation with the school highlights that Wadhurst FC, Wadhurst Juniors FC, Rotherfield Juniors FC, Ticehurst FC and Luca FC have all pledged funds to the school to financially support this project. The site is based in Wadhurst which is situated in the Crowborough & Rural North Analysis Area.

Welcroft Park Rangers FC

201. Consultation with the Club owner of Welcroft Park Rangers highlights its aspiration to develop a 3G pitch located at New Barn Farm off Station Road in Hailsham. This, at present, would see the conversion of agricultural land to formal playing field for the development of a 3G pitch, a mini natural turf pitch and accompanying ancillary provision. This discussion is in its infancy and has not been highlighted to either Sussex County FA or the Football Foundation.
202. Figure 3.1 identifies all 3G pitches servicing Wealden. For a key to the map, see Table 3.2.

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Figure 3.1: 3G pitches servicing Wealden



FA Pitch Register

203. 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](#).

Table 3.3: 3G pitch supply summary

Site ID	Site	Accreditation type	Text expiry
33	Grovelands C P School	Not FA approved	-
35	Hailsham Community College	FA Approved	31/05/25
95	Uckfield College	FA Approved	31/05/24

204. Of the existing stock of pitches which offer community use, both Hailsham Community College and Uckfield College are on the FA Register for match play.

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World Rugby compliant pitches

205. To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification.
206. 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.
207. 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 and contact training must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.
208. Consultation with Uckfield College identifies that the 60mm long pile 3G available on site has a rugby compliant shock pad, making it suitable for rugby training purposes. The pitch is used for training by Uckfield Rugby Club, which is a partner for the site, having financially supported its installation. Senior men's and ladies training takes place from 19:00 to 21:00 every Thursday with an additional junior training session held on Sunday's from 09:00 to 14:00.
209. Despite the existing levels of use on the site by Uckfield RFC, it is noted that the World Rugby Compliancy certification of the pitch has expired. The pitch has not had a certification test undertaken since October 2015 and therefore the pitches certification status has lapsed. This means that the pitch can no longer be utilised for contact rugby union activities (such as line outs, rucking, mauling, etc.).
210. At the time of installation, the pitch was serviced with dark blue rugby pitch markings, something that is now very faint given the age of provision. Uckfield Rugby Club has requested that markings are re-painted as to improve the quality of offering at the site. The Club also state that the rugby posts provided at the site are infrequently erected, something it would like to be addressed as to enhance match capacity for junior play and once again improve the overall offering of the site (albeit this cannot be achieved until the pitch becomes re-certified for match play/contact training demand).

Quality

211. 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, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.
212. Taking the above into account, the quality of third generation artificial grass pitches across Wealden have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:
 - ◀ Good
 - ◀ Standard
 - ◀ Poor
213. The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (60-79%), Poor (<60%). The quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

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214. The pitch available at Hailsham Community College is identified as of a good quality having been built during 2021. Furthermore, given the complexities of the 19:00 floodlights curfew the pitch has experienced very little use, outside that of curricular demand.
215. The pitch at Uckfield College is standard quality. This is as a result of sustained levels of high use (given it is the only available full size 3G pitch in Wealden). The pitch is utilised for training purposes by several clubs across Wealden such as Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC and Uckfield Rugby Club, who are both partners of the pitch.
216. With regard to the World Rugby Regulation 22 compliance certification, an assessment is required to take place every two years as to ensure the provision is still safe for rugby use. In the case of Uckfield College, the school was uncertain as to when the last assessment took place, however it felt it was unlikely to have occurred within the last two years.

Table 3.4: Age and quality of 3G pitches in Wealden

Site ID	Site	Pitch type	Year installed or resurfaced	Quality
33	Grovelands C P School	5v5	2008/ 2011	Poor
35	Hailsham Community College	70m x 30m	2021	Good
95	Uckfield College	Full size	2014	Standard

Ancillary facilities

217. Both of the pitches at Hailsham Community College and Uckfield College are accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered good. The Uckfield College pitch is serviced by a café and social space for people to utilise whilst on site. The site has two changing rooms located within Uckfield College that were built during 2021 with a further two available within Freedom Leisure that were refurbished as of 2014.
218. Comparatively, Hailsham Community College also has four changing rooms of a good quality that were built in 2006.

3.3: Demand

219. The following table summarises the availability of all 3G pitches in Wealden which are available for community use. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). This equates to a peak time midweek available usage of 18 hours and a peak time weekend usage of 16 hours.

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Table 3.5: Availability and capacity summary

Site ID	Site	Management	Total hours available during peak period	Comments
35	Hailsham Community College	School	0 hours midweek 0 hours weekend	Other sports facilities on site open to the general public from 18:00 till 21:00 midweek and 08:30 to 17:00 on weekends.
95	Uckfield College	School	16.5 hours midweek 5 hours weekend	Facility opens to the general public from 18:00- 20:30 every Monday and 17:00 till 20:30 from Tuesday to Friday. On weekends the site is open from 09:00 to 11:30 on Saturdays and 10:00 till 12:30 on Sundays. Extensive football training usage at the site for Uckfield Grasshopper Juniors FC and Crowborough Athletic FC. Provision is also used by Uckfield Rugby Club who access the site from 19:00- 21:00 for senior mens, ladies and junior teams aged from U14 and upwards; as well as training every Sunday from 09:00 to 14:00 for remaining junior team training.

Football

220. 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

221. 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.
222. Of the 26 responsive football clubs, 16 report that they require additional training facilities and specifically mention demand for 3G pitches. Some teams currently access indoor sports halls, whilst others use the sand filled surface at Beacon Academy to enable all participants an ability to train. In some instances, clubs are forced to cancel training sessions purely due to the lack of facilities available within the area. Clubs that express a need for more 3G pitches are listed in the table below.

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Table 3.6: Latent demand for 3G pitches

Club	Need for more/better training facilities
Crowborough Athletic FC	✓
Fairwarp FC	✓
Hailsham United Juniors FC	✓
Heathfield and Horam FC	✓
Herstmonceux FC	✓
Jarvis Brook FC	✓
Link Football Coaching Hellingly	✓
Maresfield Dynamo Junior FC	✓
Pevensey and Westham Juniors FC	✓
Polegate Town FC	✓
Rotherfield JFC	✓
SC Pass and Move FC	✓
Wadhurst United Juniors FC	✓
Welcroft Park Rangers FC	✓
Willingdon Athletic FC	✓

223. Throughout the consultation process the point most stressed by football clubs across Wealden is the need to increase the number of 3G facilities available within the District.
224. Furthermore, six clubs highlight how they unwillingly travel outside of the District to access 3G training facilities. These clubs and sites of use are listed below.

Table 3.7: Football clubs exporting 3G pitch usage outside of Wealden

Site	Club
St Gregory's (Tunbridge Wells)	Crowborough Athletic FC
Battle Abbey	SC Pass and Move
Battle Sports Centre	SC Pass and Move
St Leonards Academy	SC Pass and Move
Claremont Preparatory School	SC Pass and Move
Claremont Preparatory School	SC Pass and Move
Bennett Memorial Diocesan School	Jarvis Brook FC Wadhurst United Juniors FC
Bennington School	-Rotherfield JFC
Claremont Preparatory School	SC Pass and Move
Eastbourne Academy	Pevensey and Westham Juniors FC
Eastbourne College	Pevensey and Westham Juniors FC
Eastbourne Sports Park	Pevensey and Westham Juniors FC
Hawkenbury Recreation Ground	Wadhurst United Juniors FC
Mascalls Academy	Wadhurst United Juniors FC

Football supply and demand analysis

225. The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every England Football Accreditation Club through a partnership agreement. In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week.

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Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match (although these times slots are often popular as a recreational offer). This peak time model is in slight contrast to Sport England's peak time model but it does provide a more representative model for football, whilst the Sport England is a broader model for all sports.

226. To ensure the current supply and any future supply is of a good enough standard to accommodate demand, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that FA certification remains in place.
227. Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers, it is estimated that 38 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training.
228. Given the above, with 236 teams currently affiliating to Wealden, there is a theoretical need for six full size 3G pitch equivalents (rounded down from 6.2) to accommodate training demand. As there is currently only one full size pitch provided at Uckfield College, there is a theoretical need for an additional five full size pitches in Wealden to accommodate all affiliated football training demand. This model does not equate for the unavailable pitch at Hailsham College which would equate to a 0.5 full size pitch equivalent if it was made available for community use.
229. The table below considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play. As can be seen, there are existing shortfalls of provision in four of the five analysis areas and clear pockets of need in the Crowborough & Rural North, Heathfield & Rural South and Hailsham analysis areas.

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

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Full size 3G requirement Figure rounded up to the nearest whole number	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Crowborough & Rural North	85	2.5	0	2.5
Hailsham	44	1.5	0	1.5
Heathfield & Rural South	42	1.5	0	1.5
Polegate	14	0	0	0
Uckfield	51	1.5	1	0.5
Total	236	7	1	6

230. As can be seen in the table above, there are existing shortfalls of provision in four of the five analysis areas. Due to limited demand in the Polegate analysis area it is considered that there is not an explicit need to develop provision in this settlement. When the analysis is applied by analysis area, the overall shortfall equates to seven full size pitch equivalents, one greater than the overall broad figure.
231. The table below examines what the need for 3G pitches is based on future demand identified in the football section of this report (Part 2:Football Pitches). Future demand is based on both participation increases identified by clubs and population forecasts.

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

Analysis area	Future number of teams Future demand based on participation increases and TGRs as per the football section of the report.	Full size 3G requirement ¹ Figure rounded up to the nearest whole number.	Current number of 3G pitches	Theoretical shortfall
Crowborough & Rural North	91	2.5	0	2.5
Hailsham	55	1.5	0	1.5
Heathfield & Rural South	49	1.5	0	1.5
Polegate	15	0	0	0
Uckfield	56	1.5	1	0.5
Total	266	7	1	6

232. Based on the above, the overall shortfall of 3G pitches does not change with future demand expected to be broadly spread across already high demand areas. Whilst worth noting that all five areas are forecasted to increase its number of teams, the Hailsham Analysis Area is predicted to gain the greatest number of teams (11).

Football match play demand

233. 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, and the location does not have an impact on other pitch sports.
234. The forthcoming Strategy & Action Plan will explore scenarios for the 3G pitch requirement for competitive match play. This will include a focus on accommodating both mini and youth football.

3.4: Conclusion

235. In conclusion, there is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand based on the FA training model, in Wealden. As such, it is determined that an increase in provision is required, with the most explicit need identified in the Crowborough & Rural North Analysis Area.

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3G summary

Supply:

- There is one full size 3G pitch in Wealden. There are also two small sided pitches which are unavailable for community use.
- Both of the pitches located at Uckfield College and Hailsham Community College are on the FA register for football match play and can therefore be used to accommodate competitive matches. They are not scheduled to expire until 2024 for the former and 2025 for the latter.
- There is one World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch in Wealden, this is located at Uckfield College. Its current certification for match play or contact training has now lapsed.
- The 3G pitch located at Hailsham Community College is fully installed and fit for play, however, there is a 19:00 curfew for the floodlights at the site, deeming it out of community use.

Quality:

- The pitch located at Hailsham Community College is deemed of a good quality, with the Uckfield College 3G considered to be standard. Finally, the 5v5 3G located at Grovelands C P School is of a poor quality.
- Both of the pitches at Uckfield College and Hailsham Community College are accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered good. Both sites feature changing rooms that have been assessed as good quality, whilst Uckfield College also offers customers a café and social space on the Freedom Leisure site.

Supply vs demand analysis:

- With 236 football teams currently affiliated to Wealden, there is a need for six full size pitch equivalents to service current levels of demand. Future demand does not increase this shortfall.
- With only one full size 3G currently being available to the community within Wealden, there is the need for a further five full size pitch equivalents to be built. The new 9v9 scaled 3G pitch development at Hailsham Community College can contribute towards 0.5 of this required total if the floodlight curfew issue is resolved, leaving a further 4.5 pitches to be developed.
- When studying demand by analysis area, shortfalls are apparent in four of the five PPOSS analysis areas, with the biggest area of need being Crowborough & Rural North Analysis Area which has a current (and future) shortfall of 2.5 full size 3G pitches. Both Heathfield and Rural South and the Hailsham analysis areas have a current (and future) shortfall of 1.5 full size pitch equivalents.
- Should the Hailsham Community College 9v9 pitch open to the general public this can represent 0.5 of the required pitches.

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PART 4: RUGBY UNION PITCHES

4.1: Introduction

236. 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, of which Wealden falls into the southeast region.
237. The rugby union playing season operates from September to May, with senior men's fixtures being held on Saturday afternoons whilst ladies, juniors and mini fixtures are held on Sundays.

Consultation

238. There are five rugby union clubs based in Wealden. All five clubs were responsive to consultation attempts, giving a response rate of 100%. Consultation was undertaken via a mixture of phone calls and face-to-face meetings.

Table 4.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Crowborough RUFC	Yes
Heathfield and Waldron RFC	Yes
Hellingly RFC	Yes
Tunbridge Wells RFC	Yes
Uckfield RFC	Yes

4.2: Supply

239. There is a total of 36 rugby union pitches identified within Wealden across 14 sites. Of these, 30 are available for community use. This figure consists of 20 senior pitches and 10 junior pitches. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

Table 4.2: Supply of rugby union pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of pitches	% of provision
Crowborough & Rural North	25	70%
Hailsham	3	8%
Heathfield & Rural South	1	3%
Polegate	1	3%
Uckfield	6	16%
Total	36	100%

240. Most provision is within the Crowborough & Rural North Analysis area, where a total of 25 pitches are identified (this includes pitches which are unavailable for community use). Both the Heathfield & Rural South and Polegate analysis areas feature only one pitch each, both of which are located at education sites.
241. A site-by-site breakdown of identified provision can be found in the table overleaf.

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Table 4.3: Supply of rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community accessible?	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches
4	Beacon Academy (Beeches)	Crowborough & Rural North	No	1	-
5	Bede's School	Hailsham	No	1	-
16	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	4	-
17	Cumnor House School	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	2	8
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	3	-
40	Heathfield Community College	Heathfield & Rural South	No	1	-
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Hailsham	Yes	1	1
78	Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School	Crowborough & Rural North	No	-	2
95	Uckfield College	Uckfield	Yes	-	1
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	Uckfield	Yes	3	-
97	Uplands Community College Centre	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	1	-
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	Uckfield	Yes	2	-
106	Willingdon Community College	Polegate	No	1	-
133	Tunbridge Wells RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	4	-

242. Traditionally, mini and junior rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches and this largely the case across Wealden with mini and junior teams from most clubs accessing senior pitches for both training and competitive matches. Despite this being the case, the RFU stresses that this should not be advocated and should be avoided, if possible, to minimise overplay and enable a truer pitch demand capacity to be drawn.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see the table below. The recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres. 94 x 68m are the minimum dimensions defined for an international pitch.

Table 4.4: Pitch dimensions

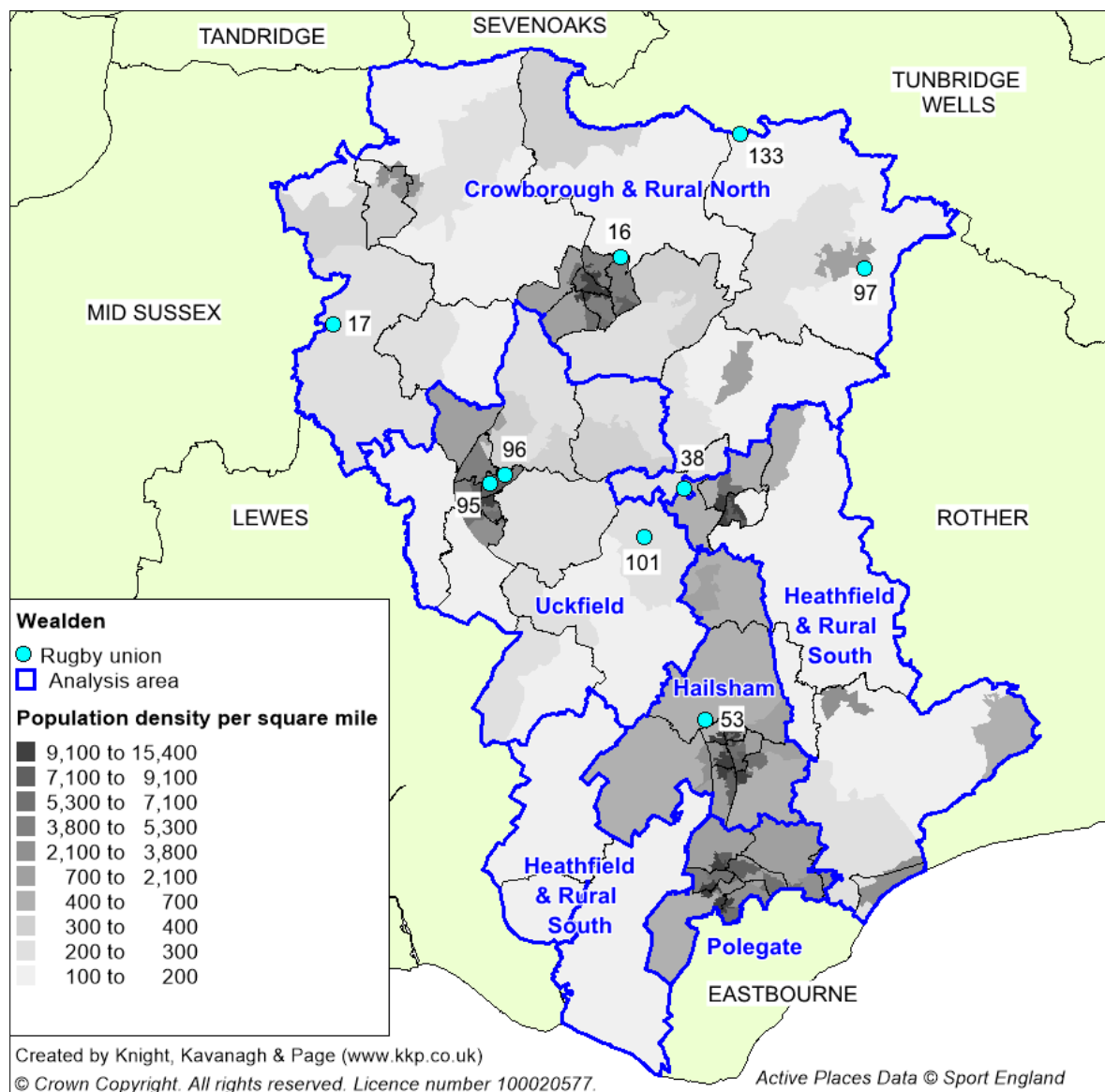
Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres)
U7	Mini	20 x 12
U8	Mini	45 x 22
U9	Mini	60 x 30
U10	Mini	60 x 35
U11	Mini	60 x 43
U12	Mini	60 x 43
U13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70

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Changes to supply

243. Uckfield College lost a senior pitch due to the new build of the school site which opened in September 2020. The school is now in the process of developing a replacement pitch which is scheduled to be seeded in April 2022 before being fit for play by 2024.

Figure 4.1: Rugby union pitches (community use only)



Security of tenure

244. Security of tenure refers to the rights of occupation on playing field and infrastructure. Clubs and stakeholders generally fall into the bracket of owner-occupier, tenant or licensee. The table below identifies the current tenure position of each rugby union club based on information collated during the consultation. The broad position is that all clubs have secure tenure positions, and this will remain the case over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

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Table 4.5: Rugby union clubs security of tenure

Club	Tenure arrangement	Secure?
Crowborough RUFC	Freehold ownership of entire site.	Yes
Heathfield and Waldron RFC	Club has freehold ownership of one pitch, with the remaining two pitches under a 50-year license agreement with the Hardy Roberts Trust signed in 2010.	Yes
Hellingly RFC	Club has a 25-year lease agreement with Hellingly Parish Council. The Club were uncertain as to when the lease is scheduled to expire, however it expects it to be able to renew its lease as and when required.	Yes
Tunbridge Wells RFC	25-year lease from Tunbridge Wells Council signed in 2010 for three and a half of the pitches on site.	Yes
Uckfield RFC	Uckfield RFC owns its clubhouse outright and has a 99-year lease agreement with East Sussex County Council, of which it has over 80 years remaining.	Yes

Pitch quality

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

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

246. 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 4.6: 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 4.7: 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

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Table 4.8: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

Drainage/Maintenance	Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
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

247. 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.
248. Based on the above criteria, there are seven good quality, 18 standard and five poor quality pitches. Poor quality pitches are located across three sites, these are; Uplands Community College, Crowborough RUFC, Horsebridge Recreation Ground and Waldron Recreation Ground. All of these pitches receive limited maintenance generally consisting of regular grass cutting. There is on occasional ad-hoc programmes undertaken such as weed killing and fertilisation, but this is not undertaken with consistency to ascertain an M1 maintenance rating. Further to maintenance, Waldron Recreation Ground has issues with local wildlife causing damage to the pitch surface onsite. With regards to the quality of provision at Crowborough RUFC, the floodlit training pitch has been deemed as of a poor quality due to the quantity of usage it receives for training and match play purposes causing severe overplay.
249. From a community club perspective, the majority of clubs are serviced by either good or standard quality pitches at their home site (albeit secondary sites such as Waldron Recreation Ground contain only poor quality pitches).
250. In regard to secondary school sites, the ten pitches at Cumnor House School are graded as standard quality, whilst the one senior pitch at Uplands Community College Centre is graded as poor. Provision at unavailable education sites is all poor quality with maintenance being limited.
251. Please refer to Table 4.9 overleaf for a breakdown of pitch quality.

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Table 4.9: Site quality ratings at community use available rugby union sites

Site ID	Site name	Club	Analysis area	Number of grass pitches	Floodlit?	Pitch type	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
16	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	4	No	1x Senior	M2/D2	Good
16	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	4	No	2x Senior	M2/D1	Good
16	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	4	Yes, LED floodlights servicing the training pitch	1 x Senior	M1/D0	Poor
17	Cumnor House School	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	10	No	2x Senior 8x Junior	M1/D1	Standard
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field	Heathfield and Waldron RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	3	No	2x Senior	M1/D2	Standard
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field	Heathfield and Waldron RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	3	Yes, floodlights on one pitch which are being converted to LED in January 2022.	1x Senior	M1/D1	Standard
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Hellingly RFC	Hailsham	2	Yes, poor quality incandescent floodlights on main pitch. Site also has a set of different dedicated floodlights on a separate grass training area.	1x Senior	M1/D2	Standard
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Hellingly RFC	Hailsham	2	No	1x Junior	M0/D1	Poor
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	Uckfield RFC	Uckfield	3	No	1 x Senior	M1/D1	Standard
					Yes, one strip of floodlights in between pitches two and three servicing half of each pitch. Neither pitch is fully floodlit.	2 x Senior		
97	Uplands Community College Centre	-	Crowborough & Rural North	1	No	1x Senior	M0/D1	Poor
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	Heathfield and Waldron RFC	Uckfield	2	No	2x Senior	M0/D1	Poor
133	Tunbridge Wells RFC	Tunbridge Wells RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	4	No, none of the four pitches are accompanied by floodlights. LED floodlights are installed on a separate grass training space.	3x Senior	M2/D2	Good
						1x Senior	M2/D1	Good

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Ancillary facilities

251. The term ancillary facility relates to built facility infrastructure at sites. Typically, this includes (but is not limited too) clubhouses, changing rooms, showers, car parking and toilet facilities. The table below summarises the position of each rugby club and highlights current issues and long-term requirements.

Table 4.10: Ancillary provision feedback

Club	Ancillary position
Crowborough RFC	Crowborough RFC features a clubhouse accompanied with four good quality, RFU specification, changing rooms that were built in 2010. The site also features a referee room, a treatment room, a large bar which is open to the general public and a marquee which was erected during 2020. The Club reports a loss of access to its rented overflow carpark provision immediately to the south of its site. This is due to the inclusion of this area in the planning application for the housing development at Steel Cross. There are concerns that the loss of a car parking facility will impact the Club through it having a requirement to still access additional car parking away from its site, if it is to sustain existing programmes, particularly at peak time demand for activities such as age grade festivals. This loss of access may affect its relationship with its neighbours, if nearby roads are required for displaced parking. It may also have a financial impact through a need for alternate offsite parking provision or for the cost of any additional car parking capacity being built on site dependent on future outcomes of the planning application.
Heathfield and Waldron RFC	Heathfield and Waldron has recently had a planning application with Wealden District Council to re-build the clubhouse approved. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2023. This £350,000 development will involve increasing the number of changing rooms, of which there are currently three, and redesigning the function space.
Hellingly RFC	Hellingly RFC currently features four poor quality changing rooms, all of which, are over 30 years old and do not meet the standard RFU size specification. The Club states its need to gain two full size RFU spec changing rooms, as well as a referee changing space as referee's currently 'change in the corner.'
Uckfield RFC	Uckfield RFC currently has a clubhouse with three changing rooms and an accompanying function room and bar on the first floor. The Club has expressed desire to gain a fourth changing room due to the growth of the ladies and girls' teams in recent years. Two of the existing changing rooms have been described as of a poor quality, with the remaining changing space deemed as standard. The boiler on site is working, however, it has been in place for 28 years. The Club has drawn plans to install a disabled lift and toilet as well as increasing the size of the function room. Conversations to fund this project are currently taking place with the RFU.
Tunbridge Wells RFC	Tunbridge Wells RFC renovated its clubhouse in 2014 to now feature four changing rooms, all of which are RFU standard specification or above, as well as featuring a club shop, kitchen and function room. The Club has expressed intentions to extend the upstairs of the clubhouse to have a replica of the floor space present on the ground floor. It also highlighted parking as an issue for the site and would like to install cellular material into the grass space between the first team pitch and Frant Road to address this.

4.3: Demand

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

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Competitive play

253. There are five rugby union clubs in Wealden which in total generate demand equating to 77 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of 16 senior men's, two senior women's, seven colts' (five boys and two girls), 16 junior boys', nine junior girls' and 27 mini teams.
254. Four of the five clubs within Wealden contribute towards the identified junior demand, with Hellingly RFC formerly offering junior rugby, however, the Club halted this in 2021 due to only having one coach and a general lack of demand to formalise playing squads.
255. Given the very low quantity of juniors accessing the sessions in question, it is likely that the participants in question simply stopped playing rugby or transferred to clubs elsewhere in the District.
256. A table summarising club demand is below.

Table 4.11: Demand summary

Club	Senior men's	Senior women's	Colt boys (U17/U18)	Colt girls (U17/U18)	Junior boys (U16-U13)	Junior girls (U16-U13)	Minis (U12-U6)
Crowborough RFC	4	-	1	-	5	2	6
Heathfield and Waldron RFC	3	1	1	1	4	2	7
Hellingly RFC	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tunbridge Wells RFC	4	-	1	1	3	2	7
Uckfield RFC	3	1	2	-	4	3	7
Total	16	2	5	2	16	9	27

Training demand

257. Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of floodlighting.
258. Full details of each of the clubs training schedules are detailed in the table below. The MES equivalent for training relates to the demand which takes place on grass pitches only, unless otherwise stated.
259. With regard to pitch allocation for training purposes, sessions are often held on an additional floodlit grass space rather than on the pitches provided, as to reduce demand on the available provision. In the case of Wealden, this currently occurs at Hellingly RFC and Tunbridge Wells RFC, whilst Heathfield and Waldron RFC have ambitions to install such provision at its home site in the future.

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Table 4.12: Training demand summary

Club	Midweek training requirements	Match equivalent sessions (MES)
Crowborough RFC	Training takes place on the floodlit second team pitch every Tuesday from 19:30 to 20:30. Thursdays, all junior and colts teams train on the second team pitch from 18:15 to 19:15, with the girls' teams also training on the second team pitch from 18:30 to 19:30 every Tuesday or Thursday.	3 MES per week
Heathfield and Waldron RFC	Training takes place at the Hardy Roberts Playing Field on the floodlit pitch on site. Senior training takes place every Wednesday and Thursday from 19:00 till 21:00. The Ladies and U18 girls training occurs every Monday on site from 19:00 to 21:00. Finally, junior training is held at Waldron Recreation Ground every Tuesday from 18:00 to 20:00. The Club state intentions to develop a floodlit training area once the pitch under maintenance at Hardy Roberts Playing Field is completed. This can help towards alleviating overplay issues.	6 MES per week
Hellingly RFC	Training takes place on a separate floodlit grass training space every Tuesday from 18:30 to 20:45 in winter. In summer this takes place alongside an additional Thursday training session again from 18:30 to 20:45.	2 MES per week on separate grass floodlit training space
Tunbridge Wells RFC	Senior training takes place every Tuesday on a dedicated floodlit training space from 19:00 to 21:00 with a second session being delivered at the same time every Thursday for the first team only. Training for the ladies and junior teams take place on Sunday mornings whilst mini training is held on Sunday mornings at either Skinners Kent Primary School or the 3G at Tunbridge Wells Boys Grammar.	3 MES per week on separate grass floodlit training space
Uckfield RFC	Uckfield RFC utilise the 3G surface available at Uckfield College, having financially supported the development of the pitch which was installed in 2014. The Club use this facility every Thursday evening from 19:00-21:00 and 09:00 to 14:00 every Sunday for training purposes.	3G pitch training equates to 7 MES.

World Rugby compliant pitches

260. To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces 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.
261. 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. The compliancy standard is known as to as World Rugby Regulation 22 (WR22).
262. Crowborough RFC is exploring the possibility of developing its second team pitch, which is currently used for training, into a 3G surface. The Club held positive talks with the RFU about this development in 2017 as part of the Rugby 365 programme, however, the proposed plans fell through due to complication. The scheme has now been halted, however, development remains a long-term ambition of the Club.

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263. Tunbridge Wells RFC also aspire to develop a 3G pitch on its site meeting WR22 compliancy.

Use of artificial pitches

264. Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high-quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, however the use of 3G's for the fulfilment of competition fixtures does take place regularly in some areas if suitable provision is available, particularly on sites where Rugby 365 pitches have been provided. Further detail on use of 3G pitches can be found in Part 3: Third Generation Artificial Pitches.
265. Within Wealden the 3G facility at Uckfield College is WR22 compliant with a built-in shock absorbent under the surface and rugby line markings. When the pitch was first installed in 2014, temporary lines were marked for rugby union, these are now no longer in place, which in remove match play opportunities for age grade rugby. Despite the existing levels of use on the site by Uckfield RFC, it is noted that the World Rugby Compliancy certification of the pitch has expired. The pitch has not had a certification test undertaken since 2017 and therefore the pitches certification status has lapsed. This means that the pitch can no longer be utilised for contact rugby union activities (such as line outs, rucking, mauling, etc.).
266. The Uckfield College pitch also lacks a runoff space, meaning it cannot be used for rugby match play and can therefore only be used for training purposes. Uckfield RFC utilise this pitch for training purposes of all teams within the Club, having financially supported the development in 2014. Crowborough RFC state that during unfavourable weather conditions, the Club occasionally utilise the AGP facilities at Beacon Academy, this is a sand-dressed facility and only suitable for more fitness and handling related training offers.

Touch rugby

267. To actively encourage participation in rugby union clubs may provide alternative offers to traditional club competition. Touch rugby is one possible format which clubs can use; touch rugby is non-contact rugby sessions, during which participants compete in teams to score tries, following similar laws to traditional rugby union formats. Clubs, schools or community organisation can establish their own touch rugby sessions or can become hosts of O2 touch rugby sessions.
268. O2 touch rugby are 90 minutes long and combine music, fitness and rugby skills. Sessions are mixed in terms of gender, ability and age and is based on touch rugby being a social activity. Tunbridge Wells RFC, Crowborough RFC and Uckfield RFC deliver touch rugby sessions for members.

Walking rugby

269. Walking rugby is a slower game of touch rugby that is accessible for disability groups and older participants, generally aged 55 years and above. The game is less physical than traditional rugby, but the general aim remains the same, with passing and scoring laws applying; and tackling involves a two-handed touch to the waist or below. Sessions for over 55's are an opportunity for participants to become physically active and for others to re-engage with rugby at a less strenuous pace. Uckfield RFC delivered three successful walking rugby sessions for the first time during 2021 and are currently seeking a coach to continue this initiative.

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Exported/imported demand

270. Exported demand refers to existing demand which is transferred outside of the study area; whilst imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities in Wealden due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.
271. Locally, there are no cases of either exported or imported demand. All clubs accommodate existing demand on each of their respective sites, without the need to travel outside the district to facilitate any further demand.

Unmet/latent demand

272. Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.
273. Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is no evidence to suggest that there is any latent demand for rugby union in Wealden.

Future demand

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

Participation increases

275. Clubs were asked if they aspire to increase the current number of teams they provide. Of the five responsive clubs, Uckfield RFC has ambitions to gain a 3rd senior men's team. Additionally, both Tunbridge Wells RFC and Crowborough RFC express intentions to gain a senior women's team each. Crowborough RFC made reference to possibly forming a link with Uckfield RFC to form a women's team with the combined members. Hellingly RFC state the Club is currently consolidating due to a decrease in the number of teams in recent years.

Population increases

276. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2039).

Table 4.13: Team generation rates (2039)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (19-45)	19,961	14	1:1426	20,794	14	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	21,216	1	1:21216	21,453	1	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	5,514	23	1:240	5,679	23	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	5,271	6	1:879	5,363	6	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	11,213	18	1:623	10,541	17	0

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277. Based on future projections, there is no forecasted growth of a team of any age range or gender within Wealden. It is important to note that population growth is exclusively applied to current team numbers and does not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as coaching activity within schools linking to local clubs or specific RFU targets.
278. The RFU is focused on actively exploring opportunities to assist with the transition between late junior years and senior rugby with a specific focus on growing the senior game with the addition of adult teams (both men's and women's). This area has a strategic focus from the RFU and is being facilitated by encouraging casual play and midweek senior matches, along with O2 touch and cross pitch 7s. The RFU recognises the pressures on participation in the traditional forms of the game at this time and by offering alternative match times and formats then clubs may be able to retain a larger number of players.

Future demand summary

279. Future demand will be based on club aspirations which equates to one senior men's team and two senior women's teams within Wealden. As a reminder, population forecasts do not anticipate a rise in demand.
280. The Strategy Report will contain a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing development.

4.6: Capacity analysis

281. The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times. To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:
- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
 - ◀ Use of school pitches by schools increases demand by one match equivalent session, unless school activity levels are known.
 - ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where age grade specific pitches are provided).
 - ◀ U13 teams generally play on a 90 x 60m pitch and play 13 vs 13.
 - ◀ From U14 upwards, teams generally 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. See RFU Age Grade Rugby Guidance for more details.
 - ◀ 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 men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
 - ◀ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
 - ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
 - ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
 - ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.

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

Table 4.14: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

Drainage/Maintenance	Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
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

283. 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.

The peak period

284. 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 men's teams play at this time, with senior women's teams playing on Sunday afternoons. Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

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Table 4.15: Capacity table for rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
4	Beacon Academy (Beeches)	Crowborough & Rural North	No	Unsecure	1	1x Senior	M0/D0	Poor	No	0.5	-	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
5	Bede's School	Hailsham	No	Unsecure	1	1x Senior	M0/D0	Poor	Yes	0.5	-	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
16	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Secure	4	1x Senior	M1/D0	Poor	Yes	1.75	3	1.5	3.25	The second team pitch is used for senior training for one hour every Tuesday and another hour every Thursday for junior and ladies training. The pitch is also used for second team, colts, U17 and U12 fixtures. Pitch has no spare capacity for Saturday or Sunday fixtures.
16	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Secure	4	1x Senior	M2/D2	Good	No	3	-	3	0	The third pitch is used for third team and vets fixtures, as well as U10, U12, U13, U14 and U15 matches. No spare capacity.
16	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Secure	4	2x Senior	M2/D1	Good	No	1	-	3	2	The first team pitch is used for first team fixtures as well as U7 and U6 fixtures on Sundays. Pitch has capacity for 1 MES on Sundays.
16	Crowborough RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Secure	4	2x Senior	M2/D1	Good	No	2.25	-	3	0.75	The fourth pitch is used by the U8, U9, U11, U16, U15 girls and U13 girl's fixtures. Pitch has capacity for 0.5 MES on Saturdays.
17	Cumnor House School	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Unsecure	10	2x Senior 8x Junior	M1/D1	Standard	No	5	-	5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is not used by the community. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only and occasional overspill demand from Crowborough RFC.
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field <i>(Heathfield and Waldron RFC)</i>	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Secure	3	2x Senior	M1/D2	Standard	No	0.75	-	2.5	1.75	1 st team pitch is used for first team and U11 fixtures.
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field <i>(Heathfield and Waldron RFC)</i>	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Secure	3	2x Senior	M1/D2	Standard	Yes	1.5	3.5	2.5	2.5	Second team pitch is used for senior training every Tuesday from 19:00 to 21:00 and an extra session at the same time every Thursday, as well as junior training. The pitch is also used for second team fixtures as well as Ladies, U10, and U9 fixtures. Pitch is overplayed by 2.5 MES.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field <i>(Heathfield and Waldron RFC)</i>	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Secure	3	1x Senior	M1/D1	Standard	No	1.25	2.5	2	1.75	The third pitch is used for Vets, U8, U7 and U6 fixtures, as well as girl's teams and junior training. Pitch is overplayed by 1.75 MES.
40	Heathfield Community College	Heathfield & Rural South	No	Unsecure	1	1x Senior	M0/D0	Poor	No	0.5	-	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground <i>(Hellingly RFC)</i>	Hailsham	Yes	Secure	2	1x Senior	M1/D2	Standard	1 Yes	1	0	2.5	1.5	The pitch is used for first and second team fixtures only, with an additional floodlit training area being utilised midweek to alleviate overplay. Pitch has capacity for 1 MES on Sundays.
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground <i>(Hellingly RFC)</i>	Hailsham	Yes	Secure	2	1x Junior	M0/D1	Standard	1 Yes	0	0	1.5	1.5	Pitch is not used by the club due to lower quality, its junior scale and a lack of requirement. Pitch has capacity for 1 MES on Sundays.
78	Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School	Crowborough & Rural North	No	Unsecure	2	2x Junior	M0/D0	Poor	No	0.5	-	0.5	0	The school has two junior pitches that are not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	Uckfield	Yes	Secure	3	1x Senior	M1/D2	Standard	No	2	0	2.5	0.5	The first team pitch is used for first team fixtures on a Saturday as well as Ladies, Colts and U13 fixtures on Sundays.
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	Uckfield	Yes	Secure	3	1x Senior	M1/D1	Standard	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	2.75	0	2	1	The second team pitch is used for second team fixtures, as well as half of the junior and mini section of the club. This includes the U15 girls, U13 girls, U15 and 16 joint youth team; as well as U12, U10 and U8 boys. Pitch is overplayed by 1 MES
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	Uckfield	Yes	Secure	3	1x Senior	M1/D1	Standard	Yes (half a pitch vertically)	2.5	0	2	0.5	The third team pitch is used for vets' fixtures as well as the other half of the junior and mini section within the club. This included the U14, U13, U11, U9, U7 and U5 and 6 joint mini team. Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES.
97	Uplands Community College Centre	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Unsecure	1	1x Senior	M0/D0	Poor	No	0.5	-	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is available for community use but not used by any clubs. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
101	Waldron Recreation Ground <i>(Heathfield and Waldron RFC)</i>	Uckfield	Yes	Secure	2	1x Senior	M0/D1	Poor	No	2.5		1.5	1	Heathfield and Waldron RFC utilise this site for its junior team fixtures. This refers to the clubs Colts, U18 girls, U16, U15 and U15 girls. Pitch is overplayed by 1 MES.
101	Waldron Recreation Ground <i>(Heathfield and Waldron RFC)</i>	Uckfield	Yes	Secure	2	1x Senior	M0/D1	Poor	No	2	0	1.5	0.5	Heathfield and Waldron RFC utilise this site for its junior team fixtures. This refers to the clubs U14, U13 girls, U13 and U12 teams. Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES
106	Willingdon Community College	Polegate	No	Unsecure	1	1x Senior	M0/D0	Poor	No	0.5	-	0.5	0	The school has one senior pitch that is not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only.
133	Tunbridge Wells RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Secure	4	3x Senior	M2/D2	Good	No	1	0	3.25	2.25	This pitch is used for first team fixtures and U14 fixtures. The pitch has spare capacity of 1 MES on Sundays. Site has an additional floodlit training area where 3 MES worth of training takes place.
133	Tunbridge Wells RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Secure	4	3x Senior	M2/D2	Good	No	3	0	3.25	0.25	This pitch is used for second team fixtures as well as the U18, U15 and U13 girls' teams fixtures and U11 and U10 boys' fixtures.
133	Tunbridge Wells RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Secure	4	3x Senior	M2/D2	Good	No	1.75	0	3.25	1.5	This pitch is used for third team fixtures as well as U10 and Academy team fixtures, and U9 and U8 fixtures. Pitch has spare capacity for 0.5 MES on Saturdays.
133	Tunbridge Wells RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Secure	4	1x Senior	M2/D1	Good	No	1.75	0	3	1.25	This pitch is used for vets' fixtures as well as U13, U12, U7 and U6 fixtures.

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Actual spare capacity

285. 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.
286. Generally, pitches located at education and/or unsecure sites which are available for community use but are currently unused, are not considered to have actual spare capacity as security of use cannot be formally evidenced as guaranteed.
287. From a senior demand perspective Table 4.16 outlines the actual spare capacity on adult pitches within Wealden. As can be seen there is spare capacity at five sites which equates to two MES on Saturday's and four MES on Sundays.

Table 4.16: Actual spare capacity on senior pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	User	Spare capacity – Saturdays (MES)	Spare capacity – Sundays (MES)
16	Crowborough RUFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Crowborough RUFC	0.5	1
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field	Crowborough & Rural North	Heathfield and Waldron RFC	0.5	0.5
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Hailsham	Hellingly RFC	-	1.5
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	Uckfield	Uckfield Rugby Club	0.5	-
133	Tunbridge Wells RFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Tunbridge Wells RFC	0.5	1
			Total	2	4

Overplay

288. Four sites and seven pitches in Wealden are identified as being overplayed. These are at Crowborough RFC, Hardy Roberts Playing Fields, Uckfield RFC, and Waldron Recreation Ground.

Table 4.17: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	User	Overplay (MES)
16	Crowborough RUFC	Crowborough & Rural North	Crowborough RUFC	3.25
38	Hardy Roberts Playing Field	Crowborough & Rural North	Heathfield and Waldron RFC	4.25
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	Uckfield	Uckfield Rugby Club	1.5
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	Uckfield	Heathfield and Waldron RFC	1.5
			Total	10.5

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289. In the case of Crowborough RUFC, the floodlit second pitch is overplayed as it services all of its teams training as a level of match demand. This is the same case at Hardy Roberts Playing Field, two of the pitches on site are overplayed due to several training sessions in addition to frequent match usage on weekends.
290. Uckfield Rugby Club has overplay on two of its pitches, which is caused by the clubs entire junior and mini section utilising them for match play.
291. The Waldron Recreation Ground pitches are overplayed which is largely caused by the poor pitch quality deeming the site fit for a rather limited usage.

4.4: Supply and demand analysis

292. Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.
293. Future demand is based on future demand aspirations from Uckfield RFC which plans to develop an additional senior men's team.

Table 4:18: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches (senior rugby – Saturday morning/afternoons)

Analysis area Demand (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity In match equivalent sessions	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Crowborough & Rural North	1.5	7.5	6	-	6
Hailsham		-	-	-	-
Heathfield & Rural South	-	-	-	-	-
Polegate	-	-	-	-	-
Uckfield	0.5	3	2.5	0.5	3
Total	2	10.5	8.5	0.5	9

294. The table above shows that there is an insufficient supply of provision to accommodate existing demand, future demand is expected to slightly exacerbate existing shortfalls. In the main, shortfalls derive from midweek training on floodlit pitches and/or concentrated match play on poor quality pitches.
295. The table below looks at the supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches for Sunday rugby here, future demand is based on aspiration growth of two senior women's teams from Tunbridge Wells RFC and Crowborough RFC.

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Table 4:19: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches (mini, junior and senior women's rugby – Sunday mornings)

Analysis area Demand (match equivalent sessions)	Actual spare capacity In match equivalent sessions	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Crowborough & Rural North	2.5	7.5	5	1	6
Hailsham	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.5
Heathfield & Rural South	-	-	-	-	-
Polegate	-	-	-	-	-
Uckfield	-	3	3	-	3
Total	4	10.5	6.5	1	7.5

296. When looking at the supply vs demand balance for mini and junior rugby, there is an insufficient supply of provision both now and in the future. This is also caused by midweek training on floodlit pitches and/or match play on poor quality pitches.

4.5: Conclusions

297. Overall, based on the supply vs demand analysis it is evident that there is insufficient supply of provision in Wealden to accommodate for both current and anticipated future levels of demand. The main issues are centred around pressures on midweek training opportunities as well as concentrated match play on poor quality pitches.

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Rugby union summary

- There is currently insufficient level of rugby union provision in Wealden to accommodate current and future demand.

Supply:

- There is a total of 36 rugby union pitches across 14 sites identified in Wealden. Of these, 30 are available for community use across eight sites.
- There is one WR compliant 3G pitch, this is located at Uckfield College and is utilised for training purposes by Uckfield RFC who financially supported the installation of the pitch in 2014. Its existing certification for match play and contact training has lapsed.

Pitch quality:

- In terms of quality, of community use pitches, there are seven good quality, 18 standard and five poor quality pitches. Of these, all poor quality pitches are located at a combination of education sites which offer a basic maintenance regimes and overused recreation grounds.

Ancillary provision quality:

- Of the five clubs located within Wealden, three clubs expressed intentions to develop the existing ancillary provision.
- Heathfield and Waldron RFC have recently had a planning application with Wealden District Council to develop its existing clubhouse approved. The project has been priced at £350,000 and will involve increasing the number of changing rooms and re-designing the function space. The Club hope this can be completed by 2023.
- Hellingly RFC has expressed its need to gain an additional two RFU spec changing rooms as well as a dedicated referee changing space.
- Uckfield RFC is holding talks with the RFU to finance the development of an additional changing room, as well as gaining a disabled lift and toilet as well as increasing the floor space in the function room.
- Tunbridge Wells RFC expressed intentions to extend the upstairs of the clubhouse to replicate the amount of floor space found on the ground floor.

Demand:

- There are five rugby union clubs in Wealden which in total generate demand equating to 77 teams.
- The breakdown of the number of teams see's Wealden host 16 senior men's teams, two senior women's teams, seven colts teams, 16 junior boys teams, nine junior girls teams and 27 mini teams.
- Uckfield RFC plan on developing an additional senior men's team. In addition to this, both Tunbridge Wells RFC and Crowborough RFC expressed intentions to each gain a women's team.

Supply vs demand analysis:

- There is an overall insufficient supply of provision to cater for both current and future demand.

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PART 5: ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (HOCKEY)

5.1: Introduction

298. 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 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. England Hockey's (EH) Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as seen below.

Table 5.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

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

299. In addition to the above pitch types, EH reports that it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as [Gen 2](#), is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it will be a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

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300. 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.
301. 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.
302. 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 also requires access to a pitch with floodlights.

Club consultation

303. There are two hockey clubs in Wealden; Crowborough Hockey Club and Hailsham Hockey Club. Both were consulted via a face to face meeting to inform this section of the report.

Table 5.2: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Crowborough Hockey Club	Yes
Hailsham Hockey Club	Yes

5.2: Supply

304. There is a total of five full size hockey suitable artificial grass pitches in Wealden located across as many sites. Of the five existing sites, only the pitches at Beacon Academy and Hailsham Community College are available to the community, with Bede's school, Cumnor House and Mayfield Girls School all not offering general public access.

Table 5.3: Summary of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Size (metres)	Floodlit?
4	Beacon Academy	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	100m x 60m	No
5	Bede's School	Hailsham	No	100m x 60m	Yes
17	Cumnor House School	Crowborough & Rural North	No	97m x 62m	No
35	Hailsham Community College	Hailsham	Yes	100m x 60m	Yes
60	Mayfield Girls School	Crowborough & Rural North	No	98m x 61m	Yes

305. There are also two small-sided pitches identified across as many sites. These are included in the table below.

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Table 5.4: Summary of small-sided hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Size (metres)	Floodlit?
40	Heathfield Community College	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	75m x 30m	Yes
78	Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School	Crowborough & Rural North	No	50m x 40m	No

306. A map of hockey provision is provided in Figure 5.1

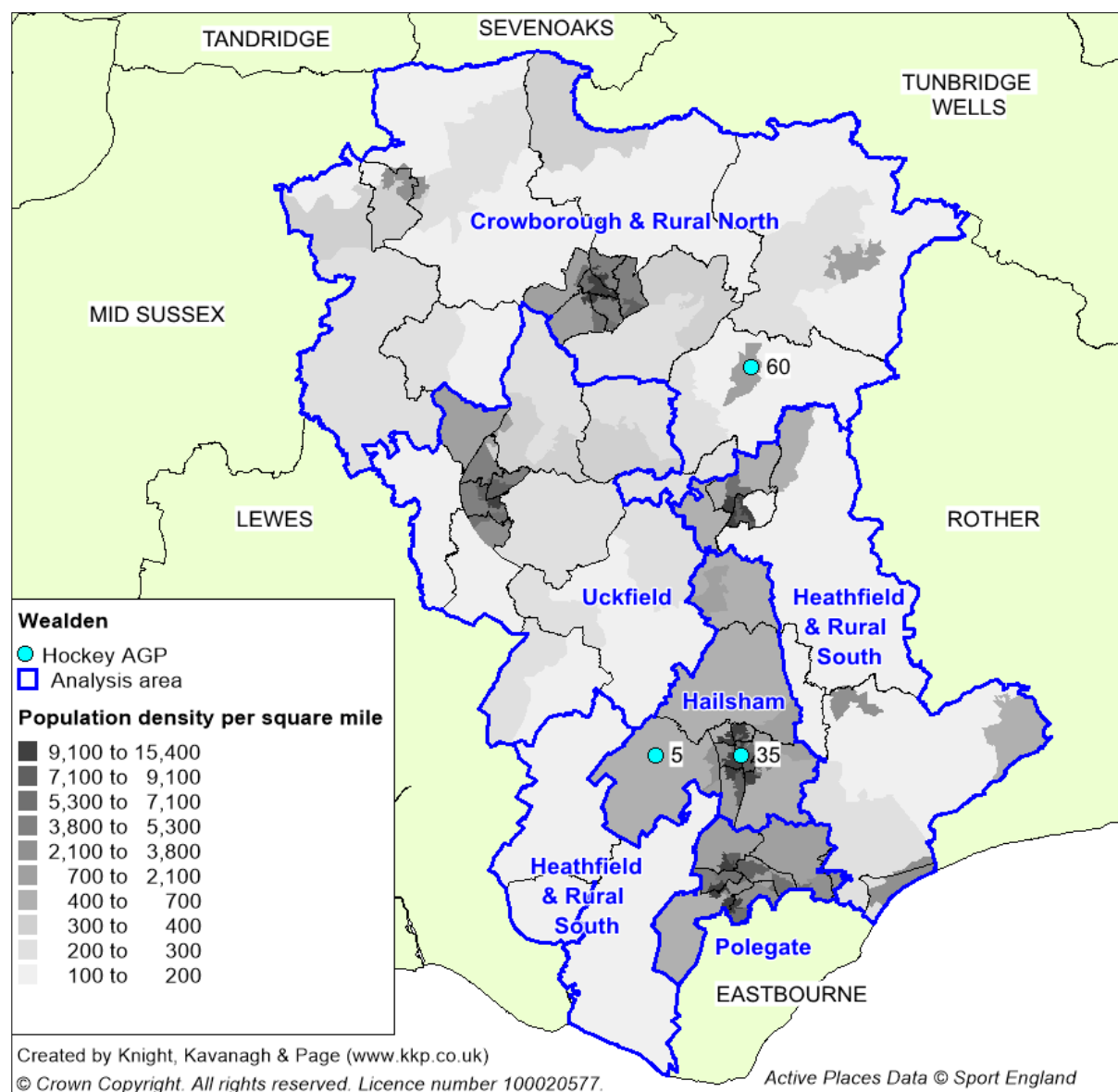


Figure 5.1: Location of full size AGPs

Future supply

307. The Wealden Community Sports Hub development is exploring the needs for suitable hockey provision as part of its future facility mix.

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Management and availability

308. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model applies an overall peak period for artificial grass pitches of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).
309. The table below identifies the full availability of AGP provision which is available for community use.

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Table 5.5: Management and availability

Site ID	Site name	Management	Availability	Total hours available in peak period
4	Beacon Academy	School	18:00 – 22:00 Midweek 08:00 – 18:00 Saturdays 10:00-16:00 Sundays	27
35	Hailsham Community College	School	18:00 – 21:00 Midweek 08:30 – 17:00 Weekends	27

310. In addition to the above, the small sided AGP provided at Heathfield Community College is broadly available throughout the full 34 hours peak period window (determined by Sport England's Facility Planning Model). Comparatively, the pitch provided at Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School is not open for community use.

Security of tenure

311. Crowborough HC has an unsecured tenure at Beacon School. It has been accessing the sand dressed pitch for over 20 years, that being the entire lifespan of the pitch's existence. The Club does not have a long term lease agreement in place and accesses the site through booking the pitch on a per game basis. It has been granted its own set of keys to enable the opening of the site early on Saturday mornings for junior training.
312. Despite not having secure tenure, the Club states that it always receives the required allocation to suit its demand. Prices for pitch usage vary with U16 teams and below charged £90 an hour, whilst adult teams are charged £105 an hour for pitch access.
313. Hailsham Hockey Club also does not have a long-term lease agreement in place for the pitch at Hailsham Community College. Much like Crowborough HC, the Club has also been situated at its home site for 20 years. Despite not having a lease agreement in place the Club is the lead booker of the site and pays £55 an hour to utilise the sand filled pitch. Hailsham HC reports having previously contacted Bede's School in an attempt to gain access to the site, however, this was not granted.

Quality

314. Taking the above into account, the quality of hockey suitable artificial grass pitches have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by EH) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:
- ◀ Good
 - ◀ Standard
 - ◀ Poor
315. The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (60-79%), Poor (<60%). The quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.
316. In addition, depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an artificial grass pitch usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. The table below summarises the quality of artificial grass pitches in Wealden.

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Table 5.6: Summary of quality

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	User	Quality rating	Built/ resurfaced
4	Beacon Academy	Sand filled	Crowborough HC	Poor	1999
5	Bede's School	Water base	No community use	Good	1997/2015
17	Cumnor House School	Sand dressed	No community use	Good	2015
35	Hailsham Community College	Sand filled	Hailsham HC	Poor	2001
60	Mayfield Girls School	Sand filled	No community use	Standard	2009

317. Both pitches which are available for community use are poor quality. This is due to the surfaces of both pitches being worn to a point in which they will be unfit for use in the near future. Both clubs raise concerns with the medium to long term offer these pitches provide in relation to opportunities for match play. Based on consultation feedback, neither provider is known to have existing capital funding in place to resurface the pitches when they reach end of life.
318. The remaining stock of hockey suitable pitch provision is either standard or good quality, although these are available for school use only and as such do not provide a resource for community hockey.

Ancillary facilities

319. The term ancillary facility relates to built facility infrastructures at sites. Typically, this includes (but is not limited too) clubhouses, changing rooms, showers, car parking and toilet facilities.
320. Crowborough HC formerly accessed the pavilion at Wolfe Recreation Ground, home of Crowborough Cricket Club. However, in November 2021 the Club was forced to relocate due to water and electricity damage at the site (its unknown if this issue has yet been resolved).
321. As a short-term solution, the Club is currently using a classroom on site at Beacon School given the good relation the two share. Consultation highlights that the Club has verbally explored relocating to Lime Kiln Playing Field, currently used by Jarvis Brook FC, however, members reportedly do not support the long term relocation to the site.
322. The Club has access to the three standard quality changing rooms at Beacon Academy, each with showers and functional boiler.
323. Hailsham HC use Hailsham Town FC for its social space having been on good terms with one another for many years. The site is used for post-match teas as well as end of season award ceremonies and functions. Consultation confirmed that the Club is happy at the site and does not feel the need to relocate. This relationship is, however, not formalised and in theory, it could be asked to relocate from the football club at short notice (albeit this is unlikely to happen).
324. The Club has access to four good quality changing rooms with internal showers at Hailsham Community College. Consultation confirmed that a new car park has been built on site to support the development of a 3G pitch. Within a matter of weeks from the installation of the car park there has already been an incident of a hockey ball smashing a car windscreen, and the Club stress the need to raise the fence on one side to prevent this issue from continuing.

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5.3: Demand

Competitive play

325. There are two community-based hockey clubs in Wealden. Crowborough HC is the larger of the two and has over 320 active members. It consists of three senior men's, three senior ladies, an U16 mixed, U14 boys and six junior sides from U12 to U8. In addition to this the Club has roughly 50 juniors within it aged from five to 10 that are not playing in a team but do engage in Saturday morning training sessions.
326. The ladies first team compete in the Sussex League – Martletts Division One, which generates issues due to the poor pitch quality available at Beacon Academy. Similarly, the men's first team compete in the Martletts Division Two. The league is a high performance league with facility requirements expected to match the standard of play. The Club also deliver Back to Hockey sessions which has been well received by members, but do not offer walking hockey sessions due to pitch allocation constraints.
327. Comparatively, Hailsham HC has three ladies teams, two men's teams and one junior development team for the club's 100 members. The highest performing teams are the Ladies 1st xi which compete in the South East Women's Division One West and the men's 1st xi which compete in the South East Men's Division One West. The Club made no reference to offering walking hockey or Back to Hockey sessions. Unlike Crowborough HC, Hailsham HC is not currently seeking to gain any teams, but is always welcoming new members to complement existing squads.

Imported demand

328. Imported demand refers to teams which originate outside of Wealden, accessing facilities within the area for their home fixtures and/or training needs, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities.
329. In the case of Wealden there is no identified imported hockey demand from neighbouring districts. Consultation with Bede's School confirmed sharing a former relationship with Eastbourne HC for the water based pitch on site, however, this is no longer in place.

Exported demand

330. Consultation with Crowborough HC identifies that it accesses Lingfield College in Surrey as an overspill site for fixtures when necessary but are often allocated the 16:30 slot due to demand from Edenbridge HC and Penguins HC. Hailsham HC are also known to utilise a pitch at Sussex University when needed.

Training demand

331. Access to artificial grass pitches for midweek training is important to sustain and grow all formats of hockey.
332. Hailsham HC access Hailsham Community College for junior training purposes every Wednesday from 18:00 to 19:30, which is then followed by ladies training held from 19:30-21:00. Finally, men's training is held every Thursday from 19:15 to 20:45. The Club has confirmed this is a sufficient allocation for its training needs.
333. Comparatively, Crowborough HC use Beacon Academy's pitch for several training sessions throughout a week. U16 development training is held every Monday from 19:15 to 20:45 and senior men's and ladies training is held every Wednesday from 19:00-21:00. The Club report

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an issue of the site not having fixed floodlights which Beacon Academy confirmed is due to the presence of bats in the area. Therefore, it currently uses four portable floodlights that barely service half a pitch, thus significantly limiting the amount of pitch access available at the site.

Future demand

334. Growing participation is the number one aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Growth in participation will not only come from the traditional 11 a side game but from the informal, recreational ways to play hockey such as small-sided hockey, which can be played at any time during the week or at weekends.
335. 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.
336. Increased demand from new participants will lead to a requirement for increased capacity on available artificial grass pitches 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 artificial grass pitches across the area. This should be considered when assessing demand for artificial grass pitches 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.
337. Unlike other pitch sports, EH do not use team generation rates to determine future demand and instead likes to understand growth by participation, rather than dedicated teams. As such, team generation rates have not been used to calculate future growth for hockey in Wealden. However, the forthcoming Strategy & Action Plan will include the use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator which will forecast additional demand for hockey arising from new housing developments.
338. From a club perspective (the traditional 11 a side game), Crowborough HC states a future demand aspiration of two additional senior teams, one men's and one ladies, as well as an U14 girls' team. Comparatively, Hailsham HC did not express any intentions to increase its number of teams, instead it has a focus on retaining existing players.

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EH Player Pathway

339. 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.
340. To enter an Academy Centre (AC) players must be nominated by their DC coaches, school or must display a consistent high performance at club level. This is a PP into higher performance hockey.

Development Centres (DCs) and Academy Centres (ACs)

341. 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.
342. There are no England Hockey DC or AC sites located within Wealden. The site nearest to the district is located at Tonbridge School, five miles north of the Wealden and Kent border.

Peak time demand

343. Most men's and women's hockey teams currently play matches on a Saturday which is therefore the peak time for use of artificial grass pitches for competitive play.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

344. The PPS Guidance suggests that a floodlit pitch is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday with teams playing in a home and away format, as such this equates to one artificial grass pitch being able to cater for eight "home" teams. Teams play matches on home v away formats and therefore one team requires 0.5 match sessions per week on its "home" artificial grass pitch. On this basis, a pitch can cater for eight teams from a home club (with four playing away on the home vs away rotation) with each pitch considered to have a total capacity equating to four MES in the peak period.

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Table 5.7: Supply analysis of peak time (Saturday) pitch access

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Site user	Current use in peak period (MES)	Spare capacity?	Comments
4	Beacon Academy	1	Crowborough HC	3 MES	No	The Club are allocated three match sessions which concludes at 15:00. Potential spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality. Furthermore, with the current floodlighting issue it is unlikely that a fourth fixture starting after 15:00 could be accommodated on site.
35	Hailsham Community College	1	Hailsham HC	2.5 MES	No	Pitch is used on Saturdays for fixtures from 12:00-17:00. Potential spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.

345. Crowborough HC has 14 teams within its remit and of these, six are senior teams requiring access to a pitch on Saturdays. This demand equates to three matches taking place each weekend at Beacon Academy (based on teams playing on a home vs away allocation). Based on this, existing demand can be met on site but it is being played to capacity. As a reminder, there is no further scope for additional fixtures to be played later in the afternoons due to the pitch not being adequately floodlit.
346. Future demand expressed by Crowborough HC equates to a senior men's, senior ladies' and an U14 girls' team. If growth aspirations are achieved, neither team could be theoretically accommodated at Beacon Academy and as such would need to be accommodated at Lingfield College in Surrey.
347. Hailsham HC utilise Hailsham Community College on Saturdays for competitive fixtures for five senior teams. This means that the pitch is used between two and three times per Saturday (dependent on home vs away rotations) and therefore demand can adequately be accommodated on the site.
348. No future demand aspirations are identified by Hailsham HC but if any growth is achieved, further play can be theoretically accommodated on the site. However, due to the quality concerns on the site, and the realistic position that no significant investment will be directed into the pitch to rectify known issues, it is likely that the pitch will become unusable all together for hockey as opposed to being able to accommodate any increases in play.

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349. No remaining pitch in the district has scope for community use and therefore no capacity exists on these as overspill facilities or potential new home sites for club relocation.

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5.5: Conclusion

350. Based on the outcome of the Assessment, it is determined that the existing stock of hockey suitable AGP provision requires long term protection from development to ensure that hockey can continue to be developed across the area.
351. With only two full size pitches offering community use across all of Wealden, Crowborough and Hailsham hockey clubs have no choice other than to use the existing available provision locally. This does currently accommodate demand, however, it is expected that over the lifespan of the PPOSS that these pitches will have to come out of action for formal hockey demand as a result of poor surface quality which will not be sanctioned for use by local leagues. Neither provider is known to have a sinking fund in place to replace the pitch surface. To that end, whilst the current position is being met, the future position is theoretically a shortfall of two full size pitches, if indeed, both existing pitches must come out of use.

Hockey summary

- There is sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches in Wealden to accommodate current levels of peak time demand, however, both available pitches are poor quality and likely to fall out of use for competitive play in coming years.
- Future demand creates a theoretical shortfall of provision.

Supply:

- There is a total of five full size hockey suitable artificial grass pitches in Wealden located across as many sites. There are also two smaller sized pitches identified across as many sites.
- Of the five full size pitches within Wealden, only two are open to community use.

Quality:

- Of all full-size hockey suitable pitches within Wealden, two are of a good quality, one is deemed standard and the remaining two are both poor quality.
- The two poor quality pitches within Wealden represent the only provision available to the general public and have both more than doubled their ten-year lifespans deeming them as close to unfit for use.

Affiliated demand:

- There are two hockey clubs in Wealden, Hailsham HC and Crowborough HC.
- Crowborough HC operates 14 teams made up of three senior male teams, three senior ladies, an U16 mixed, U14 boys and six junior mixed teams ranging from U8 to U12.
- Hailsham HC operates three senior ladies teams, two senior men's and a junior development side.
- Future demand aspirations by Crowborough HC equates to one senior men's team, one senior ladies and a girls U14 team.

Supply vs demand analysis conclusions:

- Based on current levels of demand, there is a sufficient supply of provision to accommodate existing demand, however, both available pitches are poor quality and likely to fall out of use for competitive play in coming years.
- Future demand produces theoretical shortfalls of provision as Crowborough HC will not be able to be accommodated for at the Beacon Academy due to the floodlighting issue on site.

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PART 6: CRICKET PITCHES

6.1: Introduction

352. The Sussex Cricket Board (SCB) serves as the governing and representative body for cricket in Wealden. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies. It is working in partnership with the ECB to deliver its refreshed strategy called 'Inspiring Generations' which was announced in January 2019.

Consultation

353. There are 34 cricket clubs identified as playing cricket in Wealden. All clubs were either consulted via an online survey (distributed by SCB) or took part in an online meeting. In total, 25 clubs responded to the consultation, resulting in a 74% club response rate and a 73% team response rate. The table below highlights which clubs were responsive to consultation requests.

Table 6.1: Consultation summary

Club name	Responded?
Alfriston CC	Yes
Bells Yew Green CC	No
Blackboys CC	No
Buxted Park CC	Yes
Chalvington & Ripe CC	No
Chiddingly CC	Yes
Crowborough CC	Yes
Colemans Hatch CC	No
Dicker CC	Yes
East Dean & Friston CC	Yes
East Hoathly CC	No
Eridge CC	No
Fletching CC	Yes
Forest Row CC	Yes
Groomsbridge CC	No
Hadlow Down CC	Yes
Hailsham CC	Yes
Hartfield CC	No
Heathfield Park CC	No
Hellingly CC	Yes
Herstmonceux CC	Yes
Isfield CC	Yes
Laughton CC	Yes
Maresfield CC	Yes
Mayfield CC	Yes
Nutley CCC	No
Pevensey CC	Yes
Polegate & Stone Cross CC	Yes
Rotherfield CC	Yes
Selmeston & Alciston CC	Yes
Uckfield Anderida CC	Yes

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Club name	Responded?
Wadhurst CC	Yes
Waldron CC	Yes
Willingdon CC	Yes

6.2: Supply

354. There is a total of 45 natural turf cricket squares identified in Wealden across 43 sites. Most provision (88%) is available for community use. Five squares (across three sites) are unavailable for community use, these are located at Bedes School, Cumnor House School and Mayfield Girls School.

Table 6.2: Natural turf cricket square supply

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Community available?
2	Alfriston Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	1	Yes
5	Bedes School	Hailsham	2	No
8	Blackboys Recreation Ground	Uckfield	1	Yes
9	Buxted Park	Uckfield	1	Yes
11	Chiddingly Cricket Club	Uckfield	1	Yes
12	Colemans Hatch Cricket Club	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
14	Cousley Wood	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
17	Cumnor House School (Sussex)	Crowborough & Rural North	2	No
20	East Dean Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
21	Eridge Cricket Club	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
24	Fords Green	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
27	Frant Playing Field	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
34	Hadlow Down Playing Field	Uckfield	1	Yes
40	Heathfield Park Cricket Club	Heathfield & Rural South	1	Yes
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	1	Yes
47	Huggetts Lane Recreation Ground	Polegate	1	Yes
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	Uckfield	1	Yes
49	Jevington Recreation Ground	Polegate	1	Yes
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Hailsham	1	Yes
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Uckfield	1	Yes
60	Mayfield Girls School	Crowborough & Rural North	1	No
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	1	Yes
68	Pelham Field	Uckfield	1	Yes
70	Polegate War Memorial Ground	Polegate	1	Yes
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
76	Selmeston and Alciston cricket club	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
85	The Field	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
87	The Nursery Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
91	The War Memorial Ground	Uckfield	1	Yes
94	Town Croft	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Community available?
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	Uckfield	1	Yes
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	Uckfield	1	Yes
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground (Pevensey)	Heathfield & Rural South	1	Yes
105	Western Road Recreation Ground (Hailsham)	Hailsham	1	Yes
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
124	Wellbrook Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
125	Upper Dicker Recreation Ground	Hailsham	1	Yes
126	Roebuck Park	Hailsham	1	Yes
127	Five Ashes Village Hall & Playing Field	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes
128	Temple Grove Cricket Ground	Uckfield	1	Yes
132	Groomsbridge CC	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Yes

355. In terms of the distribution of provision, most is situated in the Crowborough & Rural North Analysis Area which contains 18 natural turf squares or 40% of all cricket provision locally. The Polegate Analysis Area has the least provision with three squares (7%) identified.

Table 6.3: Cricket square supply by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of squares	Provision %
Hailsham & Surrounding Areas	6	14%
Polegate	3	6%
Crowborough & Rural North	18	40%
Heathfield and Heathfield & Rural South	7	15%
Uckfield & Surrounding Areas	11	25%
Total	45	100%

Disused provision

356. Playing field sites which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as either disused or lapsed. A disused site is a playing field which 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'.
357. There is one disused or lapsed site identified in Wealden containing cricket provision. This is the same site made reference to in the lapsed /disused football provision in the Polegate Analysis Area situated off Eastbourne Road near the Oak Lodge and Hill View care home.
358. There are also a number of active sites (i.e. they accommodate other pitch sports) that did previously contain cricket provision. The cricket squares at each site are no longer maintained for the benefit of cricket. Theoretically, all of these can be reinstated for competitive play on the basis there is sufficient demand to do so. These are identified in the table overleaf.

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Table 6.4: Disused cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Comments
22	Fairwarp Sports Field	Crowborough & Rural North	1	The square was only previously prepared for recreational matches for the local pub. No evidence of use since 2019.
90	The Village Green	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Former site of Frant CC who have now folded. Provision is potentially outlined to be accessed by Bells Yew CC for junior users. The Club stress limitations at its home site located three minutes the Village Green, and wish to access the available square as overspill.

Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

359. 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.
360. Locally, nine natural turf squares are accompanied by NTPs. These are located at:
- ◀ Alfriston Recreation Ground
 - ◀ Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground
 - ◀ Western Recreation Ground
 - ◀ Pelham Field
 - ◀ Mayfield Girls School

- ◀ Herstmonceux Recreation Ground
 - ◀ Huggetts Lane Recreation Ground
 - ◀ Victoria Pleasure Ground
 - ◀ Wallsend Road Recreation Ground
361. In addition to this, there are six standalone facilities provided at many education sites. None of these are available for community use.

Table 6.5 Standalone NTPs

Site ID	Site name	Number of NTPs
4	Beacons Academy	1
35	Hailsham Community College	1
40	Heathfield Community College	1
95	Uckfield College	1
97	Uplands Community College	1
106	Willingdon Community School	1

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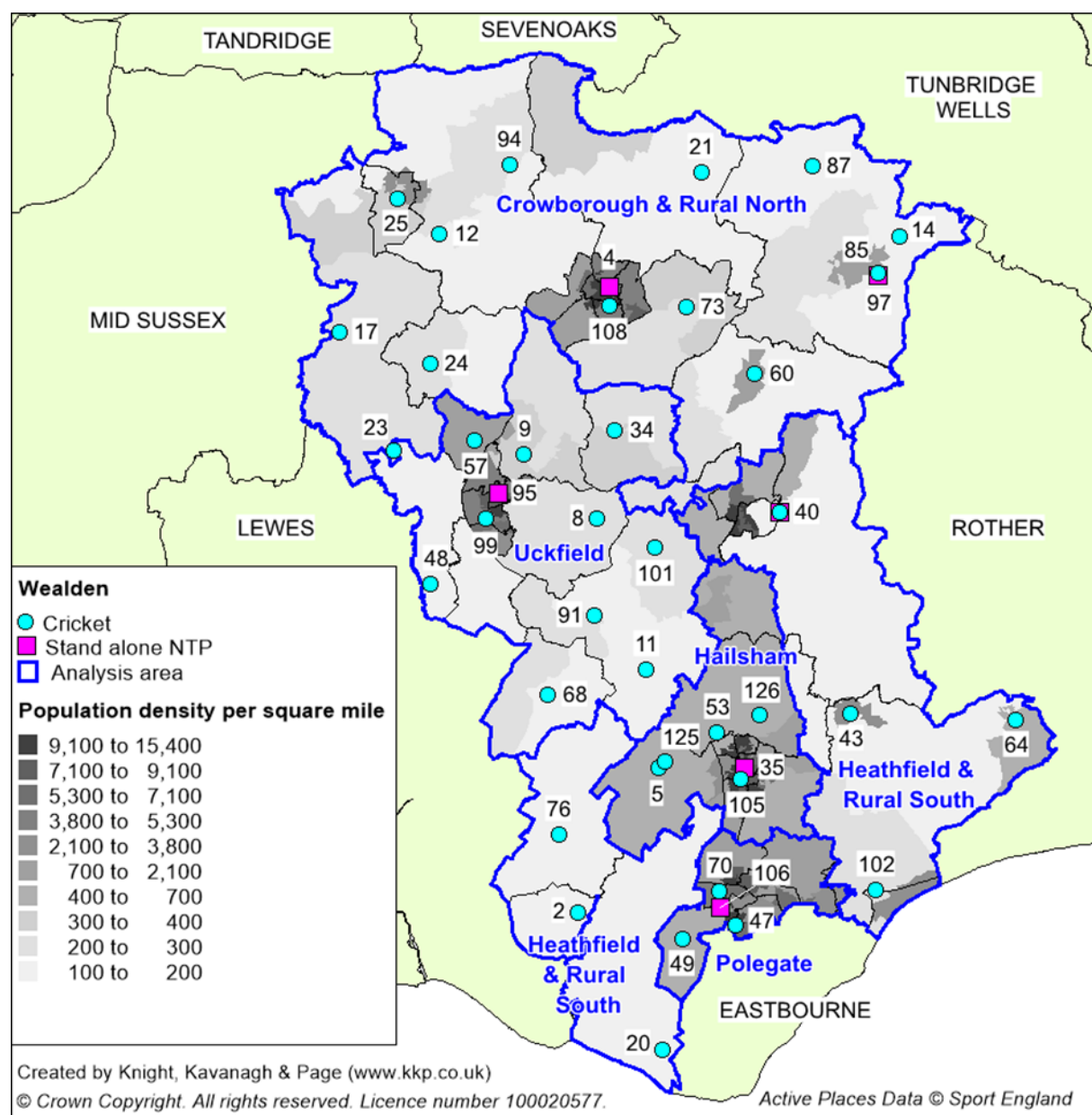


Figure 6.1: Location of natural turf cricket squares

Future provision

362. There are no identified plans to create new cricket provision in Wealden.

ECB ball strike

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

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364. Locally, of existing sites and clubs, Dicker CC, identifies issues with ball strike with both nearby housing and allotments. The Club have since reached an agreement that the allotments shall be closed during games. Ball strike is also an issue at Mayfield CC, something the ECB and Club is aware of, however no further action has been taken to address frustrations. The Club received a visit from Labosports to conduct a risk assessment, however the Club do not want to invest in such a development for a site it may want to relocate from in the future.

Security of tenure

365. Table 6.6 highlights the tenure arrangement of cricket clubs in Wealden. Where provision is owned by town/parish councils and charitable trusts and either rented or leased to clubs, unless otherwise known, it is considered that this provision is secure and will be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS.
366. The only instances where provision is considered unsecure is when it is offered via education sites (where formal community use agreements are not in place) or by private landowners which operate on short term arrangements with clubs. This is because the long term access to these sites cannot be guaranteed.
367. Where the tenure arrangement of clubs is unknown, i.e., they have not responded to consultation attempts, their tenure position in the table below is identified as unknown. However, given the localised trend of parish/town council ownership it is likely that the position of most is secure (albeit this cannot be said for certain). As an example, Blackboys CC (Blackboys Recreation Ground) is owned by Framfield Parish Council where provision is expected to be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

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Table 6.6: Security of tenure

Site ID	Site	Club	Arrangement	Tenure
2	Alfriston Recreation Ground	Alfriston CC	20 year lease from Alfriston Parish Council	Secure
8	Blackboys Recreation Ground	Blackboys CC	Unknown	-
9	Buxted Park	Buxted Park CC	Freehold	Secure
11	Chiddingly Cricket Club	Chiddingly CC	Freehold	Secure
12	Colemans Hatch Cricket Club	Colemans Hatch CC	Unknown	-
14	Cousley Wood	Bell Yew Green CC (2nd ground)	Annual rental agreement with Wadhurst Parish Council	Secure
20	East Dean Recreation Ground	East Dean and Friston CC	Annual rental agreement with East Dean Parish Council	-
21	Eridge Cricket Club	Eridge CC	Unknown	-
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Fletching CC	Annual rental agreement with Fletching Recreation Ground Charitable Trust	Secure
24	Fords Green	Nutley CC	Unknown	-
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Forest Row CC	Freehold	Secure
27	Frant Playing Field	Bells Yew CC	Unknown	-
34	Hadlow Down Playing Field	Hadlow Down MW CC	Annual rental agreement with Hadlow Parish Council	Secure
40	Heathfield Park Cricket Club	Heathfield Park CC	Freehold	Secure
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	Herstmonceux CC	Annual rental agreement with Herstmonceux Parish Council	Secure
47	Huggetts Lane Recreation Ground	Willingdon CC	Annual rental agreement with Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council	Secure
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	Isfield CC	Annual rental agreement with Isfield Parish Council	Secure
49	Jevington Recreation Ground	Jevington CC	Unknown	-
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Hellingly CC	Annual rental agreement with Hellingly Parish Council	Secure
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Maresfield CC	Annual rental agreement with Maresfield Parish Council	Secure
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	Pevensey CC (3rd XV)	Annual rental agreement from Ninfield Parish Council	Secure
68	Pelham Field	Laughton CC	Freehold	Secure
70	Polegate War Memorial Ground	Polegate and Stone Cross CC	Annual rental agreement from Polegate War Memorial Recreation Ground Community Interest Company	Secure
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Rotherfield CC	Freehold	Secure
76	Selmeston and Alciston cricket club	Selmeston and Alciston CC	90 year lease from Firle Estate	Secure

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Site ID	Site	Club	Arrangement	Tenure
85	The Field	Wadhurst CC	25 year lease from Hall & Field Charitable Trust	Secure
87	The Nursery Ground	Bell Yew Green CC	Unknown	-
91	The War Memorial Ground	East Hoathly and Halland CC	Unknown	-
94	Town Croft	Hartfield CC	Unknown	-
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	Uckfield Anderida CC	Annual rental agreement with Uckfield Town Council	Secure
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	Waldron CC	Long term lease from Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council	Secure
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground (Pevensey)	Pevensey CC	15 year lease with Pevensey PC.	Secure
105	Western Road Recreation Ground (Hailsham)	Hailsham CC	Long term lease with Hailsham Town Council	Secure
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Crowborough CC	Annual rental from Crowborough Town Council	Secure
124	Wellbrook Recreation Ground	Mayfield CC	Unknown	-
125	Upper Dicker Recreation Ground	Dicker CC	Annual rental agreement with Arlington Parish Council	Secure
126	Roebuck Park	Hailsham CC (Second ground)	Annual rental agreement with Hellingly Parish Council	Secure
132	Groomsbridge CC	Groomsbridge CC	Unknown	-

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Pitch quality

368. The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:
- ◀ Good
 - ◀ Standard
 - ◀ Poor
369. The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%). Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to nearby players.
370. The non-technical assessment of community available grass wicket squares found four squares to be good quality, 37 squares to be standard quality and four squares to be poor quality. A site by site breakdown of sites in Wealden is detailed below.

Table 6.7: Quality ratings for grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Number of squares	Square quality
2	Alfriston Recreation Ground	1	Standard
5	Bedes School	1	Standard
8	Blackboys Recreation Ground	1	Standard
9	Buxted Park	1	Good
11	Chiddingly Cricket Club	1	Standard
12	Colemans Hatch Cricket Club	1	Standard
14	Cousley Wood	1	Standard
17	Cumnor House School (Sussex)	1	Good
20	East Dean Recreation Ground	1	Standard
21	Eridge Cricket Club	1	Standard
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	1	Standard
24	Fords Green	1	Standard
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	1	Standard
27	Frant Playing Field	1	Poor

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Site ID	Site	Number of squares	Square quality
34	Hadlow Down Playing Field	1	Standard
40	Heathfield Park Cricket Club	1	Good
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	1	Standard
47	Huggetts Lane Recreation Ground	1	Standard
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	1	Standard
49	Jevington Recreation Ground	1	Poor
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	1	Standard
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	1	Poor
60	Mayfield Girls School	1	Poor
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	1	Standard
68	Pelham Field	1	Standard
70	Polegate War Memorial Ground	1	Standard
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	1	Standard
76	Selmeston and Alciston cricket club	1	Standard
85	The Field	1	Standard
87	The Nursery Ground	1	Standard
91	The War Memorial Ground	1	Standard
94	Town Croft	1	Standard
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	1	Good
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	1	Standard
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground (Pevensey)	1	Standard
105	Western Road Recreation Ground (Hailsham)	1	Standard
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	1	Standard
124	Wellbrook Recreation Ground	1	Standard
125	Upper Dicker Recreation Ground	1	Standard
126	Roebuck Park	1	Standard
127	Five Ashes Village Hall & Playing Field	1	Standard
128	Temple Grove Cricket Ground	1	Standard
132	Groomsbridge Recreation Ground	1	Standard

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371. 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 Grounds Maintenance Association.

Table 6.8: 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.

372. 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.

Non Turf Pitch quality

373. From a club perspective, NTPs at four club sites are poor quality. These are located at Maresfield CC, Crowborough CC, Selmeston & Alciston CC and Forest Row CC. All four are passed their anticipated lifespan and require replacement.

Club feedback

374. Through consultation, clubs were asked if the quality of their primary square had got better or worse over the last few years and for any comments on their outfield. Details of this is provided overleaf.

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Table 6.9: Club feedback

Site ID	Site	Club	Club quality self-assessment of square	Has square quality got better or worse in recent years?	Club comments on square quality	Other comments
2	Alfriston Recreation Ground	Alfriston Cricket Club	Standard	No difference	-	Outfield is mown under contract by Parish Council. It is not always cut short enough or at the best time for matches. It was treated successfully for weeds this year.
9	Buxted Park	Buxted Park Cricket Club	Good	Much better	Superb job by groundsman and more time spent in wicket preparation	The outfield is uneven and it is currently being levelled.
11	Chiddingly Cricket Club	Chiddingly Cricket Club	Good	Much better	We now have a dedicated groundsman	-
20	East Dean Recreation Ground	East Dean & Friston CC	Good	Much better	New Square	-
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Fletching Cricket Club	Good	Slightly better	More investment of time and money	The cost of maintaining the ground and square has increased materially. The Club is struggling to find people to help with the preparation.
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Forest Row Cricket Club	Poor	Slightly poorer	Lack of the right equipment to do the work	The artificial pitch is used for junior cricket has been vandalised by having a BBQ on it, and there is often damage to the surrounding areas.
27	Frant Playing Field	Bells Yew CC	Poor	No difference	Square is very sloping and does not receive enough maintenance.	-
34	Hadlow Down Playing Field	Hadlow Down MW Cricket Club	Good	Much better	Groundsman retired, now club has a team of volunteers who between them can spend more time on preparation of wickets etc. Plus new equipment bought from grant funding.	-

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Site ID	Site	Club	Club quality self-assessment of square	Has square quality got better or worse in recent years?	Club comments on square quality	Other comments
40	Heathfield Park Cricket Club	Heathfield Park Cricket Club	Standard	No difference	-	-
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	Herstmonceux Cricket Club	Standard	No difference	-	-
47	Huggetts Lane Recreation Ground	Willingdon Cricket Club	Good	No difference	-	-
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	Isfield Cricket Club	Good	Slightly better	Invested in more equipment	-
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Maresfield	Good	Much better	More work by Groundsman	Vandalism from time to time on the square.
68	Pelham Field	Laughton Cricket Club	Standard	No difference	The club have invested heavily in the last 18 months	-
70	Polegate War Memorial Ground	Polegate & Stone Cross CC	Poor	Slightly better	Initiation of Contracted Out Annual Autumn Regeneration work	-
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Rotherfield Cricket Club	Good	Much better	Well maintained	-
76	Selmeston and Alciston cricket club	Selmeston & Alciston Cricket Club	Standard	No difference	-	-
85	The Field	Wadhurst Cricket Club	Good	Slightly better	With pandemic in 2020 there were less games played on it, so it had recovery time	-
125	Upper Dicker Recreation Ground	Dicker Cricket Club	Standard	Slightly poorer	Time constraints on volunteer groundsman	Maintained by the Parish Council. The quality of the square has improved over the last five years, but time constraints on the volunteer

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Site ID	Site	Club	Club quality self-assessment of square	Has square quality got better or worse in recent years?	Club comments on square quality	Other comments
						groundsmen means that it has been difficult to keep up the standard.
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	Uckfield Anderida CC	Good	Slightly better	Square re-laid in the previous year	The Club has nowhere to store covers and sightscreens as these were damaged last year and have had to be replaced. The Club also provided the funds to build permanent nets at the ground. These are open for all to use. These are now in the position where they need maintenance and repair.
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground (Pevensey)	Pevensey Cricket Club	Good	Much better	The Club have invested heavily in the last 18 months	The Club often has issues with dog walkers at the ground and dogs fouling in areas that adults and juniors play.
105	Western Road Recreation Ground (Hailsham)	Hailsham Cricket Club	Good	Much better	Groundsman has gone above and beyond with time, effort and financial support from club	Length of the outfield which is cut by the by the Council is poor. The outfield is also used by the public.
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Crowborough Cricket Club	Poor	Much poorer	We don't have the funding available to improve the structure of the square and this has been deteriorating over the last 15+ years	There is always dog fouling/broken glass/stones and litter on the outfield as well as around the pavilion.

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Ancillary facilities

375. Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site and their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing.
376. Of the sites in Wealden, 15 have good quality ancillary provision, 23 have standard quality provision and six are identified as having poor quality provision. Poor quality provision is located at the following sites:
- ◀ Eridge CC
 - ◀ Hadlow Down Playing Field
 - ◀ Wallsend Road Recreation Ground (Pevensey)
 - ◀ Upper Dicker Recreation Ground
 - ◀ Groombridge CC
 - ◀ Temple Grove Cricket Ground
377. Of the above sites, Eridge and Groombridge cricket clubs as well as Temple Grove Cricket Ground are serviced by tradition wooden pavilions which are both functional and servicing the needs of both clubs. However, both structures are dated, and generally far from reaching the latest [ECB technical design guidance](#) for cricket pavilions.
378. The facility at Hadlow Down CC also features an outdated small wooden building with a decking area and kitchen. The facility is soon to be replaced with a new offer as part of a wider improvement on the adjacent village hall which is an on-going project with Hadlow Down Parish Council. This project will see a vast improvement on existing provision and provide the Club with an improved changing and social offer.
379. The pavilion at Wallsend Road Recreation Ground (Pevensey CC) is a dated brick building built in the 1970's which has asbestos in parts of the roof.
380. Further to the findings of the above non-technical audit, Fletching CC, Polegate & Stone Cross CC, Pevensey CC and Crowborough CC also self-assess their overall ancillary offer as poor quality. Specific issues for all clubs relate to toilet facilities and the size and quality of changing room servicing each club. Crowborough CC also states its social space is poor quality too.
381. The table below highlights ancillary quality on a site by site basis.

Table 6.10: Site by site breakdown of ancillary quality

Site ID	Site	Ancillary rating
2	Alfriston Recreation Ground	Standard
5	Bedes School	Standard
8	Blackboys Recreation Ground	Standard
9	Buxted Park	Standard
11	Chiddingly Cricket Club	Standard
12	Colemans Hatch Cricket Club	Standard
14	Cousley Wood	Standard
17	Cumnor House School (Sussex)	Good
20	East Dean Recreation Ground	Standard
21	Eridge Cricket Club	Poor
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Standard
24	Fords Green	Standard
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Good

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Site ID	Site	Ancillary rating
27	Frant Playing Field	Poor
34	Hadlow Down Playing Field	Poor
40	Heathfield Park Cricket Club	Good
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	Standard
47	Huggetts Lane Recreation Ground	Good
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	Standard
49	Jevington Recreation Ground	Standard
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Good
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Standard
60	Mayfield Girls School	Good
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	Good
68	Pelham Field	Good
70	Polegate War Memorial Ground	Good
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Standard
76	Selmeston and Alciston cricket club	Good
85	The Field	Standard
87	The Nursery Ground	Good
91	The War Memorial Ground	Standard
94	Town Croft	Good
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	Good
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	Standard
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground (Pevensey)	Poor
105	Western Road Recreation Ground (Hailsham)	Good
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Standard
124	Wellbrook Recreation Ground	Standard
125	Upper Dicker Recreation Ground	Poor
126	Roebuck Park	Good
127	Five Ashes Village Hall & Playing Field	Standard
128	Temple Grove Cricket Ground	Poor
132	Groomsbridge Recreation Ground	Standard

Training facilities

382. Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training to enable clubs to promote development of its players. Of responding clubs, 15 identify demand for additional or new training facilities to accommodate current levels of demand. A key point raised by several clubs is the lack of available indoor training facilities, something that the ECB and Sussex Cricket Board is also aware of. A summary breakdown is provided below.

Table 6.11: Summary of demand for additional training facilities

Club	Training requirement (club comments)
Bells Yew CC	An additional third practice lane next to the existing two on site.
Buxted Park CC	Additional non turf nets, mobile cricket cage, more space.
East Dean & Friston CC	Non turf pitch
Pevensey CC	Non turf practice nets
Hailsham CC	Indoor training facilities are very hard to come by
Polegate & Stone Cross CC	Non-turf pitch with portable net for both adult & junior practice sessions
Willingdon CC	Mobile net cage and covers

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Club	Training requirement (club comments)
Uckfield Anderida CC	Mobile net and another permanent net.
Crowborough CC	We would love to have an artificial wicket (on the square) and non-turf practice nets at the ground but the council took the area we used to use for their own use 10+ years ago
Hadlow Down MW CC	Mobile net cage
Heathfield Park CC	Increasing numbers - improved practice surface and more nets
Forest Row CC	Non turf practice nets, mobile net cage and mobile pitch covers.
Fletching CC	Better quality training nets and mobile net cage
Rotherfield CC	Practice nets and mobile cages
Herstmonceux CC	Grass pitch & mobile cage

6.3: Demand

383. In total, demand for cricket in Wealden equates to 139 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of 87 men's, four senior women's, 43 junior boys' and five junior girls' teams.
384. The figures presented below include teams such as "friendly XVs" and "T20 Midweek" and therefore clubs' participation may appear higher than it is (given players within these teams are likely to also be the same as those in the regular competitive 1st teams and other competitive teams). These are included to paint an accurate picture of demand for all club's activity.

Table 6.12: Summary of teams (2021)

Club Name	No. of competitive teams Senior men's	No. of competitive teams Senior women's	No. of competitive teams Junior boys'	No. of competitive teams Junior girls'
Alfriston CC	1	-	-	-
Bells Yew Green CC	5	2	7	2
Blackboys CC	3	-	-	-
Buxted Park CC	5	-	9	-
Chalvington & Ripe CC	1	-	-	-
Chiddingly CC	4	-	-	-
Crowborough CC	2	1	2	-
Colemans Hatch CC	1	-	-	-
Dicker CC	2	-	-	-
East Dean & Friston CC	4	-	-	-
East Hoathly CC	1	-	-	-
Eridge CC	1	-	-	-
Fletching CC	2	-	3	1
Forest Row CC	3	-	-	-
Groomsbridge CC	1	-	-	-
Hadlow Down CC	1	-	-	-
Hailsham CC	5	1	2	2
Upper and Lower Hartfield CC	1	-	-	-
Heathfield Park CC	6	-	6	-
Hellingly CC	2	-	-	-
Herstmonceux CC	3	-	4	-
Isfield CC	3	-	-	-
Laughton CC	2	-	-	-

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Club Name	No. of competitive teams Senior men's	No. of competitive teams Senior women's	No. of competitive teams Junior boys'	No. of competitive teams Junior girls'
Maresfield CC	1	-	-	-
Mayfield CC	5	-	3	-
Nutley CC	1	-	-	-
Pevensey CC	4	-	3	-
Polegate & Stone Cross CC	4	-	1	-
Rotherfield CC	2	-	-	-
Selmeston & Alciston CC	1	-	-	-
Uckfield Anderida CC	2	-	3	-
Wadhurst CC	2	-	-	-
Waldron CC	2	-	-	-
Willingdon CC	4	-	-	-
Wealden	87	4	43	5

385. Participation levels at clubs is mixed. Ten clubs out of the 34 in Wealden operate a junior section which generates the identified demand of 48 junior teams. In contrast, 21 clubs operate with just senior men's teams. Of these, eight have just a senior single men's team. Clubs which operate with a single senior men's team should be monitored to ensure that they do not fold in the future, with support offered (where possible) to sustain participation. The nine clubs with just a single senior men's team are:

- ◀ Alfriston CC
- ◀ Chalvington & Ripe CC
- ◀ East Hoathly CC
- ◀ Erridge CC
- ◀ Hadlow Down CC
- ◀ Groomsbridge CC
- ◀ Upper and Lower Hartfield CC
- ◀ Maresfield CC
- ◀ Selveston & Alciston CC

386. In the case of Maresfield CC, the future of the Club is uncertain having dropped out of the Sussex Cricket League in March 2022, meaning no Saturday fixtures are to take place on the site. The Club may still intend to play Sunday fixtures, meaning the site shall continue to see some form of demand.

All Stars cricket

387. In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, cricket clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. 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

388. The ECB has also launched Dynamos Cricket, a new programme to inspire children aged 8-11 to play cricket. Dynamos is the latest launch by the ECB, building on the existing All Stars programme for 5-8-year-olds. Participants will continue to develop their skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket match.

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389. Locally, 12 clubs are registered as having both All Stars and Dynamo programmes. These are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| ◀ Bells Yew Green | ◀ Hellingly |
| ◀ Chiddingly | ◀ Pevensey |
| ◀ Crowborough | ◀ Polegate & Stone Cross |
| ◀ East Dean & Friston | ◀ Rotherfield |
| ◀ Herstmonceux | ◀ Uckfield Anderida |
| ◀ Laughton | ◀ Willingdon |

390. These clubs already have established junior programmes and it is likely that this will continue to be sustained (as a minimum) and continue to further grow in the future, which may lead to the creation of additional teams.

Softball

391. Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections are enjoyment and participation; without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats. Playing equipment is supplied by festival organisers, with all participants provided with a t-shirt for taking part.

392. Each match consists of two teams of six to eight people, with everyone having an opportunity to bat and bowl. Each team bats once, with a pair of batters facing two or three overs. Batters are dismissed in traditional ways, but bowling can be either overarm or underarm, depending on the bowler's preference. Each batting team starts with a score of 200 runs, with runs added to this total by running between the wickets or by hitting the ball to a boundary. Two runs are added to the total for each wide ball; whilst five runs are removed when a batter is out.

Cricket Playing Survey

393. The ECB's most recent Cricket Playing Survey (2019) identifies:

A 1.2% increase in player numbers between 2018 and 2019.

- ◀ Of the 822,000 players nationally, 229,000 are 'core' players (playing at least 12 weeks per season), 353,000 are 'occasional' players (playing between three and 11 weeks per season) and 238,000 are 'cameo' players (playing once or two weeks per season).
- ◀ 81.4% of completed fixtures were played in 2019, 5.4% of completed fixtures were abandoned and 7.5% of completed fixtures were cancelled.
- ◀ Compared to 2018, conceded fixtures decreased by 15% to 5.7% of completed fixtures and short sided games also decreased by 11% in 2019 v 2018 to 11.7% of completed fixtures.

The source of the above data is Play-Cricket.com and reflects club and league cricket only (for example doesn't include Women's Soft Ball Cricket, or junior cricket).

No play took place in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic and therefore this is the latest survey result. 2021 season data is still being collated

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Exported/imported demand

394. Exported demand refers to Wealden based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. Likewise, imported demand is clubs accessing facilities inside Wealden for similar reasons.
395. Locally, Newick CC (based in Lewes) imports demand into the District by accessing Temple Grove Cricket Ground in Uckfield as an overspill facility for its senior demand. There are no known examples of teams accessing facilities outside of the District.

Latent demand

396. Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available. No teams specifically state that they would field more teams if more access to provision was available.

Future demand

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

Participation increases

398. Of responding clubs, 16 highlight aspirations to increase the current number of teams they currently operate. In total, this aspirational growth equates to ten senior men's teams, four senior ladies teams, 20 junior boys and five junior girls teams.

Table 6.13: Cricket club growth aspirations

Club	Analysis area	Identified future demand Senior men	Identified future demand Senior women's	Identified future demand Junior boys	Identified future demand Junior girls	Identified future demand Total
Chiddingly CC	Heathfield & Rural South	-	-	1	-	1
Crowborough CC	Crowborough & Rural North	-	1	-	1	2
East Dean & Friston CC	Crowborough & Rural North	-	-	1	-	1
Fletching CC	Crowborough & Rural North	-	-	1	-	1
Forest Row CC	Crowborough & Rural North	3	1	2	1	7
Hadlow Down CC	Uckfield	1	-	-	-	1
Hailsham CC	Hailsham	-	1	-	1	2
Heathfield Park CC	Heathfield & Rural South	-	-	2	1	3
Hellingly CC	Hailsham	1	-	2	-	3
Herstmonceux CC	Heathfield & Rural South	1	-	-	-	1
Pevensey CC	Heathfield & Rural South	-	1	-	1	2

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Club	Analysis area	Identified future demand Senior men	Identified future demand Senior women's	Identified future demand Junior boys	Identified future demand Junior girls	Identified future demand Total
Polegate & Stone Cross CC	Polegate	-	-	2	-	2
Rotherfield CC	Crowborough & Rural North	-	-	2	-	2
Uckfield Anderida CC	Uckfield	3	-	5	-	8
Wadhurst CC	Crowborough & Rural North	1	-	-	-	1
Willingdon CC	Polegate	-	-	2	-	2
	Wealden	10	4	20	5	39

Population forecasts

399. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2039) based on population growth. Based on ONS projections, it is not estimated that there will be any additional teams created deriving from population changes. Please note TGR figures are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Table 6.14: Team generation rates (2039)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (18-55)	32,668	80	1:408	32,230	79	0
Senior Women's (18-55)	34,576	4	1:8644	33,849	4	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	11,336	43	1:264	11,049	42	0
Junior Girls (7-18)	10,662	5	1:2132	10,533	5	0

400. It is important to acknowledge that whilst team generation rates project team growth as a factor of population and existing teams, there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends suggest, due to a desire to change such trends.
401. For example, female growth at women's and girls' age groups is minimal, however, there are planned increases in activity around female participation through both All Stars and Dynamos which are likely to reflect in growth above levels shown through team generation rates.

Future demand summary

402. Based on the information above, future demand must be reflective of both population forecasts and club aspirations. ONS forecasts do not predict the growth of any additional teams, however, 16 clubs in the district aspire to increase the current number of teams they currently field. On this basis, future demand for Wealden equates to a theoretical increase of demand equating to 39 teams.

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Peak time demand

403. An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturday, with most teams playing at this time (55 teams). The remaining senior teams either play on Sundays, in less competitive fixture formats, or in midweek short format competitions. Junior teams predominately play either midweek or on the mornings prior to senior fixtures taking place.
404. For junior cricket, peak time demand is midweek, with all clubs' youth sections playing between Monday and Friday (and occasional Sundays before senior matches). As a result, squares have greater capacity to carry junior demand as play can be spread across numerous days (providing the squares are not overplayed).

6.4: Capacity analysis

405. Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability (i.e. only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening). Wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current square stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.
406. As a guide, The ECB has set a standard number of matches that each grass wicket should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

Adult wickets	Adult wickets
Pitch quality	Matches per season
Good	5
Standard	4
Poor	0

407. To help calculate square capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality natural turf wicket should be able to take five matches per season per natural turf wicket (adults). This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

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Table 6.15: Capacity of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Site users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of adult grass wickets	Recommended ECB capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season) 2021 season	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior Saturday cricket?	Potential spare capacity for senior Sunday cricket?	Potential spare capacity for midweek junior cricket?
2	Alfriston Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	Alfriston CC	Secure	1	Standard	7	28	8	20	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	Blackboys Recreation Ground	Uckfield	Blackboys CC	Secure	1	Standard	5	40	10	10	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	Buxted Park	Uckfield	Buxted Park CC	Secure	1	Good	12	60	27	33	No	Yes	Yes
11	Chiddingly Cricket Club	Uckfield	Chiddingly CC	Secure	1	Standard	8	32	16	16	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	Colemans Hatch Cricket Club	Crowborough & Rural North	Colemans Hatch CC	Secure	1	Standard	8	32	8	24	Yes	Yes	Yes
14	Cousley Wood	Crowborough & Rural North	Bell Yew Green CC (2nd ground)	Secure	1	Standard	7	28	26	2	No	No	No
20	East Dean Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	East Dean and Friston CC	Secure	1	Standard	11	44	27	17	No	Yes	Yes
21	Eridge Cricket Club	Crowborough & Rural North	Eridge CC	Secure	1	Standard	5	20	10	10	Yes	Yes	Yes
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	Fletching CC	Secure	1	Standard	11	44	21	23	No	Yes	Yes
24	Fords Green	Crowborough & Rural North	Nutley CC	Secure	1	Standard	8	32	9	23	Yes	Yes	Yes
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	Forest Row CC	Secure	1	Standard	12	48	25	29	No	Yes	Yes
27	Frant Playing Field	Crowborough & Rural North	Bells Yew CC	Secure	1	Poor	2	0	5	5	No	No	No
34	Hadlow Down Playing Field	Uckfield	Hadlow Down MW CC	Secure	1	Standard	7	28	16	12	Yes	Yes	Yes
41	Heathfield Park Cricket Club	Heathfield & Rural South	Heathfield Park CC	Secure	1	Good	12	60	47	23	No	Yes	Yes
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	Herstmonceux CC	Secure	1	Standard	11	44	27	17	No	Yes	Yes
47	Huggetts Lane Recreation Ground	Polegate	Willingdon CC	Secure	1	Standard	8	32	20	12	No	Yes	Yes
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	Uckfield	Isfield CC	Secure	1	Standard	8	32	21	11	No	Yes	Yes
49	Jevington Recreation Ground	Polegate	Jevington CC	Secure	1	Poor	6	0	6	6	No	No	No
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Hailsham	Hellingly CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	18	22	No	Yes	Yes
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Uckfield	Maresfield CC	Secure	1	Poor	7	0	7	7	No	No	No
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	Pevensey CC (3rd XV)	Secure	1	Standard	9	36	10	26	Yes	Yes	Yes
68	Pelham Field	Uckfield	Laughton CC	Secure	1	Standard	9	36	18	18	No	Yes	Yes
70	Polegate War Memorial Ground	Polegate	Polegate and Stone Cross CC	Secure	1	Standard	8	32	20	12	No	Yes	Yes
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Crowborough & Rural North	Rotherfield CC	Secure	1	Standard	7	28	17	11	No	Yes	Yes

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Site users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of adult grass wickets	Recommended ECB capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season) 2021 season	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior Saturday cricket?	Potential spare capacity for senior Sunday cricket?	Potential spare capacity for midweek junior cricket?
76	Selmeston and Alciston cricket club	Heathfield & Rural South	Selmeston and Alciston CC	Secure	1	Standard	4	16	7	9	Yes	Yes	Yes
85	The Field	Crowborough & Rural North	Wadhurst CC	Secure	1	Standard	12	48	15	33	No	Yes	Yes
87	The Nursery Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	Bell Yew Green CC	Secure	1	Standard	11	44	37	6	No	No	No
91	The War Memorial Ground	Uckfield	East Hoathly and Halland CC	Secure	1	Standard	7	28	6	22	Yes	Yes	Yes
94	Town Croft	Crowborough & Rural North	Hartfield CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	14	26	No	Yes	Yes
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	Uckfield	Uckfield Anderida CC	Secure	1	Good	8	40	24	16	No	Yes	Yes
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	Uckfield	Waldron CC	Secure	1	Standard	6	24	24	-	No	No	No
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground (Pevensey)	Heathfield & Rural South	Pevensey CC	Secure	1	Standard	11	44	35	7	No	No	Yes
105	Western Road Recreation Ground (Hailsham)	Hailsham	Hailsham CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	31	9	No	Yes	Yes
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	Crowborough CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	22	18	No	Yes	Yes
124	Wellbrook Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	Mayfield CC	Secure	1	Standard	10	40	27	13	No	Yes	Yes
125	Upper Dicker Recreation Ground	Hailsham	Dicker CC	Secure	1	Standard	6	24	10	14	Yes	Yes	Yes
126	Roebuck Park	Hailsham	Hailsham CC (Second ground)	Secure	1	Standard	8	32	25	7	No	No	Yes
127	Five Ashes Village Hall & Playing Field	Crowborough & Rural North	Mayfield CC (3 rd /4 th senior)	Secure	1	Good	8	40	12	28	No	Yes	Yes
128	Temple Grove Cricket Ground	Uckfield	Newick CC	?	1	Standard	6	24	10	14	Yes	Yes	Yes
132	Groombridge CC	Crowborough & Rural North	Groombridge CC	Secure	1	Standard	6	24	10	14	Yes	Yes	Yes

Provision at education sites does not yet feature in the table above. The cumulative five squares provided at Bedes School, Cumnor House School and Mayfield Girls School offer unsecure tenure to potential users and therefore access to these sites cannot be guaranteed over the lifespan of the PPOSS. None of these squares are also known to be accommodating any community club demand for the 2021 cricket season.

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Spare capacity

408. A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage at peak time. For senior cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Saturday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.
409. On this basis, 35 sites are considered to have a theoretical capacity for additional play across the District. However, when reviewing which sites can accommodate demand in the peak period (Saturdays), this number reduces to 12 unique sites. Comparatively, 31 sites are identified as having capacity to accommodate play on Sundays.

Table 6.16: Spare capacity summary of senior cricket

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Actual spare capacity (MES) Match equivalent sessions	No. of teams that could be accommodated on Saturday	No. of teams that could be accommodated on Sunday
2	Alfriston Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	1	20	1	2
8	Blackboys Recreation Ground	Uckfield	1	10	1	1
9	Buxted Park	Uckfield	1	33	-	2
12	Colemans Hatch Cricket Club	Crowborough & Rural North	1	24	2	1
14	Cousley Wood	Crowborough & Rural North	1	2	-	-
20	East Dean Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	1	17	-	1
21	Eridge Cricket Club	Crowborough & Rural North	1	10	1	1
127	Five Ashes Village Hall & Playing Field	Crowborough & Rural North	1	28	-	2
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	1	23	-	2
24	Fords Green	Crowborough & Rural North	1	23	1	2
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	1	29	-	2
132	Groombridge CC	Crowborough & Rural North	1	14	1	1
34	Hadlow Down Playing Field	Uckfield & Surrounding Areas	1	12	1	1
41	Heathfield Park Cricket Club	Heathfield & Rural South	1	23	-	1
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	1	17	-	1
47	Huggetts Lane Recreation Ground	Polegate	1	12	-	1

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of squares	Actual spare capacity (MES) Match equivalent sessions	No. of teams that could be accommodated on Saturday	No. of teams that could be accommodated on Sunday
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	Uckfield & Surrounding Areas	1	11	-	1
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Hailsham	1	22	-	2
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	1	26	1	2
68	Pelham Field	Uckfield & Surrounding Areas	1	18	*	2
70	Polegate War Memorial Ground	Polegate	1	12	-	1
126	Roebuck Park	Hailsham	1	7	-	-
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Crowborough & Rural North	1	11	-	1
76	Selmeston and Alciston cricket club	Heathfield & Rural South	1	9	1	1
128	Temple Grove Cricket Ground	Uckfield	1	14	1	1
85	The Field	Crowborough & Rural North	1	33	-	2
87	The Nursery Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	1	6	-	-
91	The War Memorial Ground	Uckfield & Surrounding Areas	1	22	-	1
94	Town Croft	Crowborough & Rural North	1	26	1	2
125	Upper Dicker Recreation Ground	Hailsham	1	14	1	1
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	Uckfield & Surrounding Areas	1	16	-	1
102	Wallsend Road Recreation Ground (Pevensey)	Heathfield & Rural South	1	7	-	-
124	Wellbrook Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	1	13	-	1
105	Western Road Recreation Ground (Hailsham)	Hailsham	1	9	-	1
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	1	18	-	2

410. For junior cricket, all squares with spare capacity have peak time (actual) spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because junior matches are generally played midweek or Sunday mornings and matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, where there is NTPs, this provides further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

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411. For a square to have peak time (actual) spare capacity for junior cricket, it must not be poor quality, have secure tenure, not be overplayed or have more than five match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play.
412. Furthermore, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play junior fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars).
413. On this basis, three club sites are theoretically unable to accommodate further junior teams (due to already having more than six established junior teams and promoting All Stars and/or Dynamos). These are, Buxted Park CC, Bell Yews Green CC (Nursery Ground) and Heathfield Park CC. All remaining sites in Table 6.14 are considered to have capacity to accommodate additional match play for juniors.
414. Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that spare capacity across Saturday, Sunday and midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising the spare capacity across different days as this may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

Overplay

415. Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain. While it is possible to sustain certain minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a resolution is recommended to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

Table 6.17: Overplay summary

Site ID	Site name	Quality	Analysis area	No. of squares	Overplay (MES)
27	Frant Playing Field	Poor	Crowborough and the Rural North	1	5
49	Jevington Recreation Ground	Poor	Polegate	1	6
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Poor	Uckfield	1	7

416. In Wealden, overplay is identified at two sites and cumulatively totals 18 match equivalent sessions per season. Overplay at this level is minimal and unlikely to impact clubs accessing these sites. Further to this, whilst not overplayed, there are sites such as the Nursey Ground (Bell Yew Green CC) which are at capacity and cannot support further play on site. These are not theoretically overplayed but cannot support further growth in the peak period which is often at the detriment to successful clubs.

6.5: Supply and demand analysis

417. Consideration must be given to the extent in which provision can accommodate current and future demand.
418. The table below looks at actual spare capacity during the peak period (Saturday) for senior cricket as well as senior demand on Sunday to give a reflective view of the supply and demand balance in Wealden. Future demand is based on club aspirations (as population forecasts do not estimate a rise in demand).

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419. As a reminder, future demand for cricket equates to the growth of ten senior men's teams, four senior women's team, 20 junior boys' teams and five junior girls' teams.
420. For this, please note that peak time (actual) spare capacity is converted from squares to match equivalent sessions. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior men's teams (nine) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (one team per 0.5 squares that are available).
421. The entirety of spare capacity available at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time (the maximum amount of spare capacity that can be accommodated on one square at peak time is 18 match equivalent sessions). Any remaining spare capacity could be used outside of this (midweek or Sunday). Note that due to the different levels of play across the District that higher performance clubs play over nine fixtures at home per season, but this is negated by lower level Saturday teams playing less. Similarly, match equivalent sessions for future demand are based on the average number of matches played per season by the respective team type.
422. The table below illustrates current levels of spare demand available in Wealden (as identified in Table 6.16) against overplay (identified in Table 6.17) to understand the current position for senior cricket relative to the supply and demand of provision.

Table 6.18: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior Saturday cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions) Overplay	Demand (match sessions) Current total	Demand (match sessions) Future demand	Demand (match sessions) Total
Hailsham	9	-	9	9	-
Polegate	-	6	6	-	6
Crowborough & Rural North	54	5	49	36	13
Heathfield and Heathfield & Rural South	27	-	27	9	18
Uckfield	36	7	29	36	9
Wealden	126	18	108	90	18

422. The table above shows that the broad position for cricket is that there is a sufficient capacity in the District to accommodate current and theoretical future levels of demand. The current picture shows a theoretical capacity to accommodate a further 108 match equivalent sessions per season (or 9 teams in the peak period).
423. The small level of overplay is as a result of poor square quality (as opposed to high levels of demand at Jevington and Maresfield recreation grounds). Future demand reduces most spare capacity and it is anticipated Hailsham will be operating at capacity, however, there is broadly a sufficient level of provision for further growth for the senior men's game.
424. Similarly, to above, the analysis for Sunday cricket is detailed below. The difference between the Saturday and Sunday analysis is that the average number of games played per season on Sundays is on average lower (due to the nature of local league structures). Most clubs which compete on Sundays largely do so in friendly or more relaxed recreational league offers.
425. For the purpose of the Sunday analysis, a reduced figure of eight match sessions is used (although some clubs do play less than this across a season). Future demand includes senior men's cricket (as above) and women's cricket (as this demand is likely to be exhibited on Sundays).

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Table 6.19: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior Sunday cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions) Overplay	Demand (match sessions) Current total	Demand (match sessions) Future demand	Demand (match sessions) Total
Hailsham	32	-	32	18	14
Polegate	16	6	10	-	10
Crowborough & Rural North	152	5	147	54	93
Heathfield & Rural South	64	-	64	18	46
Uckfield	80	7	73	36	37
Wealden	344	18	326	126	200

426. The table above shows that there are high levels of spare capacity for Sunday cricket both now and in the future. This includes any future demand aspirations being met (both for senior men's and senior women's cricket).

Junior cricket capacity balance

427. For junior cricket, all squares with spare capacity have peak time (actual) spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because junior matches are generally played midweek, where matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, where there is NTPs, this provides further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.
428. In total, 34 squares are identified as being able to accommodate an increase in junior demand. For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by six (the average number of matches a junior team plays).

Table 6.20: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for midweek junior cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions) Overplay	Demand (match sessions) Current total	Demand (match sessions) Future demand	Demand (match sessions) Total
Hailsham	42	-	42	18	24
Polegate	24	6	18	24	6
Crowborough & Rural North	198	5	193	48	145
Heathfield & Rural South	54	-	54	30	24
Uckfield	96	7	89	30	59
Wealden	414	18	396	150	246

429. The table above shows that there is significant spare capacity for future growth of junior midweek cricket in Wealden with a current spare capacity of 393 match equivalent sessions available (or the potential availability to accommodate 66 teams). Future demand of 25 teams (150 match equivalent sessions per season) reduces capacity but a large amount remains. There is a small shortfall identified in the Polegate Analysis Area equating to two match equivalent sessions if all future demand is realised. As a reminder, the overplay is because of poor quality provision at Jevington Recreation Ground.

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6.6: Conclusion

430. In conclusion, there is a sufficient supply of provision in Wealden to accommodate all existing demand and any forthcoming increase in participation. This is evidenced for senior men's Saturday and Sunday cricket, senior women's Sunday cricket and midweek junior cricket.
431. There are small shortfalls identified at Jevington and Maresfield recreation grounds due to the poor quality preparation of wickets, however, these shortfalls are negated by the broader picture of spare capacity across the District. These shortfalls can also be theoretically remedied through improving the quality of the square at each site.
432. Notwithstanding the above, there remains clubs which do operate at (or close too) capacity and struggle to accommodate existing and future growth plans at their existing sites. This is particularly the case at Bells Yew Green CC which already access two grounds; The Nursey Ground and Cousley Wood.

Cricket summary

- There is a sufficient supply of cricket provision in Wealden to accommodate current levels of peak time Saturday cricket demand.
- There is a sufficient capacity to accommodate both Sunday and junior cricket.

Supply:

- There is a total of 45 natural turf cricket squares identified in Wealden across 43 sites.
- Five squares (across three sites) are unavailable for community use, these are located at Bedes School, Cumnor House School and Maresfield Girls School.
- Further to the 44 identified squares, there are an additional two located at Fairwarp Sports Field and The Village Green (former Frant CC site) which are no longer prepared for cricket (but could be theoretically reinstated if ever required).

Quality:

- The non-technical assessment of community available grass wicket squares found four squares to be good quality, 37 squares to be standard quality and four squares to be poor quality.
- Of the sites in Wealden, 15 have good quality ancillary provision, 21 have standard quality provision and six are identified as having poor quality provision.

Affiliated demand:

- In total, demand for cricket in Wealden equates to 139 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of 87 men's teams, four senior women's, 43 junior boys' teams and five junior girls' teams.
- 16 clubs highlight aspirations to increase the current number of teams they currently operate. In total, this aspirational growth equates to ten senior men's teams, four senior ladies' teams, 20 junior boys' teams and five junior girls' teams.
- ONS projections applied through Team Generation Rates do not forecast the growth of any additional teams.

Supply vs demand analysis:

- In conclusion, based on current demand levels, a sufficient supply of provision to accommodate all formats of senior and junior cricket.
- Future demand reduces spare capacity but a sufficient level remains to accommodate any realistic growth in senior men's, women's and junior formats.

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PART 7: TENNIS COURTS

7.1: Introduction

433. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Wealden. 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. Alongside this approach is the LTA's vision 'Tennis Opened Up', a 2019 to 2023 strategy aimed at growing tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable
434. There are 13 tennis clubs located in Wealden. Consultation with clubs was undertaken through a mixture of virtual online meetings and online surveys. In total, 11 clubs responded to consultation requests, meaning a response rate of 85% has been achieved. Details as to which clubs have responded to consultation are detailed below.

Table 7.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Alfriston TC	No
Cross in Hand TC	Yes
Crowborough TC	Yes
East Hoathly and Halland TC	Yes
Forest Row TC	No
Groombridge TC	Yes
Hailsham TC	Yes
Hartfield LTC	Yes
Horam TC	Yes
Maresfield TC	Yes
Mayfield LTC	Yes
Nutley TC	Yes
Wadhurst TC	Yes

7.2: Supply

435. There are 99 outdoor tennis courts identified in Wealden across 26 sites. Most courts are available for community use (64) and offer opportunities for both recreational and competitive tennis. The courts which are unavailable for community use are located at the following sites; Beacon Academy, Bede's school, Heathfield Community College, Mayfield Girls School, Greenfields School, Hailsham Community College, Uplands Community College Centre and Ashdown Park Hotel and Country Club. In total, 35 courts are identified as being unavailable for community use.
436. For the purpose 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. Whilst some sites are listed as being available for community use, it is noted that in some instances, club memberships are needed to access facilities and therefore for the recreational player, these sites are not available for use.

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Indoor provision

437. In the case of Wealden there are no dedicated indoor tennis court facilities, however, there is a site St Johns Sports Centre within Royal Tunbridge Wells which sits on Wealden's northern boundary, making it nearby for Wealden clubs such as Crowborough and Wadhurst TC to access if required.
438. The LTA aspires to increase the number of high-quality community accessible indoor facilities, which will be focussed on filling strategically identified gaps in provision as follows:
- ◀ 72 optimal locations have already been identified in England
 - ◀ The optimal locations will have a population in excess of 75,000 within a 20 minute drive time in towns and cities and 75,000 within a 30 minute drive time in rural locations
 - ◀ The existing indoor tennis centre have had their catchment protected to a 30 minute radius to avoid competition reducing use of existing provision. This stock includes indoor courts in commercial centres
 - ◀ A facility mix of four to six indoor courts and access to outdoor floodlit courts as well as access to additional facilities

Table 7.2: Summary of supply

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type
4	Beacon Academy (Beeches)	Crowborough & Rural North	No	4	No	Concrete
5	Bede's School	Hailsham	No	7	No	Macadam
15	Cross in Hand Bowls and Tennis Club	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	6	Yes	5 Clay 1 macadam
20	East Dean Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	1	No	Macadam
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
31	Greenfields School	Crowborough & Rural North	No	3	No	Macadam
35	Hailsham Community College	Hailsham	No	2	No	Concrete
40	Heathfield Community College	Heathfield & Rural South	No	6	Yes	Artificial
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	1	No	Macadam
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Hailsham	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
60	Mayfield Girls School	Crowborough & Rural North	No	8	Yes	Macadam
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	4	2 floodlit	Artificial
91	The War Memorial Ground	Uckfield	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
94	Town Croft	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	2	1 floodlit	Macadam
97	Uplands Community College Sports Centre	Crowborough & Rural North	No	3	No	Macadam
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	Uckfield	Yes	3	No	Macadam

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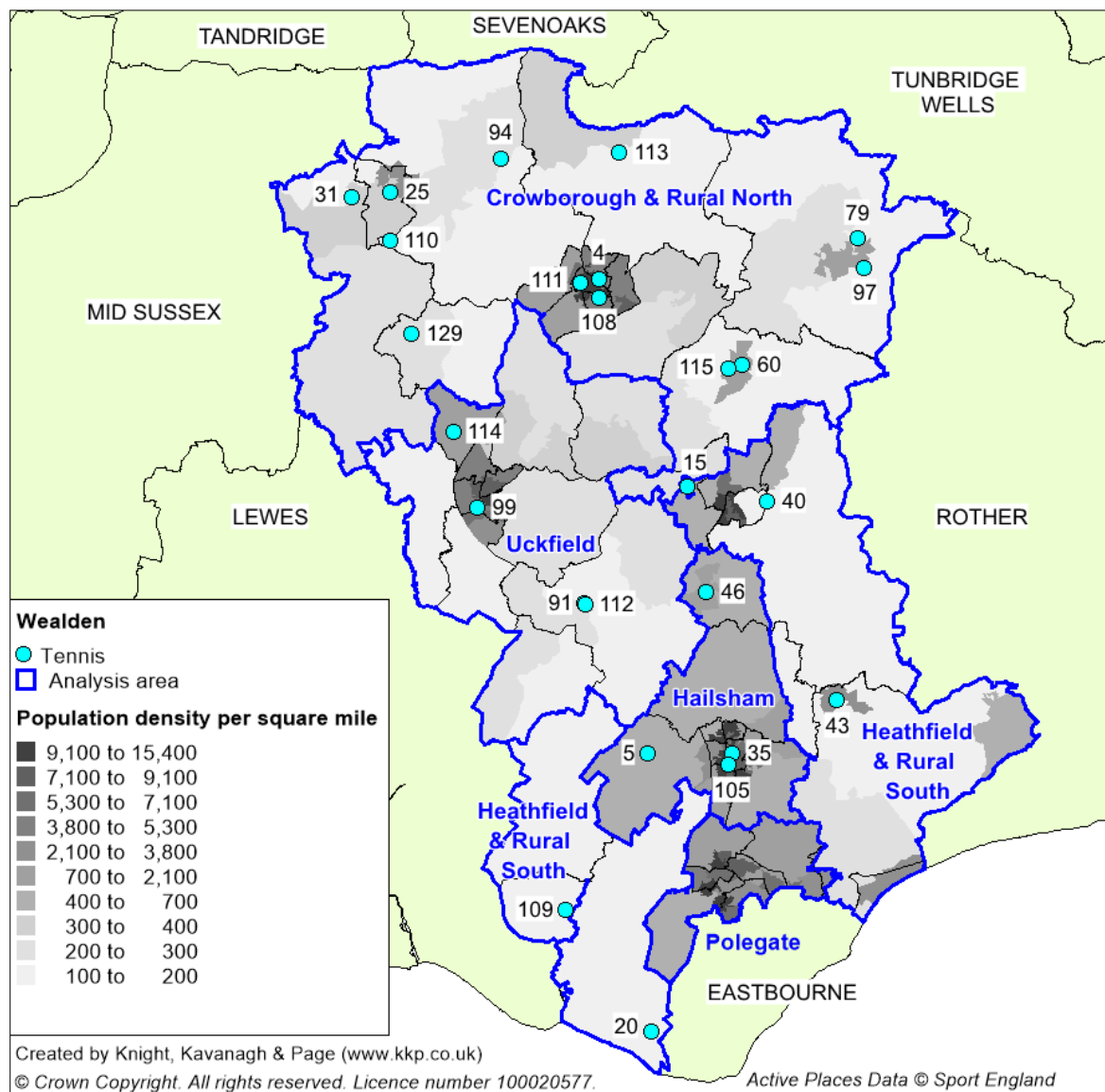
Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type
105	Western Road Recreation Ground	Hailsham	Yes	4	Yes	Artificial
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	3	No	Macadam
109	Alfriston Tennis Centre	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
110	Ashdown Park Hotel and Country Club	Crowborough & Rural North	No	2	No	Macadam
111	Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club Ltd	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	9	7 floodlit	Macadam
112	East Hoathly and Halland Tennis Club	Uckfield	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
113	Groombridge Tennis Club	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	4	No	3 macadam 1 clay
114	Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club	Uckfield	Yes	5	Yes	Macadam
115	Mayfield Lawn Tennis Club	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	5	No	4 artificial 1 clay
129	Nutley Tennis and Squash Club	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	2	No	Macadam

Development plans

439. Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club is identified as a key site for tennis within Wealden. Following consultation, it has expressed plans to build two covered courts on its site. Planning permission for this project has been granted and the Club hope this project shall be completed during 2022. Neighbouring town, Tunbridge Wells features indoor tennis courts at St Johns Sports Centre, however, the LTA has confirmed this is not an issue in regard to catchment areas as Wealden features no dedicated indoor court facilities.
440. In addition to the above, Uckfield College aspires to develop indoor courts at its site to accommodate an increase level of both curricular and community demand. No formal plans have yet to be submitted by the College to progress this.

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Figure 7.1: Supply of tennis courts



Management and ownership

441. In terms of club management and ownership, 11 of the 13 clubs are deemed to have secure tenure, with the remaining two clubs yet to respond to the consultation. Details behind the arrangements of site ownership can be seen in the table below. A total of six sites have lease agreements in place, three sites are owned outright by the club, two are rented and the remaining courts are either owned by the parish council or have not disclosed their current agreements.
442. All remaining courts in Wealden are managed and maintained by either education centres or town and parish councils.

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Table 7.3: Club management/ownership breakdown

Site ID	Site name	Club	Management	Ownership	Comments
15	Cross in Hand Bowls and Tennis Club	Cross in Hand Bowls and Tennis Club	Sports Club	Leased	The site is partially owned by the Club and partially by the Parish Council through the Hardy Roberts Trust.
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Forest Row TC	Unknown	Unknown	
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Horam Tennis Club	Sports Club	Sports Club	
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Wadhurst Tennis Club	Parish Council	Rented	Site is rented to the Club from the Parish Council.
94	Town Croft	Hartfield Lawn Tennis Club	Sports Club	Leased	Site is leased from the Parish Council. Club pays no fee to the Parish Council but instead pays an annual maintenance fee.
105	Western Road Recreation Ground	Hailsham TC	Spots Club	Leased	Site is leased from the Town Council.
109	Alfriston Tennis Centre	Alfriston TC	Unknown	Unknown	
111	Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club Ltd	Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club Ltd	Sports Club	Sports Club	
112	East Hoathly and Halland Tennis Club	East Hoathly and Halland Tennis Club	Sports Club	Leased	
113	Groombridge Tennis Club	Groombridge Tennis Club	Sports Club	Leased	Site is leased from Groombridge Sports Association.
114	Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club	Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club	Sports Club	Rented	Site is rented from the Club from the Parish Council.
115	Mayfield Lawn Tennis Club	Mayfield Lawn Tennis Club	Sports Club	Sports Club	
129	Nutley Tennis and Squash Club	Nutley Lawn Tennis Club	Sports Club	Leased	Lease arrangement in place with Nutley War Memorial Trust CIO.

Floodlighting

443. Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being particularly crucial for club development. In Wealden, ten out of 13 clubs are serviced by floodlighting. Floodlighting is not provided at Mayfield LTC, Groombridge TC and Nutley TC. Of these sites only Groombridge TC has expressed a desire to install floodlights on the site in order to improve the level of coaching and competitive fixtures it offers.
444. For greater detail on the sites currently serviced by floodlighting, Hailsham TC recently had LED floodlights installed at the beginning of 2020 (at Western Road Recreation Ground), whilst Maresfield LTC states its floodlights could be improved, however, no funding towards this project has been secured to date.

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445. Of the education and public courts only the War Memorial Ground (three courts), Heathfield Community College (six courts) and Mayfield Girls School (eight courts) are serviced by floodlighting.

Court type

456. All 99 courts in Wealden have either a macadam, clay or artificial grass surface. There are 68 courts with a macadam surface, 18 have an artificial surface, seven are clay based and the remaining six are concrete courts.

Quality

457. The quality of tennis courts has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

458. The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (70-80%), Poor (<70%).

459. Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of tennis and therefore the non-technical assessment assesses several factors which evidence court quality. The criteria for the non-technical assessment consists of; court surface grip underfoot, damage to a court surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size for competitive tennis.

460. The table below summarises the quality of tennis courts that are available for community use in Wealden.

Table 7.4: Summary of quality (community available courts)

Good	Standard	Poor
53	7	4

461. Following a non-technical assessment, most courts in Wealden (53) are good quality (65% of all courts), seven are standard quality and four are poor quality.
462. Often courts at Town/Parish Council and education operated sites experience issues relating to court surface quality.
463. Three sites (all parish council managed), Wolfe Recreation Ground (three courts), Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield) (three courts) and Herstmonceux Recreation Ground (one court) achieved a standard quality rating.
464. In regard to East Dean Recreation Ground (one court) and Alfriston Tennis Centre (three courts), both sites received poor quality ratings, issues such as poor grip underfoot, build ups of moss and inadequate or damaged netting were present.
465. The three courts situated at the Alfriston Centre are deemed poor quality as they featured several hazardous objects on the court leaving them not only unusable but damaging the quality of the courts in the process.
466. Four clubs within Wealden make reference to their intentions to develop the quality of their courts. This refers to Cross in Hand TC which states its courts require rejuvenating,

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Groombridge TC which plan to resurface its clay court and repaint hard courts and both Maresfield TC and East Hoathly & Halland TC which are both looking to resurface their courts. Of these clubs only Maresfield TC make reference to the fact that required funds have been accumulated.

Table 7.5: Summary of quality by site (community use sites only)

Site ID	Site name	Management	Number of courts	Court type	Court quality
15	Cross in Hand Bowls and Tennis Club	Sports Club	6	5 Clay 1 macadam	Good
20	East Dean Recreation Ground	Parish Council	1	Macadam	Poor
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Unknown	3	Macadam	Good
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	Parish Council	1	Macadam	Standard
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Sports Club	3	Macadam	Good
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Parish Council	4	Artificial	Good
91	The War Memorial Ground	Parish Council	3	Macadam	Good
94	Town Croft	Sports Club	2	Macadam	Good
99	Victoria Pleasure Ground (Uckfield)	Parish Council	3	Macadam	Standard
105	Western Road Recreation Ground	Sports Club	4	Artificial	Good
108	Wolfe Recreation Ground	Parish Council	3	Macadam	Standard
109	Alfriston Tennis Centre	Unknown	3	Macadam	Poor
111	Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club Ltd	Sports Club	9	Macadam	Good
112	East Hoathly and Halland Tennis Club	Sports Club	3	Macadam	Good
113	Groombridge Tennis Club	Sports Club	4	3 macadam 1 clay	Good
114	Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club	Sports Club	5	Macadam	Good
115	Mayfield Lawn Tennis Club	Sports Club	5	4 artificial 1 clay	Good
129	Nutley Tennis and Squash Club	Sports Club	2	Macadam	Good

467. Improving the quality, offer and experience of tennis in parks is a strategic priority for the LTA to open up tennis. It reports that the biggest barriers to participate in tennis are:

- ◀ Not knowing where the closest courts are
- ◀ Not knowing how to book or play on the courts
- ◀ Poor quality playing surfaces

468. Park tennis courts can be opened in a variety of ways to ensure greater use by local residents. This can range from booking courts to offering coaching programmes. The LTA has three products for local authorities to use to remove the barriers and open tennis up to all of the residents in their area; ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access (explained in the Future Demand section).

469. In the case of Wealden, East Dean Recreation Ground is the only poor quality park court due to issues such as lots of loose gravel, poor grip underfoot and inadequate line markings.

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Ancillary provision

470. Feedback on ancillary provision was provided by clubs which are responsive to consultation requests. This is featured in the table below.

Table 7.6: Ancillary quality breakdown

Site ID	Site name	Facility as a whole	Changing facilities	Car parking
15	Cross in Hand Bowls and Tennis Club	Good	Adequate	Adequate
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Good	Good	Adequate
46	Horam Recreation Ground (Horam TC)	Good	Poor	Good
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground (Wadhurst TC)	Good	Good	Good
94	Town Croft (Hartfield LTC)	Adequate	Good	Good
105	Recreation Ground Western Road (Hailsham TC)	Adequate	Poor	Poor
109	Alfriston Tennis Centre	Poor	Adequate	Adequate
111	Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club Ltd	Good	Good	Good
112	East Hoathly and Halland Tennis Club	Good	Adequate	Good
113	Groombridge Tennis Club	Good	Good	Adequate
114	Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club	Good	Adequate	Good
115	Mayfield Lawn Tennis Club	Good	Good	Adequate
129	Nutley Tennis Club	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate

471. Alfriston Tennis Centre represents the only facility across Wealden deemed as poor quality rating following site assessments. This was due to a combination of the clubhouse being a dated wooden building and the courts themselves being unfit for play. Further to this, only Hailsham Tennis Club is serviced by poor quality car parking, in the sense that it is limited as the site is located centrally to the town of Hailsham.
472. The LTA report suggests that use of park tennis courts are greatly increased where there is accessible toilets and a café nearby providing more of a destination to play tennis. Additional floodlighting expands the maximum available court hours available to play for longer periods of the year. Overall, the combination of these ancillary elements is shown to increase the value and sustainability of tennis within park sites.

7.3: Demand

473. In 2020, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the summer tennis season was curtailed with no tennis played until July 2020 across England. Tennis was one of the first sports to begin both recreational and competitive competitions following guidance permitting play.
474. In Wealden, only Horam TC reports a dip in membership which it equates to the pandemic.
475. There is a contrasting size of memberships at clubs across Wealden. The Club with the smallest membership is Hartfield LTC which has 61 members and the largest is Crowborough TC which has 378 members. A full breakdown of club's membership details can be found in the table below.

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Table 7.7: Club membership details

Site ID	Site name	Club	Senior members	Junior members	Total members
15	Cross in Hand Bowls and Tennis Club	Cross in Hand TC	100	30	130
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	Forest Row TC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Horam TC	66	27	93
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground	Wadhurst TC	165	35	200
94	Town Croft	Hartfield LTC	43	18	61
105	Western Road Recreation Ground	Hailsham TC	134	52	186
109	Alfriston Tennis Centre	Alfriston TC	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
111	Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club Ltd	Crowborough TC	307	71	378
112	East Hoathly and Halland Tennis Club	East Hoathly and Halland TC	179	69	248
113	Groombridge Tennis Club	Groombridge TC	104	98	202
114	Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club	Maresfield TC	128	33	161
115	Mayfield Lawn Tennis Club	Mayfield LTC	281	61	342
129	Nutley Tennis and Squash Club	Nutley TC	100	20	120
		Total membership	1,607	514	2,121

476. In total, affiliated tennis membership in Wealden equates to 2,121 members across all clubs.

Future demand

477. Future demand is defined by participation aspirations from club consultation. Population forecasts are not used by the LTA as a projection for potential future demand in an area. Participation increases. Note that Club aspirations are covered over the lifespan of the PPOSS and not the Local Plan Period (2039).

478. Five clubs in Wealden state an aspiration to increase their memberships. The growth aspirations of these clubs are detailed in the table below.

Table 7.8: Club future demand aspirations

Site ID	Site name	Club	Senior members	Junior members	Total members
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Horam TC	12	15	27
105	Western Road Recreation Ground	Hailsham TC	50	10	60
113	Groombridge Tennis Club	Groombridge TC	30	25	55
114	Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club	Maresfield TC	50	0	50
129	Nutley Tennis and Squash Club	Nutley TC	10	10	20
				Total	212

479. In total, growth aspirations equate to a potential growth in local tennis by 212 members across the five clubs that expressed intentions to gain future members.

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Latent/unmet demand

LTA Local Tennis Leagues

480. Recreational 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 an organisation called 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.
481. Whilst there are no LTA local tennis leagues within Wealden there are leagues within the surrounding area within Crawley and Eastbourne. The League located within Crawley is a commutable distance for clubs such as Forest Row TC, whilst the league in Eastbourne can accommodate clubs nearer to the south coast such as Hailsham.

Tennis for Free

482. Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that works in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low income areas. Tennis for Free offer a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', available to clubs which wish to open their doors to non-members.
483. Through its offer it aims to:
- ◀ Reinvigorate under-used public facilities
 - ◀ Make tennis a sport for all
 - ◀ Make tennis more financially accessible in the UK
 - ◀ Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities through tennis
482. Tennis for Free sessions do not take place within Wealden district.

British Tennis Weekend

483. The Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.
484. The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (held in May, July and September) which are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and can benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event. Historically, this event has been a great success in Wealden with Cross-in-Hands TC taking part in the event.

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Informal and parks tennis

485. It is considered that all community available courts in Wealden that are not accessed by clubs have spare capacity for a growth in demand (notwithstanding identified quality issues). However, this is difficult to quantify as use is not recorded at every site due to many being open access. It is generally considered that courts are at their busiest during summer months, with little activity taking place outside of this. The LTA has developed a package of support for Local Authorities to grow the use of park tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access. These products can be used individually or in combination.

Padel tennis

486. Padel is a form of tennis that is easy to play, fun and sociable. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although players serve underhand and the walls are used as part of the game, with the ball allowed to bounce off them.
487. Padel tennis is one of the fastest growing sports across continental Europe, it has gained increasing popularity over recent years. As of 2021, there are around 6,000 active Padel tennis players across Great Britain, with 107 courts provided at 52 clubs. This is predicted to grow substantially in future years.
488. There are currently no Padel tennis courts in Wealden. However, consultation with Crowborough Tennis Club highlighted the Club having held conversations with the LTA about the potential installation of two Padel tennis courts.

ClubSpark

489. ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions of their venue(s) including:
- ◀ Managed Website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to club requirements to promote events and activities
 - ◀ Managed Coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online
 - ◀ Membership Management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch. Take online payments, manage direct debits and monitor revenue streams with ease. Membership modules can also be used to take 'Season Ticket' payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee. 'Season Tickets' can be configured to allow court bookings to be made for free or at a reduced rate by players who hold one, whilst still allowing non-holders to book
 - ◀ Organise Payments - Set the way you want payments to be taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
 - ◀ Court Bookings – Reduced admin for managing bookings. Give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online
 - ◀ Scheduling - Set unique booking and price rules to suit your venue. Enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system
 - ◀ Book and Pay remotely - Customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app
 - ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders. This allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

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RALLY

490. Rally is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via partner venues and ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. Rally allows players to search for venues close to them, and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book. Rally provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the Local Authority.

Gate Access

491. The LTA has developed two Gate Access systems that work in association with ClubSpark, to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and will receive a four digit access code via email, to enter using the courtside keypad. The system will allow entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.
492. Nationally the LTA reports that in the last three years sites with gate access installed have attracted 64,841 unique players to make bookings, leading to 609,671 courts being booked, and has generated £1.1m of income.
493. There are two gate options available Smart Access Premium & Smart Access Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue will determined the most appropriate system for each site.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

494. The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate 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. Using these figures, the table below analyses whether or not courts currently in use by clubs are sufficient to meet current and future demand. It should be noted that the capacity system is based more on the sustainability of clubs and their membership relative to there being available court space. Being “overcapacity” might not necessarily translate to a lack of playing space at peak times for club members.
495. Based on the above criteria, seven of the 13 clubs in Wealden can accommodate both current and anticipated future levels of demand, four shall be operating over recommended capacity once future demand is taken into consideration, and figures are unknown for Alfriston TC and Forest Row Sports Ground.
496. Three clubs within Wealden are currently operating with capacity issues, those being Mayfield LTC, Groombridge TC and East Hoathly and Halland TC. Taking into account identified future demand, Western Road Recreation Ground, home to Hailsham TC will theoretically also be operating over recommended capacity.

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Table 7.9: Supply and demand analysis

Site ID	Site name	Current demand (members)	Future demand (members)	Number of courts (floodlit)	Recommended capacity (members)	Current capacity	Future capacity
15	Cross in Hand Bowls and Tennis Club	130	-	6 floodlit	360	230	230
25	Forest Row Sports Ground	-	-	3 floodlit	180	-	-
46	Horam Recreation Ground (Horam TC)	93	27	3 floodlit	180	87	60
79	Sparrows Green Recreation Ground (Wadhurst TC)	180		4 (2 floodlit)	200	20	20
94	Town Croft (Hartfield LTC)	61		2 (1 floodlit)	100	39	39
105	Western Road Recreation Ground (Hailsham TC)	186	60	4 floodlit	240	54	6
109	Alfriston Tennis Centre	-	-	3 floodlit	180	-	-
111	Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club Ltd	378	-	9 (7 floodlit)	500	122	122
112	East Hoathly and Halland Tennis Club	248	-	3 floodlit	180	68	68
113	Groombridge Tennis Club	202	55	4 (non-floodlit)	160	42	97
114	Maresfield Lawn Tennis Club	161	50	5 floodlit	300	139	89
115	Mayfield Lawn Tennis Club	342	-	5 (non-floodlit)	200	142	142
129	Nutley Tennis and Squash Club	120	20	3 floodlit	180	60	40

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7.4: Conclusion

497. There are 99 outdoor tennis courts identified in Wealden across 26 sites. Of the courts available to the community, 53 are identified as being good quality, seven are standard quality and four are poor quality, meaning 65% of the courts across Wealden are deemed good quality.
498. Of the 13 clubs located within Wealden, ten are serviced by floodlighting. Floodlighting is not provided at Mayfield LTC, Groombridge TC and Nutley TC, with only Groombridge TC expressing a desire to install floodlights to improve the level of coaching and competitive fixtures they offer.
499. From a club based perspective, the current stock of provision at each site is broadly meeting the requirements of each clubs' membership. Three clubs are currently operating over the recommended LTA sustainability guidelines, with Mayfield LTC (142 members above recommended guidelines) being the most overcapacity.
500. For the remaining sites not associated to a club, it is considered that they all have capacity to accommodate additional demand from recreational and informal use. The most prominent issue for these sites relates to quality, access, and the ability to access suitable ancillary provisions to meet demand.
501. Mayfield LTC represent one of the three clubs yet to have floodlights installed on their courts, meaning its current capacity issues could be significantly helped if they were to install floodlights onto some or all of its courts.

Tennis summary

Supply:

- There are 99 outdoor tennis courts identified in Wealden across 26 sites. Of these, 64 are available for community use, with Mayfield Girls School, Bede's School, Beacon Academy, Heathfield Community College, Ashdown Country Park Hotel, Greenfields School, Hailsham Community College and Country Club and Uplands Community College Sports Centre representing the courts unavailable to the general public.

Quality:

- Following a non-technical assessment, of the sites available for community use, 53 courts are identified as being good quality. Seven are standard quality and four are poor quality.
- The three poor quality courts at Alfriston Tennis Centre are not fit for play and the court at East Dean Recreation Ground features lots of loose gravel and poor grip underfoot.

Demand:

- There are 13 tennis clubs in Wealden, the total known membership of these is 2,121. This does not include participation numbers from Alfriston TC and Forest Row TC, which were unresponsive to consultation attempts.
- Five clubs identify aspirations to grow their respective memberships, future growth from this equates to 212 members. The highest aspirations have been identified by Hailsham TC who hope to increase membership figures by 60 people.

Supply vs demand analysis:

- Seven of the 13 clubs in Wealden are sufficiently able to accommodate both current and anticipated future levels of demand. Future growth aspirations equate to 212 members if aspirations are achieved.
- Capacity shortfalls are identified at three clubs; Mayfield LTC, Groombridge TC and East Hoathly and Halland TC.

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PART 8: NETBALL COURTS

8.1: Introduction

502. England Netball is the governing body for the sport across 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. Its aim is to provide its members and partners with the best possible service and experience in sport.

Consultation

503. Consultation took place with a local netball representative from the Eastbourne Junior League which provided an overview on the local position of netball in the District. In Wealden district there are three local clubs, Heathfield Panthers, Crowborough Netball Club and Wealden Netball Club. All three were unresponsive to consultation and attempts to engage with each club is on-going.

8.2: Supply

504. In total, there are 18 outdoor netball courts located across five sites in Wealden. All courts are available, except for those located at Mayfield Girls School. Most provision, is located at education sites, with just one court being provided outside of an education setting; this is located at Goldsmiths Recreation Park.

Table 8.1: Summary of supply

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type
5	Bede's School	Hailsham	Yes	School	3	No	Macadam
29	Goldsmiths Recreation Park	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	Town Council	1	No	Macadam
40	Heathfield Community College	Heathfield & Rural South	Yes	School	4	No	Concrete
60	Mayfield Girls School	Crowborough & Rural North	No	School	6	Yes	Macadam
97	Uplands Community College Centre	Crowborough & Rural North	Yes	School	4	No	Concrete

Overmarking

505. 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 can impact on quality due to higher levels of wear and tear. All of the courts in Wealden are overmarked with tennis markings and are used as multi use facilities to cater for several sports (including tennis and basketball), this is particularly the case at education sites where facilities cater for a broader curricular need.

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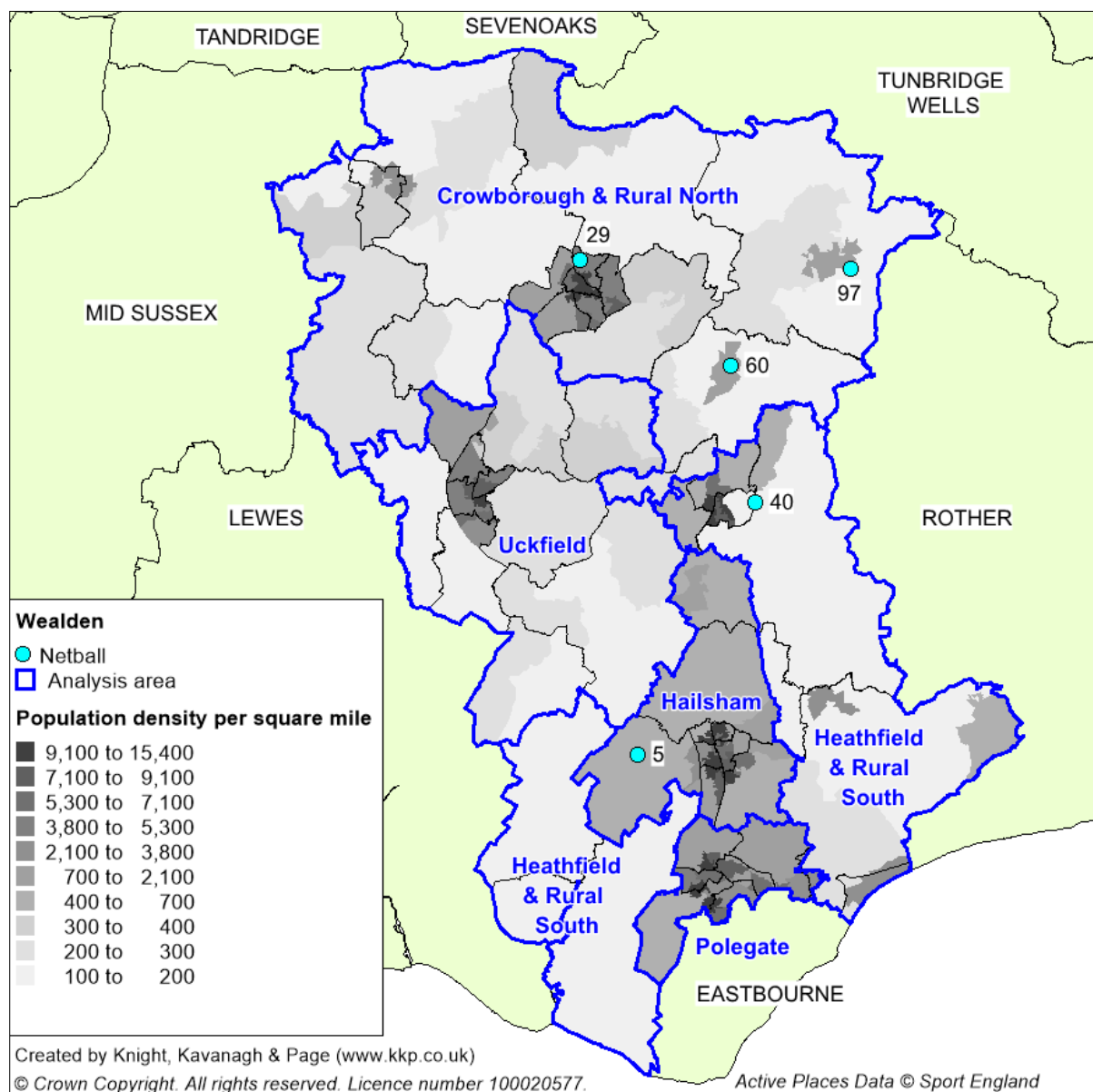


Figure 8.1: Netball court locations

Quality

506. Across Wealden, ten netball courts have a macadam surface, whilst the remaining eight courts are concrete based. There are no clay or artificial grass courts identified.
507. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. In the case of both Bede's School and Mayfield Girls School their courts were built in 2013 and therefore still within the ten-year lifespan. Courts at Uplands College were improved in 2021. In the case of Hailsham Community College, its courts were built in 2000 and received refurbishment in 2009 meaning they now fall outside the ten year lifespan.
508. The quality of netball courts across Wealden has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◆ Good
- ◆ Standard
- ◆ Poor

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509. The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments are as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (70-80%), Poor (<70%).
510. Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of netball and therefore the non-technical assessment (and consultation agreements) assesses several factors which evidence court quality. The criteria for the non-technical assessment consists of; court surface grip underfoot, damage to a court surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size.

Table 8.2: Quality summary

Site ID	Site name	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Quality
5	Bede's School	3	No	Good
29	Goldsmiths Recreation Park (Crowborough Leisure Centre)	1	No	Good
40	Heathfield Community College	4	No	Standard
60	Mayfield Girls School	6	Yes	Good
97	Uplands Community College Centre	4	No	Good

511. As can be seen in the table above, most netball provision in Wealden is good quality. Of the 18 available courts, 14 are good quality which equates to just over three quarters (78%) of all provision.

8.3: Demand

512. Netball across Wealden is home to two clubs, Heathfield Panthers and Crowborough Netball Club. Crowborough Netball Club has 30 juniors and 20 seniors that all operate socially, whilst Heathfield Panthers has 50 juniors and 30 adults which combine to form three teams competing in the adult Eastbourne League. Crowborough Netball Club utilise the court at Goldsmiths Recreation ground or the indoor facilities at Beacons School, whereas Heathfield Panthers use the courts at Heathfield Community College.
513. In addition to the two identified clubs, Wealden Netball Club utilise the Kent College Pembury Courts in Royal Tunbridge Wells. The Club utilise this facility due to a lack of supply across Wealden resulting in this site being the best option. It has four adult teams and three junior sides from U11s to U16s.

Play Netball

514. Play Netball is Britain's largest social netball league provider and arranges fixtures, league tables, umpires, netballs and bibs so players can focus on playing. People can join as individuals to find a team, a group to join the same team or produce their own team of seven or ten people.
515. There are no Play Netball fixtures within Wealden, however, a league is delivered within Royal Tunbridge Wells which sits on the Northern boundary of the District.

Back to Netball and Walking Netball

516. Back to Netball sessions are running across England and provide women of all ages a welcoming 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. Applying this to Wealden, Back to Netball sessions were formerly delivered in Crowborough and Uckfield and received lots of interest, however they no longer take place.

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517. Walking Netball has evolved from a growing demand of walking sports e.g. walking football. Walking Netball is a slower version of the game. It has been designed so that anyone can play regardless of age and fitness level and therefore offers opportunities for older adults to participate and enjoy. Walking Netball is delivered within Heathfield Panthers and Crowborough Netball Club hope to restart this program during October 2021.

Unmet demand

518. Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. England Netball identify that there is an unmet demand in Wealden to accommodate its recreational and participation programmes which it to the detriment to the residents of the District whom may want to participate in easier and more introductive sessions of the sport.

Imported/exported demand

519. Imported demand is teams entering Wealden to access facilities for netball. Exported demand is the opposite. Locally, Wealden Netball Club export demand into Tunbridge Wells as it cannot get access to an adequate supply of netball facilities during peak times within Wealden.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

520. There is a not prescriptive methodology in place to determine to assess the quantity need of netball courts. The analysis is therefore determined by ANOG guidelines of basic supply and demand principles. In the case of Wealden, there is an existing supply mainly centred around education sites which offer unsecure tenure to clubs or are difficult to access/overmarked with tennis and used for different purposes other than the sport itself.
521. As described throughout this section, there are only two clubs across Wealden District, those being Heathfield Panthers and Crowborough Netball Club, which utilise the court at Goldsmiths Recreational Park and Heathfield Community College, with indoor courts at Beacons School also being utilised.
522. Given there is a limited facility spread across the District and a level of unmet and exported demand, it is determined that there is a theoretical shortfall of provision. Future growth (aligned to the Local Plan Period) is factored into this existing shortfall which will be expected to grow in some format in the future.

8.5: Conclusion

523. Based on the existing supply of provision, it is clear that there is a reliance on the education sector to service affiliated and recreational demand for netball. There is just one community available court available outside of the education sector at Goldsmith Leisure Park with the remaining located within education sites with provide an unsecure tenure offer. As there are no identified community use agreements in place, this provision is unsecure. This limits opportunities for both affiliated clubs but also participation programmes such as walking netball which struggle to get access to suitable facilities locally. This position equates to a theoretical shortfall of provision which is exacerbated by Wealden Netball Club having to access provision outside of the District to compete in fixtures and training.

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Netball summary

Supply:

- ◀ In total, there are 18 outdoor netball courts located across five sites in Wealden. All of the courts are available except for six provided at Mayfield Girls School.

Quality

- ◀ Of the 18 available courts, 14 are good quality, which equates to 78% of all provision. No courts are good quality.

Demand:

- ◀ Two clubs have been identified as playing in Wealden; Crowborough Netball Club which has 30 juniors and 20 seniors and Heathfield Panthers with 50 juniors and 30 seniors. Heathfield Panthers has three competitive teams and play in the adult Eastbourne League, whereas Crowborough Netball Club operate for social sessions and run non-competitively.

Supply vs demand analysis:

- ◀ Based on the current supply of outdoor netball courts in Wealden it is determined that there is a theoretical shortfall to accommodate demand existing and future demand.

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PART 9: BOWLING GREENS

9.1: Introduction

525. Outdoor bowls in Wealden is played on flat greens, with a typical season running in the summer from May until September. Bowls England is the NGB with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of the sport.

Consultation

526. There are 22 bowls clubs identified as currently using outdoor bowling greens in Wealden. Of these, 17 responded to consultation requests, equating to a response rate of 77%.

Table 9.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Buxted Park BC	No
Colemans Hatch BC	Yes
Cross in Hand Bowls Club	Yes
Crowborough Wolfe BC	Yes
Deanland BC	No
East Dean and Friston BC	Yes
Frant BC	Yes
Groombridge BC	Yes
Hailsham BC	Yes
Hellingly BC	Yes
Herstmonceux BC	No
Horam BC	Yes
Isle of Thorn BC	No
Maresfield BC	Yes
Mayfield Bowls Club	Yes
Newick BC	No
Ninfield BC	Yes
Nutley BC	Yes
Rotherfield BC	Yes
Uckfield BC	Yes
Wadhurst BC	Yes
Wealden BC	Yes

9.2: Supply

527. There are currently 22 flat bowling greens in Wealden provided across the same number of sites. All of the greens are available for community use, and they are relatively evenly spread across the District, with the Crowborough & Rural North Analysis Area containing the largest number of greens with ten.
528. The Polegate Analysis Area does not feature any dedicated outdoor bowling greens.

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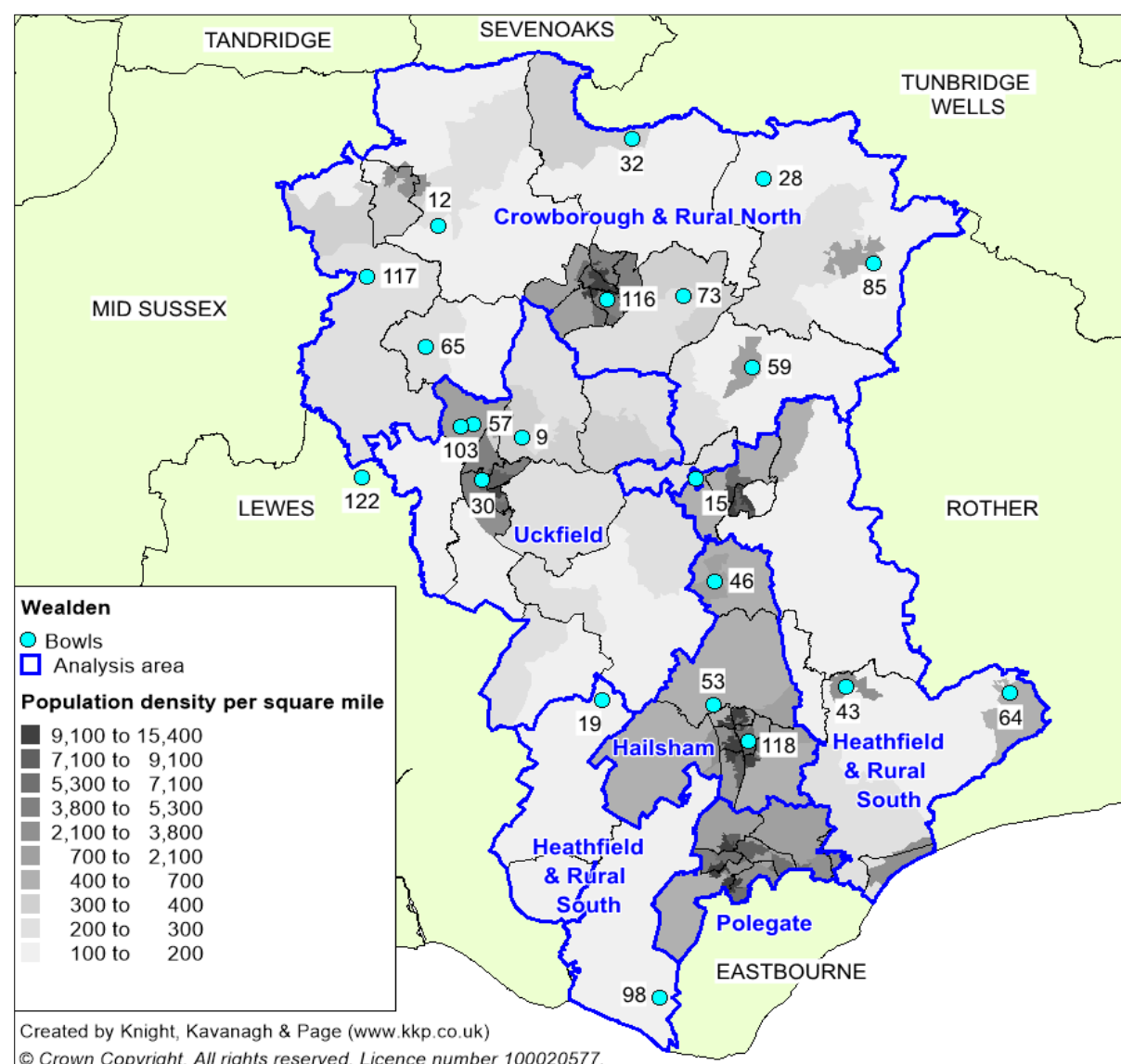
Table 9.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens
Hailsham	3
Polegate	0
Crowborough & Rural North	10
Heathfield & Rural South	4
Uckfield	5
Total	22

Disused provision

529. In the case of Wealden there is one disused bowling green identified at Mayfield Bowls Club which due to a lack of members is now utilised by the local scout troop.
530. Figure 9.1 below shows the location of all bowling greens currently servicing Wealden. For a key to the map, see Table 9.3.

Figure 9.1: Location of bowling greens in Wealden



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Table 9.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Club user	No. of greens
9	Buxted Park	TN22 4AY	Uckfield	Buxted Park BC	1
12	Colemans Hatch Cricket Club Bowls	TN7 4ER	Crowborough & Rural North	Colemans Hatch BC	1
15	Cross in Hand Lawn Tennis and Bowls Club	TN21 0SN	Crowborough & Rural North	Cross in Hand Bowls Club	1
19	Deanland Bowls	BN27 3RN	Heathfield & Rural South	Deanland BC	1
28	Frant Village Hall Bowls	TN3 9EF	Crowborough & Rural North	Frant BC	1
30	Grants Hill Court bowls	TN22 2BN	Uckfield	Uckfield BC	1
32	Groombridge Bowls Club	TN3 9RT	Crowborough & Rural North	Groombridge BC	1
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	BN27 4LJ	Heathfield & Rural South	Herstmonceux BC	1
46	Horam Recreation Ground	TN21 0YD	Hailsham	Horam BC	1
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	BN27 4DL	Hailsham	Hellingly BC	1
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	TN22 2EE	Uckfield	Maresfield BC	1
59	Mayfield Bowls Club (Vale Road)	TN20 6AY	Crowborough & Rural North	Mayfield Bowls Club	1
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	TN33 9JB	Heathfield & Rural South	Ninfield BC	1
65	Nutley Bowls	TN22 3LP	Crowborough & Rural North	Nutley BC	1
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	TN6 3LX	Crowborough & Rural North	Rotherfield BC	1
85	The Field	TN5 6DR	Crowborough & Rural North	Wadhurst BC	1
98	Upper Street Bowls	BN20 0BU	Heathfield & Rural South	East Dean and Friston BC	1
103	Wealden Bowls Centre	TN22 2HN	Uckfield	Wealden BC	1
116	Crowborough Wolfe Bowling Club	TN6 2PE	Crowborough & Rural North	Crowborough Wolfe BC	1
117	Isle of Thorn and District BC	RH17 7TT	Crowborough & Rural North	Isle of Thorn BC	1
118	Hailsham BC	BN27 2AX	Hailsham	Hailsham BC	1
122	Newick BC	BN8 4LR	Uckfield	Newick BC	1

Ownership/management

531. Details around the ownership and management arrangements for clubs which responded to consultation requests are provided in the table below. As seen, ten clubs have lease agreements for their greens, four clubs own their greens, and one club rents its site from Ninfield Parish Council.

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Table 9.4: Ownership/management arrangements for bowling clubs in Wealden

Name of club	Ownership/management details
Colemans Hatch BC	Leased from Ashdown Forest.
Cross in Hand BC	Club own the site.
Crowborough Wolfe BC	Unknown
Frant Bowls Club	The Club has a lease agreement with Eridge Estate for 36 years which is due to expire in 2033.
Groombridge BC	Has a 99-year Lease on the site from Rosemary Newton Trust which expires in 2037.
Groombridge BC	Lease their site from Rosemary Newton Trust on a 99-year deal due to expire in 2037.
Hailsham BC	Lease their site from Wealden District Council on a 28-year deal that was renewed in 2019.
Hellingly BC	Club own the site.
Horam BC	Lease the site from Horam Parish Council
Maresfield BC	The site is on a 25-year lease from Maresfield Recreation Ground Committee which expires in 2027.
Mayfield BC	The Club own the site
Ninfield BC	Green is rented from Ninfield Parish Council at £5 per season.
Nutley BC	Lease their site from Nutley War Memorial Charitable Incorporated Organisation on a 25-year deal due to expire in 2031.
Rotherfield Bowls Club	Lease the site from Rotherfield Parish Council on a license with no time limit.
Uckfield BC	Have a rolling four-year lease agreement with the Wealden District Council
Wadhurst BC	Site is owned outright by the club.
Wealden BC	Lease their land from Wealden District Council on a long-term deal

Quality

532. The quality of bowling greens across Wealden have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:
- ◀ Good
 - ◀ Standard
 - ◀ Poor
533. For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs of unofficial use. For further detail regarding the site assessment criteria, see Appendix 2.
534. Overall, nine greens are assessed as good quality, with most (11) assessed as standard and two assessed as poor. This is seen site-by-site in the table below. It must be stated that the outdoor green located at the Wealden Bowls Centre has an artificial carpet meaning whilst still being good quality it should not be viewed in the same way as the remaining greens across Wealden.

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Table 9.5: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of greens	Quality
9	Buxted Park	Uckfield	1	Good
12	Colemans Hatch Cricket Club Bowls	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Good
15	Cross in Hand Lawn Tennis and Bowls Club	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Standard
19	Deanland Bowls	Heathfield & Rural South	1	Standard
28	Frant Village Hall Bowls	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Standard
30	Grants Hill Court bowls	Uckfield	1	Standard
32	Groombridge Bowls Club	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Good
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	1	Standard
46	Horam Recreation Ground	Hailsham	1	Standard
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Hailsham	1	Standard
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Uckfield	1	Standard
59	Mayfield Bowls Club (Vale Road)	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Poor
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South	1	Good
65	Nutley Bowls	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Standard
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Good
85	The Field	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Good
98	Upper Street Bowls	Heathfield & Rural South	1	Standard
103	Wealden Bowls Centre	Uckfield	1	Good
116	Crowborough Wolfe Bowling Club	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Good
117	Isle of Thorn and District BC	Crowborough & Rural North	1	Poor
118	Hailsham BC	Hailsham	1	Standard
122	Newick BC	Uckfield	1	Good

535. The poor quality greens are located at Isle of Thorn Bowls Club and Mayfield Bowls Club.
536. The green at Isle of Thorn Bowls Club was identified as having grass too long for play as well as an overgrown walkway. As identified earlier, Mayfield Bowls Club is now disused and the Club merely cuts the grass.
537. Maresfield Bowls Club highlights how it has experienced issues related to vandalism with fences and gates being damaged on several occasions.
538. Groombridge Bowling Club successfully acquired finances through the Gatwick Airport funds to repair drainage issues. Whilst the green is assessed as good quality, the Club has expressed future maintenance developments are required such as re-roofing the clubhouse and replacement of wearing equipment.

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Ancillary provision

539. All clubs are able to access ancillary provision at their home green and the majority are serviced by adequate quality facilities, although the condition varies site-by-site. The more comprehensive facilities tend to be provided at sites that also service other sports and activities, such as Cross in Hands Bowls Club which share its facility with the Tennis, Rugby Union and Archery.
540. Groombridge BC expressed future maintenance developments such as re-roofing the clubhouse and replacement of wearing equipment. Finally, Frant Village Bowls Club identified a need to improve its changing facilities and toilets.
541. Uckfield Bowls Club is reaching the end of its project developing a new clubhouse. The Club has used its own funds to develop the new ancillary provision, of which, the site merely requires some minor internal details before it is fully operational. The Club utilise the new building now as it is serviced by electricity and is merely adding finishing touches to the site. The new site shall feature two changing rooms, a kitchen space and a public social space.
542. In regard to car parking, Ninfield Bowls Club highlighted issues as it does not have a designated car park for club use. It currently uses a neighbouring pub car park, however, this is only down to the pub's permission and may not be sustainable long term.
543. Both Maresfield Bowls Club and Uckfield Bowls Club also report issues related to car parking with the former having access to six spaces, whilst the latter only has two parking bays.
544. Finally, East Dean and Friston also do not have a designated car park as the green is located up a steep narrow hill. In the case of this club, players walk to the green or utilise parking when and wherever available.

Floodlighting

545. In Wealden, none of the 22 greens are serviced by floodlighting and none of the consulted clubs expressed any desire to develop floodlights into their site.
546. Floodlit greens offer opportunities to access provision for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months. However, they are relatively rare across the Country, making it unsurprising the lack of cases seen in Wealden.
547. Wadhurst BC express that its floodlights, which accompany the site, were vandalised in the last year. However, these are not specific floodlights but more related to supporting the ancillary provision.

9.3: Demand

578. There are 22 clubs using bowling clubs in Wealden. Of the clubs that responded to consultation requests, there are a total of 884 members, equating to 530 senior men, 354 senior women and zero juniors.

Table 9.6: Summary of club membership

Club name	Members Men	Members Women	Members Juniors	Members Total
Buxted Park BC	-	-	-	-
Colemans Hatch BC	14	11	-	25
Cross in Hand Bowls Club	18	12	0	30
Crowborough Wolfe BC	48	30	0	78

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Club name	Members Men	Members Women	Members Juniors	Members Total
Deanland BC	-	-	-	-
East Dean and Friston BC	-	-	-	-
Frant BC	19	7	0	26
Groombridge BC	21	16	0	37
Hailsham BC	-	-	-	-
Hellingly BC	28	23	0	51
Herstmonceux BC	-	-	-	-
Horam BC	35	15	0	50
Isle of Thorn BC	-	-	-	-
Maresfield BC	10	6	0	16
Mayfield Bowls Club	3	5	0	8
Newick BC	-	-	-	-
Ninfield BC	21	27	0	48
Nutley BC	16	8	0	24
Rotherfield BC	17	8	0	25
Uckfield BC	30	27	0	57
Wadhurst BC	33	19	0	52
Wealden BC	217	140	0	357
Total	530	345	0	884

579. Of the clubs that have responded to consultation, the average club membership is 52 and the largest club is Wealden BC (357 members) who have access to both an outdoor artificial green and an indoor green. In contrast, the smallest club is Mayfield BC, which has just eight members (unsurprisingly as the green is now disused), followed by Maresfield BC, which has 16 members.

Participation trends

580. Three clubs that responded to consultation report that membership has decreased in recent years, these being Maresfield BC, Mayfield BC, and Cross in Hand BC. Conversely, Crowborough Wolfe BC report that participation has increased.

Latent demand

581. 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 285 people within Wealden. Unsurprisingly, the most common demographics identified as showing latent demand are [Ralph & Phyllis](#).'

582. For comparison, Eastbourne has identified latent demand of 215 people, meaning Wealden has a greater population of latent demand. Eastbourne is geographically smaller yet it is a more urbanised area than Wealden.

583. All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members.

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Future demand

584. For bowls it is more appropriate to consider population changes for persons aged 65 and over. Office of National Statistics population projections (2018-2043), identify that the number of persons aged 65 and over living in Wealden is likely to increase continuously from 41,533 in 2018 to 59,393 in 2039, representing an increase of 43%.
585. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, it can be said that demand for bowling greens in Wealden is likely to increase slightly in the future or at least remain static.
586. Following consultation, Frant BC and Cross in Hand BC represent the only clubs to have not outlined any intentions to increase membership figures. For the two named clubs their goals are focusing on sustaining current membership rates following the impact of Covid-19. This involves recruiting new members to replace those that leave the clubs or that become unable to participate.
587. Wealden BC has ambitions to gain a further 50 members to bring its total membership to over 400 individuals. Ninfield BC report an intention to increase its number of members, with future demand for three additional senior members and two junior members, whilst Maresfield BC and Wadhurst BC expressed a plan to increase membership by 10 senior players. Crowborough Wolfe BC also expresses a desire to increase membership numbers but has not provided any figures behind a target to achieve.
588. Hellingly BC and Groombridge BC both have intentions to increase membership by 10 seniors and 10 juniors. Hellingly intend to achieve this through increased advertising, whilst Groombridge BC referred to the use of open days, adverts in local village magazines, contact with Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies and personal contacts as a means to grow membership. Finally, Colemans Hatch BC hope to gain an additional four senior members in the future.

9:4: Supply and demand analysis

589. Capacity of bowling greens is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates.
590. All other time periods that are not used for league matches can be available for social bowling or, more often than not, used for practice by club members throughout the week. This demand is unquantifiable as participants can use the greens as often or as little as they deem necessary.
591. Bowls England does not have specific guidance on bowling green capacity, though as a guide it states that any club with at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable.
592. Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in Wealden receives, where the information is known. Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues. This should be led by Bowls England.

Table 9.7: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in Wealden

Site ID	Site name	No. of greens	Club user	Current members	Future demand
9	Buxted Park	1	Buxted Park BC	-	-

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Site ID	Site name	No. of greens	Club user	Current members	Future demand
12	Colemans Hatch Cricket Club Bowls	1	Colemans Hatch BC	25	29
15	Cross in Hand Lawn Tennis and Bowls Club	1	Cross in Hand Bowls Club	40	-
19	Deanland Bowls	1	Deanland BC	-	-
28	Frant Village Hall Bowls	1	Frant BC	26	-
30	Grants Hill Court bowls	1	Uckfield BC	57	-
32	Groombridge Bowls Club	1	Groombridge BC	37	57
43	Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	1	Herstmonceux BC	-	-
46	Horam Recreation Ground	1	Horam BC	50	-
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	1	Hellingly BC	51	71
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	1	Maresfield BC	16	26
59	Mayfield Bowls Club (Vale Road)	1	Mayfield Bowls Club	8	-
64	Ninfield Recreation Ground	1	Ninfield BC	48	53
65	Nutley Bowls	1	Nutley BC	24	-
73	Rotherfield Sports Club	1	Rotherfield BC	25	-
85	The Field	1	Wadhurst BC	52	62
98	Upper Street Bowls	1	East Dean and Friston BC	-	-
103	Wealden Bowls Centre	1	Wealden BC	357	407
116	Crowborough Wolfe Bowling Club	1	Crowborough Wolfe BC	78	-
117	Isle of Thorn and District BC	1	Isle of Thorn BC	-	-
118	Hailsham BC	1	Hailsham BC	-	-
122	Newick BC	1	Newick BC	-	-

593. Crowborough Wolfe BC is currently operating at a high capacity with 78 members accessing one green. In the case of the Wealden BC, the Club currently operates with 357 total members utilising one artificial carpet green as well as an indoor artificial carpet green. If the Club was serviced by regular grass flat greens this would be considerably overplayed and would damage green quality. As is the case, an artificial green offers increased capacity and enough to sustain higher membership levels.
594. Comparatively, Maresfield BC (16 members) is operating below the recommended level of membership required to ensure the green it uses is sustainable. Support may be required from Bowls England or local groups to safeguard this. Further to this, the Club reports that some improvements are required to improve the quality of the green which was assessed as standard quality.
595. Another example of capacity issues comes from Mayfield Bowls Club which is now operating with eight members which is 60% below recommended sustainability guidelines. This has resulted in the club no longer using the green for bowls purposes and instead is used by the local Scout troop. The Club no longer formally participates in a competitive manner.
596. Further investigation is required to understand the situation at Isle of Thorn Bowls Club as it didn't respond to consultation requests and is serviced by a green assessed as poor quality.
597. All other clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision, and all have enough capacity to accommodate any likely growth.

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9:5: Conclusion

598. There is a sufficient supply of bowling greens in the District to accommodate existing levels of demand. As club future demand aspirations are small, these are also likely to be accommodated on the existing stock of greens available to clubs. Where there may be increased growth over the Local Plan period (due to changes in the population demographic) greens are still able to accommodate increased growth.
599. Where possible, support should be offered to clubs to sustain existing memberships and to ensure the quality of greens can remain sufficient to accommodate demand for both current and future use. Any poor quality greens should be prioritised for improvements.

Bowls – supply and demand summary

- ▶ Wealden Bowling Centre are currently operating with the highest number of total members (357).
- ▶ Two of the clubs to have provided consultation are currently operating below recommended membership levels, meaning the greens across Wealden are generally well supported by their communities.

Supply

- ▶ There are 22 flat bowling greens and no crown bowling greens provided across 22 sites.
- ▶ There is one disused bowling green identified at Mayfield Bowls Club.
- ▶ Of clubs which responded to consultation requests, ten clubs have lease agreements, four clubs own their greens, and one club rents from their parish council.

Quality

- ▶ Overall, nine greens are assessed as good quality, 11 as standard quality and two as poor quality.
- ▶ Uckfield BC is in the process of finishing the rebuild to their new clubhouse. The new site shall feature two changing rooms, a kitchen space and a public social space.
- ▶ None of the bowling greens are serviced by floodlighting and no club expressed their intention to make such a development.

Demand

- ▶ There are 22 clubs using bowling greens in Wealden: where membership is known, there are a total of 844 members, equating to 530 senior men, 345 senior women and no juniors.
- ▶ The average membership across the clubs is 52.
- ▶ Despite a national trend of declining membership, only three of the clubs that responded to consultation report that membership has decreased in recent years, those being Maresfield BC, Mayfield BC and Cross in Hand BC.
- ▶ Due to a predicted increase in persons aged 65 and over (to 2039), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years.
- ▶ Seven clubs within Wealden report statistical goals for increasing future, with Wealden BC the most ambitious which hopes to gain a further 50 members.
- ▶ Of all the clubs consulted with only Maresfield BC (16 members) and Mayfield BC (eight members) are operating below recommended membership rates. All other clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision.

Supply vs demand analysis:

- ▶ There is a sufficient supply of bowling greens in the District to accommodate existing levels of demand. As club future demand aspirations are small, these are also likely to be accommodated on the existing stock of greens available to clubs.

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PART 10: STOOLBALL

10.1 Introduction

600. Stoolball is predominantly a Sussex based sport dating back to the 15th century. It aligns closely in its format to other traditional English sports such as cricket and rounders but differs with the use of a round flat faced bat and one square, flat surfaced stump. The sport consists of two teams of 11 players with one team fielding and the other batting. It can be played on any large open space and generally takes place in the summer season, with winter matches occurring indoors.

Consultation

601. Consultation with a member of the Sussex County Stoolball Association took place to inform this report. This provided detail on the various home grounds used by the 24 clubs playing in Wealden as well as challenges faced within the sport.

10.2 Supply

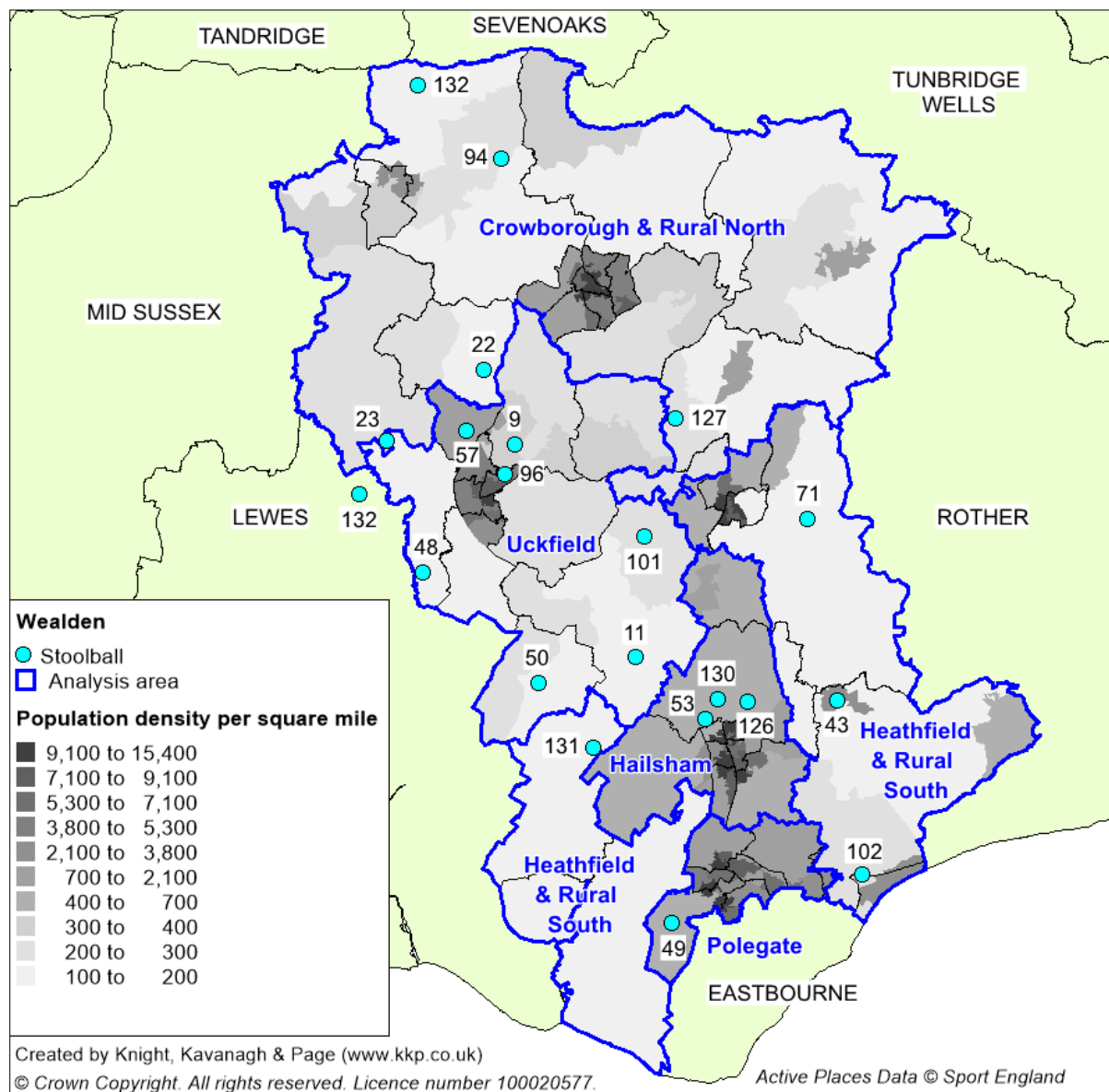
602. There are 19 sites where stoolball is played in Wealden as detailed in the table below. There are no dedicated stoolball pitches in Wealden and instead it is played on open space within recreation grounds and on the outfield of cricket and rugby pitches.
603. It is common for several teams to play at one home ground given Wealden's rural nature and for this to be an existing sports club such as Uckfield Rugby Club or Laughton Cricket Club.

Table 10.1: Supply of stoolball provision

Site ID	Primary site	Analysis area
9	Buxted Park CC	Uckfield
11	Chiddingly CC	Uckfield
22	Fairwarp Sports Field	Uckfield
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Uckfield
43	Herstmonceux Playing Field	Hailsham
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	Uckfield
49	Jevington CC	Polegate
50	Laughton CC	Uckfield
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Hailsham
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Uckfield
71	Punnets Town Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South
94	Town Croft	Crowborough & Rural North
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	Uckfield
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	Uckfield
102	Pevensey Recreation Ground	Heathfield & Rural South
126	Roebuck Park (Hailsham)	Hailsham
127	Five Ashes Playing Field	Crowborough & Rural North
130	The Church of St Peter and St Paul Grounds	Hailsham
131	Yew Tree Inn (Chalvington)	Heathfield & Rural South

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Figure 10.1: Stoolball pitches



603. Given the nature of the sport, in that it has few facility requirements, it can be played on any grass space large enough (with a 45-yard boundary). Nationally, however, there can be conflict with other sports as it is commonly played on the outfield of rugby/football and cricket pitches, which may be detrimental to the quality of those pitches based on the additional usage affecting pitch carrying capacity.
604. In other areas, there is also a trend of stoolball being 'pushed out' of sites used by other sports clubs. Although this is seemingly not the case in Wealden given the range of sites available. Stoolball clubs on the whole are understanding of their position as a smaller club sport and therefore needing to rent pitch space on an annual basis. Ancillary provision is generally provided by on-site clubhouses that exist to support other sports such as cricket and rugby.

10.3 Demand

605. There are 22 stoolball clubs playing in Wealden forming a combined total of 27 teams. This emphasises that, despite being a regional sport, there is a strong level of interest within the area. It is worth highlighting that 12 teams listed are mixed teams, as commonly seen within stoolball.

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10.2: Summary of clubs and associated sites:

Site ID	Primary site	Teams
9	Buxted Park CC	Buxted Park (ladies) SC
11	Chiddingly CC	Chiddingly Ladies SC
22	Fairwarp Sports Field	Fairwarp (mixed) SC
23	Fletching Recreation Ground	Fletching Ladies SC Fletching Juniors SC
43	Herstmonceux Playing Field	Herstmonceux (mixed) SC
48	Isfield Recreation Ground	Isfield Ladies SC
49	Jevington CC	British Queen (mixed) SC Jevington (mixed) SC
50	Laughton CC	Laughton (mixed) SC Laughton Ladies SC
53	Lower Horsebridge Recreation Ground	Hailsham (mixed) SC Geebro Ladies SC Stone Cross Ladies SC
57	Maresfield Recreation Ground	Maresfield (mixed) SC Maresfield ladies SC
71	Punnets Town Recreation Ground	Punnets Town Ladies SC
94	Town Croft	Hartfield (mixed) SC Hartfield Ladies SC
96	Uckfield Rugby Club	Uckfield RFC Ladies SC Uckfield RFC SC
101	Waldron Recreation Ground	Waldron (mixed) SC
102	Pevensey Recreation Ground	Pevensey Rookies (mixed) SC
126	Roebuck Park (Hailsham)	Hoppa (mixed) SC
127	Five Ashes Playing Field	Five Ashes (mixed) SC
130	The Church of St Peter and St Paul Grounds	Hellingly Ladies SC
131	Yew Tree Inn (Chalvington)	Yew Tree (mixed) SC

606. Competitive stoolball takes place across Sussex with leagues such as the 'Mid Sussex Mixed League' and the 'Hailsham Mixed League' representing examples of competitive stoolball across Wealden. League games often take place in one day tournament formats, generally held in summer months.
607. Consultation did not identify any proposed growth in future demand, however, key target areas include maintaining membership rates to ensure the sport can continue to exist.

10.4 Supply and demand analysis

608. Although nationally there can sometimes be conflict with other sports as stoolball is commonly played on the outfield of rugby/football and cricket pitches, this does not seem to be a specific issue in Wealden. However, where it is played on the outfield of other pitch types, it is important to ensure that this is not detrimental to the quality of those pitches based on the additional usage.
609. To conclude, as stoolball is a unique Sussex sport, it is therefore important that the sport remains catered for, particularly at sites currently in use.

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10:5: Conclusion

610. Stoolball is unique to the Sussex region and is played little outside of this geographical catchment. Given the nature of the sport, in that it has few facility requirements, it can be played on any grass space large enough (with a 45-yard boundary) and therefore most cricket grounds, recreational open spaces and playing fields are usually adequate for the sport to be played.
611. On the basis of the sport being able to be accommodated on most playing fields there is not usually a need for clubs to have secure tenure agreements on site. In most instances, it's not needed as clubs are comfortable being nomadic or having regular rental agreements with town/parish councils or sports clubs. As such, the sport can continue to be accommodated both now and in the future in the District.

Stoolball summary

Supply:

- There are no dedicated stoolball pitches in Wealden. Utilised sites are generally overmarked with cricket, football and rugby union pitches.

Demand:

- There are 22 clubs and 27 dedicated teams identified as playing in the District.

Supply and demand analysis:

- Current supply of provision in Wealden is sufficient to accommodate demand.
- It is important to ensure that use of other pitch outfields is not detrimental to the quality of those pitches based on the additional usage.

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APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

612. 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

613. 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)

614. 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.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

615. Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.
616. It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.
617. There are three key objectives to the Strategy:
- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
 - ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
 - ◀ Creating the catalyst for change
618. In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

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619. **Recover and reinvent:** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
620. **Connecting communities:** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
621. **Positive experiences for children and young people:** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
622. **Connecting with health and wellbeing:** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
623. **Active environments:** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.
624. The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

National Planning Policy Framework (revised July 2021)

625. 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.
626. 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.
627. The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.
628. 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.
629. 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.

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The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

630. 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.
631. 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.
632. 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.
633. Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*
634. £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).
635. 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

636. To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has now been produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.
637. 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

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funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League, DCMS, and Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

638. 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.
639. 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.
640. 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 FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

641. The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:
- ◆ A high quality introduction to football
 - ◆ Developing clubs and leagues
 - ◆ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
 - ◆ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
 - ◆ Develop sustainable facilities
642. Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:
- ◆ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
 - ◆ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
 - ◆ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
 - ◆ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.
643. The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

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England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2019-2024)

644. “Inspiring Generations” is the new ECB participation strategy which 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.
645. 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.
 - ◀ 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.

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan 2021 onwards

646. 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.
647. 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.

England Hockey Strategy

648. [England Hockey’s Facilities Strategy can be found on this page.](#)
649. **Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.
650. **Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities
651. 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.

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- 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.**

653. 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.

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.

Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)

654. Bowls England's new Strategy; 'Fit for the Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it to the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ◀ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ◀ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- ◀ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- ◀ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ◀ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

British Tennis Strategy 2019

655. 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.

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Strategies

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17

656. 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 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 sport.