



DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

APRIL 2019

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

CONTENTS

GLOSSARY	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY	2
PART 2: FOOTBALL.....	17
PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)	47
PART 4: CRICKET	55
PART 5: RUGBY UNION.....	73
PART 6: HOCKEY	88
PART 7: GOLF	96
PART 8: BOWLS	104
PART 9: TENNIS.....	111
PART 10: NETBALL	124
PART 11: ATHLETICS.....	132
PART 12: RUGBY LEAGUE	138
APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT	142

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ASC	All Stars Cricket
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
CSP	County Sports Partnership
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
KNP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LMS	Last Man Stands
MUGA	Multi use games area
NGB	National Governing Body
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PGA	Professional Golfers Association
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
TGR	Team Generation Rate
TC	Tennis Club
DBC	Dacorum Borough Council
U	Under

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been jointly commissioned by three of the South West Herts group of local authorities (Dacorum Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council and Hertsmere Borough Council) to produce an Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study which includes production of a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for each of the local authority areas. The PPS forms one part of the inter-related project that also includes an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy (ISFS) for each of the local authority areas.

The studies will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions on future strategic planning and any investment priorities for outdoor sports facilities across each of the areas. It will also inform the preparation of the individual Local Plans and inform the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan.

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

- ◀ Stage A: Preparation
 - ◀ Step 1: Clarify why the PPS is being developed
 - ◀ Step 2: Set up the management arrangements
 - ◀ Step 3: Tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B: Information Gathering
 - ◀ Step 4: Develop an audit of playing pitches
 - ◀ Step 5: Develop a picture of demand
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment
 - ◀ Step 6: Understand how each site is being used
 - ◀ Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision
 - ◀ Step 8: Carry out scenario testing
- ◀ Stage D: Key Findings & Issues
 - ◀ Step 9: Identify key findings & issues
 - ◀ Step 10: Check and challenge key findings & issues
- ◀ Stage E: Strategy Development & Implementation
 - ◀ Step 11: Develop conclusions & recommendations
 - ◀ Step 12: Develop an action & implementation plan
 - ◀ Step 13: Adopt, monitor and review the PPS

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D and Stage E covered in the subsequent strategy document. This Assessment and subsequent Strategy will run from 2019-2036, in line with the new Local Plan for Dacorum.

Although each local authority is receiving its own Assessment and Strategy, cross border issues will be explored in each to determine the level of imported and exported demand. This applies to demand that migrates between the local authorities included and also to demand that migrates to and from neighbouring local authorities such as St Albans, Watford and Chiltern.

The report is one document in a wider inter-related strategy for sport and recreation which also includes an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy. The inter-relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also use indoor facilities for matches or training.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

1.2: Local context

Dacorum Borough Council Corporate Plan 2015-2020

The Corporate Plan is a key element in DBC's strategic decision-making process. It outlines the Council's vision and priorities up to 2020 as well as providing a focus for service delivery and performance. The stated vision is: "working in partnership to create a borough which enables the communities of Dacorum to thrive and prosper." Its priorities and aims are:

- ◀ A clean, safe and enjoyable environment.
- ◀ Building strong and vibrant communities.
- ◀ Ensuring economic growth and prosperity.
- ◀ Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular, for those most in need.
- ◀ Delivering an efficient and modern council.

Within the Building Strong and Vibrant Communities element of the Strategy DBC has launched a three-year community sports activation programme of health and wellbeing activities called 'Get Set, Go Dacorum' with £250,000 funding from Sport England, and £45,000 of financial investment and other in-kind support from the Council. It has also worked with Herts County Council on a £100,000 health and wellbeing project for the community. DBC aims to improve the fitness and the health and wellbeing of residents in local communities where it understands there to be relatively low levels of participation in sports and physical activity generally.

South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)

DBC is not working in isolation, rather it is part of a wider partnership approach with regard to house building. Increasingly DBC has been working with other councils in South West Hertfordshire, in particular, Three Rivers, St Albans, Watford and Hertsmere, on planning and infrastructure issues that affect all the authorities. This work will continue and will include preparation of a Joint Strategic Plan for South West Hertfordshire, which will help provide a long-term framework for plan-making and for securing infrastructure and investment across local authority boundaries. To help with this joint working the five councils in South West Hertfordshire have all agreed that each Local Plan will cover the period up to 2036.

Dacorum Local Plan

DBC is currently preparing a new Local Plan. This will provide a new planning framework for Dacorum up to 2036. It will set out the vision and objectives for the borough. It will reconsider housing and employment need and investigate ways of meeting that need more fully. Further, it will allocate sites for housing, employment and other forms of development and will set out development management policies for the Authority.

House building

The Government's proposed Standard Method for assessing housing need in local authorities across England is predominantly informed by household projections produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). There are three ONS projections year sets for Dacorum which determine alternate housing requirements. These are detailed in table 1.1.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 1.1: Accumulative housing figures to 2036 based on ONS projections

ONS Projection year	Accumulative housing	Per annum
2016	14,161	833
2014	17,425	1,025
2014 + 15%	20,043	1,179

Hemel Hempstead is likely to have the most significant development with up to 13,050 new dwellings. Hemel Garden Communities (HGC) is a proposal for a major expansion to the east and north of the town, as identified in Figure 1.1. This 55-hectare development would sit equally across both the Dacorum and St Albans administrative areas, taking the best of the New Town heritage into the 21st century, providing over 10,000 homes and 10,000 jobs, with Hertfordshire Enviro-Tech Enterprise Zone at its heart (providing 8,000 out of the 10,000 jobs).

Recognising the exceptional need for growth DBC and St Albans City and District Council together with Hertfordshire County Council are taking a strategic approach to housing and employment expansion in Hemel Hempstead. This is being reflected within the individual local plans, as well as wider overarching county documents. A point to note, any development within Dacorum is subject to being included within the Local Plan, following required assessment and consultation.

The HGC development would involve close partnership work between Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and local businesses to support the delivery of the Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter (Herts IQ). This aims to create an internationally recognised employment zone focusing on green technology, expanding on the pre-existing Maylands Business Park (already the largest business park in Hertfordshire), as well as the Building Research Establishment and Rothamsted Research, both of which fall within the St Albans District.

The Government has expressed its support for this new employment area, which will help deliver against its clean growth agenda. Furthermore, the proposal would be supported by significant investment in ambitious new infrastructure and community facilities, with the intention of transforming the town as a whole and providing a great legacy. HGC was accepted onto the Garden Communities Programme in March 2019.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 1.1: Proposed Hemel Garden Communities growth



The Crown Estate owns around 70% of the land concerned. It has begun master planning with input from senior officers from DBC, SADC, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Highways England and Herts IQ.

In summary, the guiding principles for development are:

- ◀ Connective green infrastructure
- ◀ Transformative mobility improvements
- ◀ Diverse employment opportunities
- ◀ Vibrant communities
- ◀ Exemplary design
- ◀ Empowering communities
- ◀ Innovative approaches to delivery
- ◀ Active local stewardship
- ◀ Strong corporate and political public leadership

St Albans Planning

St Albans' Local Plan 2020-2036 should set out the planning policies and proposals for the future development of the City and District of St Albans. It establishes the Council's long-term spatial planning strategy for delivering and managing development and infrastructure, and for environmental protection and enhancement, from 2020 to 2036. St Albans' vision for the District is 'A thriving community, which is a great place to live and work and has a vibrant economy'.

The Council is committed to joint work with other councils under the Duty to Co-operate and specifically to work on a Joint Strategic Plan for South West Hertfordshire (SW Herts). As identified earlier, the SW Herts area covers the administrative areas of Dacorum, Hertsmere, St Albans, Three Rivers and Watford.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Several proposed developments to the West of St Albans may directly impact on Dacorum as they form part of the wider HGC proposal. Policy S6 identifies the “Broad Locations” for development” to contribute to meeting housing, infrastructure and other development needs over the plan period. Broad Locations and the associated revised Green Belt boundaries are identified in indicative form within the Plan.

All Broad Locations must meet the Policies set out in the Local Plan and as shown on the Policies Map. Planning applications for development at the Broad Locations must materially accord with masterplans approved by the Council following consultation with local communities and key stakeholders.

Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020

This strategy sets high level priorities, to optimise the health and wellbeing of people in the county throughout the course of their lives. This is based on the four life stages of Starting Well, Developing Well, Living and Working Well and Ageing Well. The vision is “with all partners working together we aim to reduce health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of the people in Hertfordshire.” Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board agreed six principles to focus on up to 2020. They are as follows:

- ◀ Aim to keep people safe and reduce inequalities in health, attainment and wellbeing outcomes.
- ◀ Use public health evidence, other comparison information and Hertfordshire citizen’s views to make sure that we focus on the most significant health and wellbeing needs in Hertfordshire.
- ◀ Centre strategies on people, their families and carers, providing services universally but giving priority to the most vulnerable.
- ◀ Focus on preventative approaches – helping people and communities to support each other and prevent problems from occurring for individuals and families in the future.
- ◀ Always consider what can be done better together - focussing efforts on adding value as partners to maximise the benefits for the public.
- ◀ Encourage opportunities to integrate services to improve outcomes and value for taxpayers.

Herts Sports & Physical Activity Partnership (HSPAP) Strategic Plan 2017-2021

HSPAP is the county sports partnership (CSP) which incorporates Dacorum. Its team provides services to partners involved with the delivery of sport, physical education and active recreation. Its vision is ‘*More people, more active, more often*’.

Its mission is to work strategically to deliver an inclusive, insight led and sustainable sport and physical activity sector in Hertfordshire. Its strategic objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase participation in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Improve health and wellbeing by reducing inactivity.
- ◀ Demonstrate the economic and social value of sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Strengthen the local delivery infrastructure.
- ◀ Make the Partnership fit for the future.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Dacorum Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2019-2024

The recently produced Physical Activity and Sport Strategy focuses on a vision for sports and physical activity across Dacorum. It examines the role of Dacorum's sports clubs, the Council and partners and how they can improve provision and opportunity for physical activity and sport for all residents. This has been developed following consultation across the borough. The strategy vision is: "to provide opportunities for Dacorum residents to be more active, helping to shape and promote a positive attitude towards physical activity and sport". To achieve this DBC will:

- ◀ Provide leadership within the community. Working closely with partners from private, public and voluntary sectors to improve and promote access to resources, quality provision, and programmes of activity, with a particular focus on under-represented groups.
- ◀ Ensure there are high quality leisure facilities which meet the current and future needs of the borough.
- ◀ Champion and promote the benefits of physical activity and sport participation in achieving health, community cohesion and community safety outcomes.

The key outcomes of the Strategy are that:

- ◀ Everyone that lives and works in Dacorum will be able to find an activity or sport that meets their needs, which in turn will lead to increased participation and the benefits that come with this. Success will be measured through a series of key outcomes and targets.
- ◀ Setting measurable targets is a key part of being able to evaluate the success of DBC's actions and interventions. In those areas where it can use quantifiable targets it is important that it does so as this will be a valuable measure of progress for the strategy.

The key outcome targets set in the Strategy are:

- ◀ 2,000 more physically active Dacorum residents
- ◀ A 3% increase in membership numbers of local sports clubs and leisure facilities

There are contributing factors in relation to individuals' health and wellbeing, but the Strategy also targets:

- ◀ A reduction in the mortality rate for persons under 75 from cardiovascular diseases and cancer (circa. 20 fewer people)
- ◀ 1,880 fewer adults (aged 18+) carrying excess weight
- ◀ 36 fewer children reported as overweight or obese at year 6.

The Council will prepare an annual action plan in collaboration with partners; internal (e.g. Planning, Community Partnerships, Housing) and external (e.g. HSP, Public Health, DSN, Everyone Active) to deliver this strategy. In this, it will set out a series of more specific actions, which will take place throughout the coming years.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

1.3 Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Management arrangements

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

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Dacorum Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council and Hertsmere Borough Council, Herts Sports, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPS has been finalised 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 PPS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the PPS's recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

Why the PPS is being developed

The rationale for undertaking this study is to update current levels of provision within the three local authorities across the public, private, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand.

Its primary purpose is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of indoor and outdoor sports facilities meets local and community needs of existing and future residents. The strategies will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future sporting provision throughout the three areas.

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 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Paragraphs 96 and 97 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". The strategies will provide the evidence required to help protect provision to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future requirements.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

National Planning Policy Framework (2018)

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2018).

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

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 97 and 98 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraphs 99 and 100 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

Agreed scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities have been identified by the councils for inclusion in the PPS:

- ◀ Football
- ◀ Rugby union
- ◀ Rugby league
- ◀ Hockey
- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Bowls
- ◀ Tennis
- ◀ Athletics (including road running)
- ◀ Netball
- ◀ Golf
- ◀ Others as appropriate i.e. water sports facilities, archery, cycling

Pitch sports (i.e. football, rugby union, rugby league, hockey and cricket) will be assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England’s PPS Guidance: An Approach to Developing and Delivering a PPS. In addition, any other grass sport pitches identified during the project will also be included. If applicable, this accounts for sports such as American football, Gaelic football and lacrosse.

Non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, bowls, athletics) will be assessed using Sport England’s Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) to ensure the process is compliant with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This requires a different methodology to assess supply and demand to that used for pitch sports and is generally less prescriptive.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Study area

Dacorum Borough covers 81 square miles (200 square kilometres) of West Hertfordshire extending almost from the outskirts of Watford, northwards to the Chilterns. In 2017 it was home to about 153,000 people, making it the largest district in Hertfordshire (by population). The majority of residents live in the principal town of Hemel Hempstead which will continue to be the focus for development and change within the Borough. In addition to Hemel Hempstead, there are also two market towns (Berkhamsted and Tring) and a number of villages, all with their own distinctive character. All the towns are surrounded by the Metropolitan Green Belt.

The study area will be the whole of the Dacorum Borough Council boundary area. Further to this, analysis areas have been created to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. These areas are based upon ward boundaries within Dacorum and have been agreed upon to further reflect how people play sport. These analysis areas are:

- ◀ Berkhamsted
- ◀ Eastern Villages
- ◀ Hemel
- ◀ Southern
- ◀ Tring

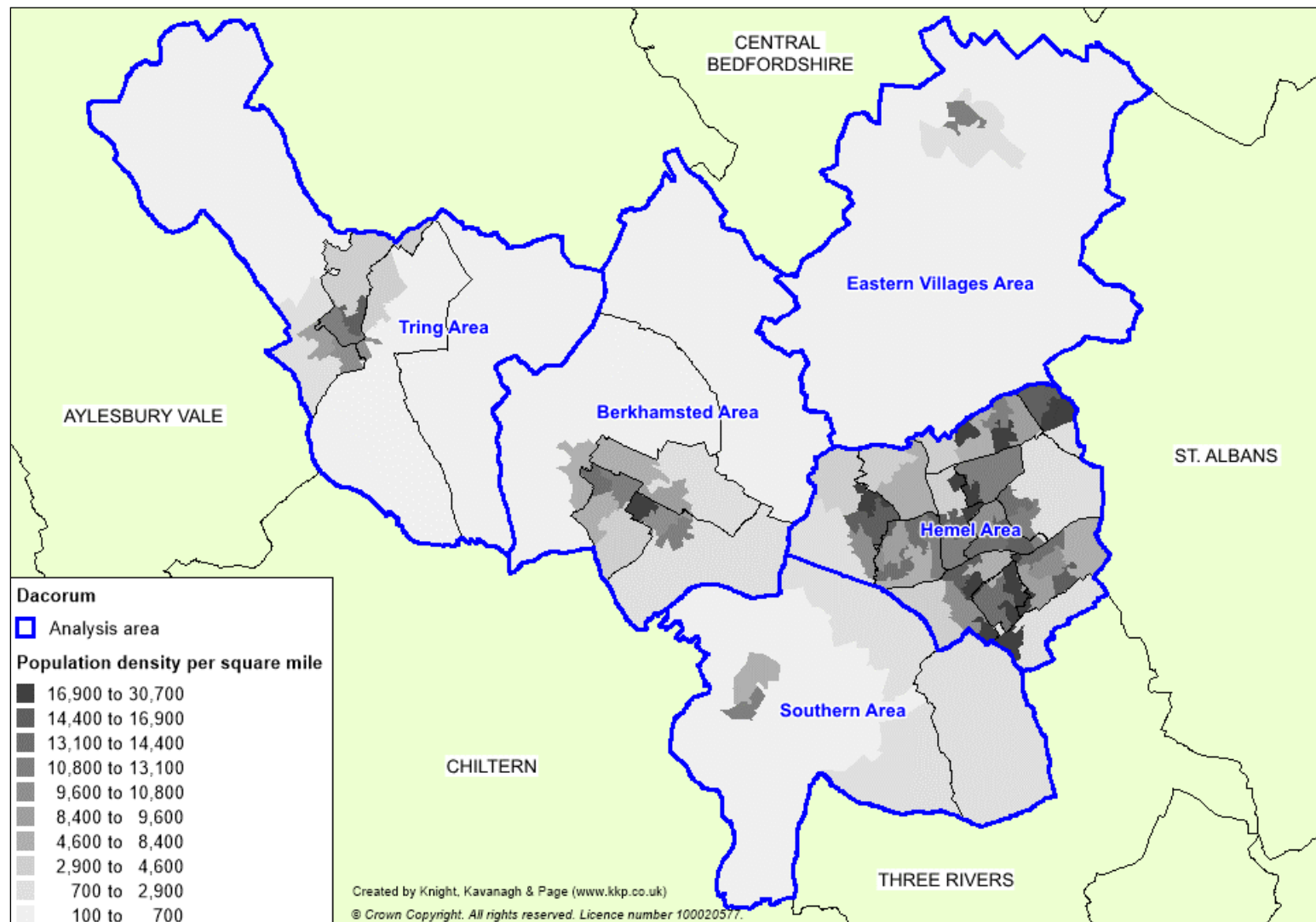
A map of the analysis areas can be seen overleaf in Figure 1.2.

Furthermore, cross-boundary issues will be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand. This applies to demand that migrates between the local authorities included and also demand that migrates to and from neighbouring local authorities such as Chiltern, Three Rivers and St Albans.

It should be noted that from April 2020 that Buckinghamshire Council will be a new unitary authority replacing Buckinghamshire County Council, Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe district councils.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 1.2: Analysis area map



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

A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in Dacorum 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

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

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

Although the statutory definition of a playing field is that which meets a minimum size, this PPS takes into account smaller sized site that contribute to the supply side, for example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch. This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

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

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues.

For each site, the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied upon completion of the project as an electronic file):

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

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

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Accessibility

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 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

Quality

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.

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.

The quality of all outdoor sports facilities identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is 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.

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.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Gather demand information and views

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 Dacorum tends to fall within the following categories:

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

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

In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet and latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available, whereas exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority of choice.

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

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

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

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using ONS (2016) population projections, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). These are then applied to population increases to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports.

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).

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Population growth

The current resident population in Dacorum is 153,316 (2017 MYE). By 2036 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the new Local Plan period) the borough's population is projected to increase to 173,123² representing an increase of 19,807 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 12.9%) according to 2016 ONS data.

As ONS figures are available by individual age brackets (to reflect team growth) this is considered the most accurate data set to apply to team generation rates (as identified above) to calculate likely future demand within the Assessment Report. However, there is potential that the ONS projections used may be under estimating future demand (by up to half in Dacorum) when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 1.4: Capacity of playing pitches

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

² Source: ONS 2016-based projections 2016-2041. Released: 24 May 2018

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Rugby league	Senior	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week

For hockey, the capacity of an AGP is dependent on various factors including availability, floodlighting and current usage levels. Generally, a floodlit sand AGP can accommodate up to four matches during one day. Similarly, for 3G pitches, due to the variation in accommodating different football formats, a set capacity rating is unavailable. However, a scenario for accommodating football matches on 3G pitches (with recommended programming) will be run in the Strategy.

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

For athletics, there is no maximum capacity set out by UK Athletics. Instead a minimum membership of 200 is required to ensure that tracks remain sustainable.

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

Develop the current picture of provision

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

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

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing stages A-E it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Dacorum. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Strategy and Action Plan for Dacorum.

Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, latent, exported and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future.

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

PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

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

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

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

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

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

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

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

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is a 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 Dacorum LFFP is planned for autumn 2019 and it is important that this PPS is updated accordingly through the Stage E process to ensure that it can accurately inform the LFFP.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Consultation

In addition to face-to-face consultation with key football clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs playing within Dacorum. Contact details were provided by Hertfordshire County FA and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email. Through both face to face meetings and survey responses, a total of 39 clubs responded to consultation requests, which equates to a 62% club response rate and 90% team response rate.

2.2: Supply

The audit identified a total of 234 grass football pitches within Dacorum across 84 sites. Of the pitches, 191 are available, at some level, for community use across 65 sites. All unavailable pitches are located within education sites.

The Hemel Analysis Area contains the most football pitches across Dacorum with 81 (equating to 42% of overall provision). In contrast, the Eastern Villages Analysis Area contains the least provision with eight pitches identified (4% of overall provision).

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

Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Berkhamsted Area	12	5	13	12	16	58
Eastern Villages Area	3	-	1	2	2	8
Hemel Area	28	9	15	22	7	81
Southern Area	9	1	4	5	2	21
Tring Area	11	1	3	4	4	23
Total	63	16	36	45	31	191

Most available pitches in Dacorum (33%) are adult sized 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 recent FA Youth Review. Just 15 available pitches are youth 11v11 sized representing 8% of the available supply in Dacorum which is low in relation to the proportion of youth teams (69 teams – 21% of all teams) which should be playing matches on this sized pitch.

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:

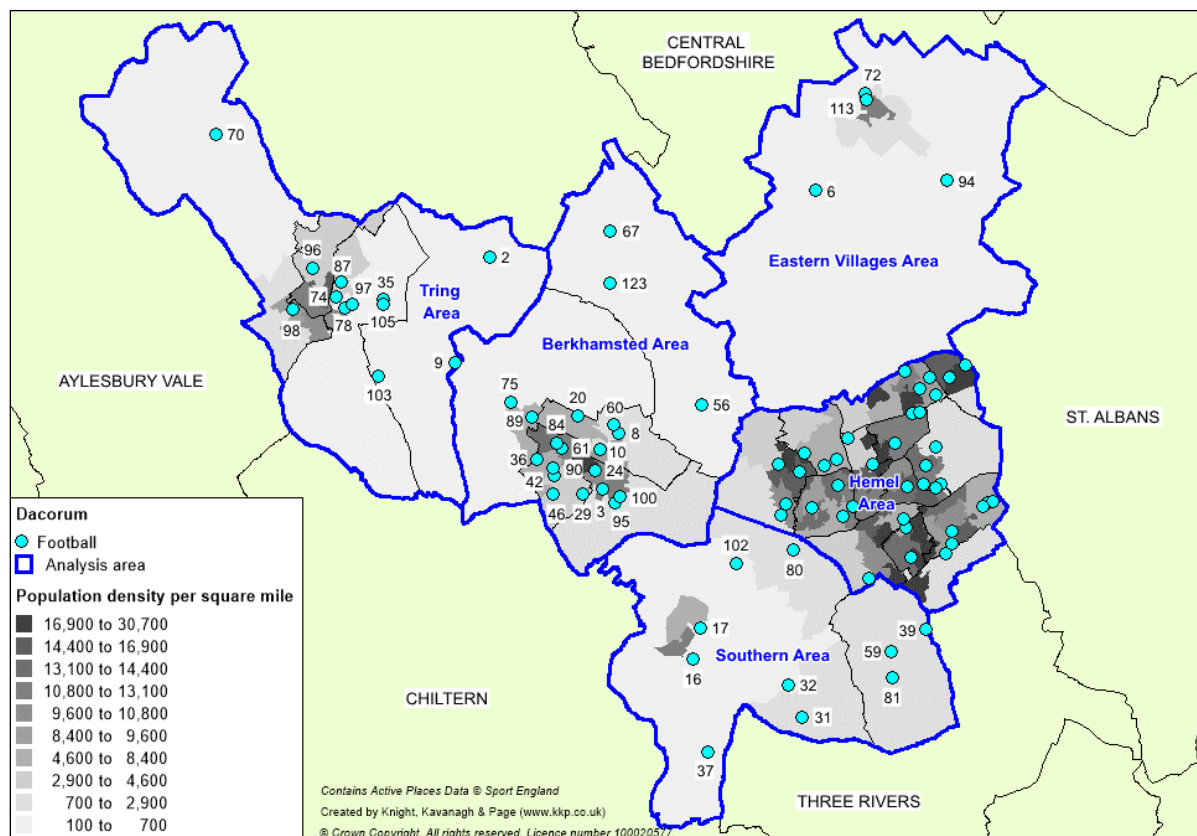
Table 2.2: FA recommended grass/3G pitch sizes

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

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing the Dacorum. For a key to the map, see Table 2.14.

Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Dacorum



Disused football pitches

There are four identified disused football pitches in Dacorum all located at Coronation Fields (Hemel Analysis Area). The pitches were last used for competitive football in the 2016/2017 football season but have since been taken out of use because of each pitch being on a slope, making them unsuitable for match play.

Further to the above, there is a playing field site located off Fennycroft Road (Hemel Analysis Area). The playing field was provided in 2014 by Hertfordshire County as a replacement for one lost as a consequence of the redevelopment of a former school site in the local area.

Loss of provision

Berkhamsted School is promoting residential development of its playing field site, Haslam Fields, through the Local Plan. The School proposes to mitigate the loss of any playing field through the development of new playing field provision on land south of the A41.

Future provision

Tring Sports Forum has a proposal for land at Dunsley Farm for it to be turned into a sporting hub linked to its promotion through the Local Plan for residential, community and employment purposes. The indicative plan has been provided to DBC as a starting point for discussion on how infrastructure requirements (for sport and leisure) could be integrated into its Local Plan development to meet the needs of sporting clubs in Tring.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The proposal submitted is based on the evidence provided in the 2015 PPS (which will be superseded by the 2019 Playing Pitch Strategy & Action Plan) in addition to consultation undertaken with local stakeholders and Hertfordshire County Council.

In addition to the above, it is identified that a youth 9v9 and youth 11v11 pitch will be provided at Durrants Lane, Berkhamsted as part of a S106 Agreement. It is expected that these pitches will be accessed by Berkhamsted Raiders FC.

Pitch quality

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

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

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

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

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

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in Dacorum. In total, seven pitches are assessed as good quality, 143 as standard quality and 41 as poor quality.

Table 2.3: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Analysis area	Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Berkhamsted Area	1	7	4	-	14	4	-	27	1
Eastern Villages Area	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	4	-
Hemel Area	1	13	14	-	18	6	-	25	4
Southern Area	4	5		-	5	-	-	7	-
Tring Area	1	7	3	-	3	1	-	4	4
Total	7	35	21	-	41	11	-	67	9

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Poor quality pitches are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Aldbury Sports Club
- ◀ Ashlyns School
- ◀ Grovehill Playing Fields
- ◀ Leverstock Green Sports Field
- ◀ Northchurch Sports Ground
- ◀ Pound Meadow
- ◀ Tring Sports Centre
- ◀ Adeyfield School
- ◀ Warners End

Table 2.4: Summary of poor quality pitch comments

Site ID	Site name	Club name/s	Club comments
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted Raiders FC	Pitches have declined in quality in recent years.
65	Leverstock Green Sports Field	Hemel Athletic FC	Grass cut less often than in the past.
78	Pound Meadow	Robin Hood FC	Pitch isn't cut in sync with fixture list.
101	Warners End Playing Field	Hemel Aces FC	Pitches basically maintained. Issues with bare patches and stones coming through surface.

Pitches maintained by local authorities and schools often undergo limited maintenance regimes due to restricted budgets. Additionally, this is usually exacerbated on recreation grounds, as well as some school sites, by the open access nature of such provision resulting in high levels of use for other purposes, such as unofficial football activity, dog walking and fitness groups.

In general, pitches located at Council sites in Dacorum are largely standard quality, although there are several sites identified which are poor quality, including key football site; Warners End. The maintenance regime undertaken by the Council is considered to be above a basic level and includes an annual aeration programme across all football pitches, in addition to regular grass cutting and line marking.

FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving the quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP). As part of the PIP, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini pitches may be marked onto senior pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it also causes logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are playing at the same site at the same time. The following sites contain overmarked pitches:

- ◀ Adeyfield School
- ◀ Ashlyns School
- ◀ Kings Langley Secondary School
- ◀ Bovington Football Club
- ◀ Little Gaddesden Playing Fields

Ancillary facilities

Similar to football pitches, the quality of ancillary facilities across Dacorum has been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

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.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>67%), Standard (34-66%), Poor (<34%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

Table 2.5 identifies known ancillary facility quality for football sites across Dacorum which are available for community use.

Table 2.5: Summary of community available ancillary facility quality³

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Ancillary facility quality
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted	Education	Good
91	The Adeyfield School	Hemel	Education	Standard
9	Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club	Tring	Sports Club	Standard
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern	Education	Standard
31	Chipperfield Corinthians FC	Southern	Sports Club	Poor
34	Cupid Green Sports Field	Hemel	Council	Poor
39	Gaywood Park (Sadiuki Stadium)	Southern	Sports Club	Standard
43	Grovehill Playing Field	Hemel	Council	Standard
16	Bovington Football Club	Hemel	Sports Club	Standard
37	Flauden Playing Fields	Southern	Council	Standard
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted	Council	Standard
78	Pound Meadow	Tring	Council	Poor
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted	Sports Club	Standard

³ Primary School sites containing community available football pitches have not been included as none are identified as having dedicated changing facilities.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Ancillary facility quality
94	The Pavilion	Eastern Villages	Parish Council	Standard
72	Markyate Recreation Ground	Eastern Villages	Parish Council	Standard
75	Northchurch Sports Ground	Berkhamsted	Sports Club	Poor
83	Sportspace Athletics Track	Hemel	Council	Standard
64	Leverstock Green Football Club	Hemel	Sports Club	Good
49	Hemel Hempstead Town FC	Hemel	Sports Club	Good
98	Tring Town Amateurs FC	Tring	Sports Club	Standard
10	Berkhamsted Football Club	Berkhamsted	Sports Club	Standard
56	Home Field	Berkhamsted	Parish Council	Standard
61	Lagley Meadow	Berkhamsted	Council	Poor
24	Butts Meadow	Berkhamsted	Council	Poor
100	Velvet Lawn	Berkhamsted	Council	Poor
101	Warners End Playing Field	Hemel	Council	Poor
103	Wigginton Sports Field	Tring	Parish Council	Standard
105	Tring Athletic FC	Tring	Sports Club	Standard

Of the abovementioned sites, three are good quality, 17 standard and eight poor. All facilities at poor quality sites are identified as requiring modernisation, each having common issues such as outdated changing rooms and shower facilities.

Berkhamsted Tornadoes FC highlight that the changing facility offering at Northchurch Sports Ground is a converted portacabin, which has recently been refurbished to improve the overall quality, but also state that there is no running water, showers, or electricity and therefore the facility is basic.

Herts Girls FC state that toilet facilities at Warners End Playing Field are inadequate and of a very poor quality. Specifically, the Club reports that the toilets are poorly maintained and rarely cleaned which is at the detriment of growing dedicated girls football teams.

Robin Hood FC highlight that the changing facility at Pound Meadow is poor with issues with the ceiling being damaged.

Security of tenure

Most teams in Dacorum rent pitches from the Borough Council or parish councils. Tenure of these sites is secure, i.e. there is a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years (as is the case at Borough Council operated sites). An exception to this is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The following is a full list of schools that have grass football pitches but do not allow community use:

- ◀ Beechwood Park School
- ◀ Bovington Primary Academy
- ◀ Chesham Fields
- ◀ George Street Primary School
- ◀ Hobletts Manor Junior School
- ◀ Lockers Park
- ◀ Rudolf Steiner School
- ◀ St Marys School
- ◀ Westbrook Hay School
- ◀ Belswains Primary School
- ◀ Chaulden Junior School
- ◀ Egerton Rothesay School
- ◀ Hammond Academy
- ◀ Lime Walk Primary School
- ◀ Maple Grove Primary School
- ◀ St Cuthbert Mayne RC School
- ◀ St Thomas More RC School

For school sites that are available to the community, it is recommended that clubs enter into community use agreements to ensure long-term access. There are no such agreements currently reported as being in place, despite high levels of usage at school sites.

No football clubs in Dacorum, responding to consultation, identified issues with the current tenure arrangements in place. However, it is noted that larger youth football clubs including Berkhamsted Raiders CFC and Tring Tornados JSC rent multiple sites across the Borough to accommodate teams for competitive match play on weekends. Both clubs have aspirations to either own or secure a long term lease on a large playing field site to better accommodate their respective demand.

Although unresponsive to consultation attempts, it is noted that Berkhamsted FC has an annual rental agreement in place for its stadia site (Broadwater Stadium) and is therefore unable to gain access for potential funding for stadia improvements. Its yearly rental agreement is in place with Berkhamsted Sports Ground Charitable Association Ltd.

Football pyramid demand

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

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 7 clubs.

There are seven clubs in Dacorum which compete within the football pyramid identified in the table overleaf.

Table 2.6: Dacorum clubs in the football pyramid

Club	League	Step	Grading category
Hemel Hempstead FC	National League South	2	B
Kings Langley FC	Evo-Stick Southern Premier	4	D
Berkhamsted FC	Evo-Stick Southern Premier	4	D
Tring Athletic FC	Spartan South Midlands Premier	5	E

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club	League	Step	Grading category
Leverstock Green FC	Spartan South Midlands Premier	5	E
Bovingdon FC	Spartan South Midlands Division 2	7	H
Berkhamsted Raiders FC	Spartan South Midlands Division 2	7	H

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

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

At present, it is identified that Kings Langley FC does not have changing rooms meeting the minimum size of 18m and is at risk of demotion in the future if not expanded.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System similar to the adult men's which provide structure to the women's game. As seen in the table below this ranges from Step 1 to Step 7 with each step requiring differing ground grading requirements.

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

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

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

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

Watford Ladies FC is the only women's team which meets the standard of ground grading within Dacorum. The Club compete in the FA Women's National League South which equates to the third tier of women's football pyramid. The Club play competitive matches at the Sadiuki Stadium owned by Kings Langley FC which currently meets Step 4 men's ground grading requirements and therefore satisfies the Step 5 ground grading requirement needed by Watford Ladies FC.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 328 teams from within 63 clubs are identified as playing within Dacorum. This consists of 50 adult men's, three adult women's, 125 youth boys', 19 youth girls' and 131 mini mixed teams. The Hemel Analysis Area provides for the highest number of teams, with 121. The analysis area with the fewest number of teams is Eastern Villages. Youth 11v11 football is the most prominent format of play, whilst adult is the least common.

Table 2.8: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in the District of Dacorum

Analysis area	No. of teams					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Berkhamsted Area	9	26	22	22	21	100
Eastern Villages Area	1	3	1	4	1	10
Hemel Area	24	25	24	28	20	121
Southern Area	9	15	8	10	11	53
Tring Area	10	16	3	7	8	44
Total	53	85	58	71	61	328

Women's and girls' demand

There are currently 22 dedicated female teams playing within Dacorum, representing just over 7% of the total number of teams. The teams are predominately provided by:

- ✦ Berkhamsted Raiders Youth CFC
- ✦ Chipperfield Corinthians Youth FC
- ✦ Hemel Aces FC
- ✦ Hemel Hempstead Town Ladies FC
- ✦ Herts Girls FC
- ✦ Kings Langley Youth FC
- ✦ Watford FC Ladies

The FA currently has a drive to double women's and girls' participation. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities become suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of the study area, despite being registered to the Borough. This is normally because pitch requirements cannot be met. There are currently four Dacorum based teams accessing pitches outside of the study area. Of these four teams, Hemel Hempstead Youth and Potten End Sunday FC are considered to be satisfied exporting demand outside of their home authority due to the close travel proximity for teams.

As such, only demand from Kings Langley FC (0.5 MES) will be considered within the supply and demand analysis.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.9: Exported demand summary

Club	Analysis area	Teams exported	LA exported to	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
Hemel Hempstead Town Youth	Hemel	U16 x2	Three Rivers	Youth 11v11	1
Kings Langley FC	Southern	U19	Hertsmere	Adult	0.5
Potten End Sunday FC	Berkhamsted	Adult	Aylesbury	Adult	0.5

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand, individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack pitches or appropriate facilities.

Four clubs in Dacorum report latent demand with the main reason equating to a lack of pitch space within their local area as can be seen in the table overleaf.

Table 2.10: Latent demand summary

Club	Analysis area	Latent demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
Echoes FC	Hemel	U7 x2	Mini 5v5	1
Tring Tornadoes Junior Sports Club	Tring	U7, U8	Mini 5v5	1
		U9, U10	Mini 7v7	1
		U11, U12	Youth 9v9	1
		U14, U14, U15, U16	Youth 11v11	2
Woodhall Wanderers FC	Hemel	1x Adult	Adult	0.5
Kings Langley FC	Southern	U7, U8	Mini 5v5	1
		U9, U10	Mini 7v7	1
		U11, U12	Youth 9v9	1
		U13, U14	Youth 11v11	1

Further latent demand was identified by the following clubs but was not fully quantified:

- ◀ FC Hemel
- ◀ Hemel Aces FC
- ◀ Hemel Hempstead Town Youth FC
- ◀ Hemel Athletic FC

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Dacorum study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. Based on 2018/19 affiliation data there are two teams from two clubs which are currently importing demand into the Authority. The two clubs are King Sport FC and West Herts College FC which both import one adult team into Dacorum.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

Consultation highlights that Berkhamsted Raiders CFC has a waiting list of circa 100 local children who cannot be facilitated into new teams because of a lack of pitch space. The waiting list spans across multiple age formats and teams. Despite this, this demand will not be accounted for in the proceeding pitch analysis, with the future demand expressed by the Club instead accounted for.

Future demand

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

Population increases

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 2036⁴.

TGRs forecast that there will be a possible increase of 23 teams. This equates to the potential growth of two senior men's, 13 youth 11v11 boys', one youth 11v11 girls', six youth 9v9 boys' and one youth 9v9 girls' team.

Table 2.11: Team generation rates (2036)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate (TGR)	Future population within age group ⁵	Predicted future number of teams (2036)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (16-45)	28,430	66	1:431	29,473	68	2
Senior Women (16-45)	29,049	5	1:5810	29,506	5	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	3,567	62	1:58	4,360	75	13
Youth Girls (12-15)	3,318	5	1:664	4,150	6	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	1,908	47	1:41	2,168	53	6
Youth Girls (10-11)	1,821	12	1:152	2,003	13	1
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	4,099	68	1:60	4,129	68	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	4,375	63	1:69	4,067	58	0

ONS population increases are likely to result 23 additional teams in Dacorum; however, once TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas population growth a more detailed representation of where exactly the predicated growth will occur emerges.

⁴ TGRs are based on population forecasts which are in line with the Dacorum Local Plan timeframe.

⁵ There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.12: Team generation rates by analysis area (2036)

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by analysis area)					
	Berkhamsted	Eastern Villages	Hemel	Southern	Tring	Total
Senior Men's (16-45)	-	-	1	-	-	1
Senior Women (16-45)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Boys (12-15)	4	-	4	2	2	12
Youth Girls (12-15)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Boys (10-11)	2	-	2	-	-	4
Youth Girls (10-11)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	-	6	2	2	16

As can be seen in the table above, once TGRs are broken down into individual analysis areas it is forecasted that a total of 16 teams will be generated. TGRs do not, however, forecast future growth in the Eastern Villages Analysis Area.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that team generation rates are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, they cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing female participation within Hertfordshire 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.

Participation increases

Eleven clubs' report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the eight clubs that quantify their *potential* increase, there is a predicted growth of 48 teams, as seen in the table below.

Table 2.13: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁶
Tring Tornadoes Junior Sports Club	Tring	U7 x2, U8 x2	Mini 5v5	2
		U9 x2, U10 x2	Mini 7v7	2
		U 11 x2, U12 x2	Youth 9v9	2
		U14, U15	Youth 11v11	1
Herts Girls FC	Hemel	U8, U9	Mini 7v7	1
		U15, U16	Youth 11 v11	1
Berkhamsted Raiders CFC	Berkhamsted	U13 x2, U14 x2, U15, x2, U16 x2	Youth 11v11	4
		Adult	Adult	0.5

⁶ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁶
Hemel Aces FC	Hemel	Adult	Adult	0.5
		U11 x 3	Youth 9v9	1.5
		U15 x2	Youth 11v11	1
		U8 x2	Mini 5v5	1
		U10 x2	Mini 7v7	1
Chipperfield Corinthians FC	Southern	U9 x2	Mini 7v7	1
		U15	Youth 11v11	0.5
Watford Ladies FC	Southern	U7	Mini 5v5	0.5
		U15, U16	Youth 11v11	1
		U12	Youth 9v9	0.5
Woodhall Wanderers FC	Hemel	Adult	Adult	0.5
Kings Langley FC	Southern	Adult	Adult	0.5
		U15, U16	Youth 11v11	1

SSE Wildcats Centres

SSE Wildcats Centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, which provide opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. There are already 200 established centres which delivered the SSE Wildcats pilot in 2017, with a further 800 centres to be in place for 2018. As part of the expansion process, organisations extending beyond affiliated clubs to include other providers or community groups were invited to apply in late 2017 to become one of the new centres.

All organisations delivering Wildcats centres receive a £900 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation. In Dacorum, there are three identified SSE Wildcat Centres located at Berkhamsted Raiders CFC, Hemel Hempstead Town FC and Herts Girls FC.

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

Future demand summary

On balance, it has been agreed that total future demand is reflective of identified club aspirations, and there is no requirement to also include population growth. This is due to club growth being considered as high and therefore able to account for all anticipated growth in Dacorum.

2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment. 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.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

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

Table 2.14 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

Education sites

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

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

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

Informal use

Several 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. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Dacorum, peak time is Sunday AM for all pitches, as most teams across all age groups play at this time.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Table 2.14: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ⁷ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Comments
2	Aldbury Sports Club	Tring Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Potential spare capacity.
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Adult		3	Yes	Poor	6	3	3	Pitches at capacity.
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	2	2	-	Potential spare capacity.
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Poor	2.5	1	1.5	Pitch overplayed.
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	3	Yes	Poor	3	3	-	Pitches at capacity.
5	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	5.5	8	2.5	Potential spare capacity.
5	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	4	Yes	Standard	4.5	16	11.5	Potential spare capacity.
5	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity.
5	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity.
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Yes	Standard	3	12	9	Potential spare capacity.
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	Potential spare capacity.
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	Pitch overplayed.
9	Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club	Berkhamsted Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Standard	3	6	3	Potential spare capacity.
10	Berkhamsted Football Club Ltd	Berkhamsted Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	3.5	3	0.5	Pitch overplayed.
16	Bovingdon Football Club	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	3	2	Potential spare capacity.
16	Bovingdon Football Club	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Pitches at capacity.
16	Bovingdon Football Club	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
16	Bovingdon Football Club	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1.5	8	6.5	Potential spare capacity.
16	Bovingdon Football Club	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	Potential spare capacity.
19	Boxmoor Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
20	Bridgewater Primary School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	1.5	8	6.5	Potential spare capacity.
20	Bridgewater Primary School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Yes	Standard	2	12	10	Potential spare capacity.
20	Bridgewater Primary School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	Potential spare capacity.
23	Brockswood Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
24	Butts Meadow	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Pitches at capacity.
25	Cavendish School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
25	Cavendish School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
26	Chambersbury Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Pitches at capacity.
31	Chipperfield Corinthians FC	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity.
32	Chipperfield Playing Fields	Southern Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity.
34	Cupid Green Sports Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity.
34	Cupid Green Sports Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	Potential spare capacity.
34	Cupid Green Sports Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	3	Yes	Standard	1	6	5	Potential spare capacity.
35	Dorian Williams Sports Centre (Tring Tornadoes Junior Sports Club)	Tring Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Standard	3.5	6	2.5	Potential spare capacity.
35	Dorian Williams Sports Centre (Tring Tornadoes Junior Sports Club)	Tring Area	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity.
37	Flaunden Playing Fields	Southern Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity.

⁷ 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.

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ⁷ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Comments
37	Flauden Playing Fields	Southern Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	Potential spare capacity.
38	Gadebridge Lane	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
38	Gadebridge Lane	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	8	7	Potential spare capacity.
38	Gadebridge Lane	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	8	7	Potential spare capacity.
38	Gadebridge Lane	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
39	Gaywood Park	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Good	14	9	5	Pitches overplayed.
42	Greenway School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	Potential spare capacity.
42	Greenway School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	Potential spare capacity.
43	Grovehill Playing Fields	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		6	Yes	Poor	1.5	6	4.5	Potential spare capacity.
43	Grovehill Playing Fields	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Poor	-	4	4	Potential spare capacity.
46	Haslam Fields	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	6	Yes	Standard	8	24	16	Potential spare capacity.
46	Haslam Fields	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3.5	8	4.5	Potential spare capacity.
46	Haslam Fields	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
49	Hemel Hempstead Town FC	Hemel Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1.5	3	1.5	Potential spare capacity.
51	High Street Green Playing Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	Potential spare capacity.
51	High Street Green Playing Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
53	Hobbs Hill School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	8	7.5	Potential spare capacity.
56	Home Field	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
57	John F Kennedy Roman Catholic School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
57	John F Kennedy Roman Catholic School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	8	7	Potential spare capacity.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
60	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	8	7	Potential spare capacity.
60	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
60	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
61	Lagley Meadow	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
62	Leverstock Green CE Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	8	7	Potential spare capacity.
64	Leverstock Green Football Club	Hemel Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Pitch at capacity.
65	Leverstock Green Sports Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	-	Pitch at capacity.
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	4	Yes	Standard	1	16	15	Potential spare capacity.
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity.
70	Long Marston Recreation Ground	Tring Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
72	Markyate Recreation Ground	Eastern Villages Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity.
73	Micklem Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity.
74	Mortimer Hill	Tring Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	Pitch overplayed.
75	Northchurch Sports Ground	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Potential spare capacity.

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ⁷ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Comments
76	Pennine Way	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Standard	1	6	5	Potential spare capacity.
76	Pennine Way	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Pitch at capacity.
77	Pixies Hill Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity at site.
78	Pound Meadow	Tring Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	Potential spare capacity.
79	Reith Fields	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity.
80	Roman Fields	Southern Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
82	South Hill Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
83	Sportspace Athletics Track	Hemel Area	Commercial	Secure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
84	Sportspace Berkhamsted	Berkhamsted Area	Commercial	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Pitch at capacity.
86	Sportspace Longdean	Hemel Area	Commercial	Secure	Adult		2	Yes - unused	Standard	-	4	4	Potential spare capacity.
86	Sportspace Longdean	Hemel Area	Commercial	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity.
86	Sportspace Longdean	Hemel Area	Commercial	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
87	Tring Sports Centre	Tring Area	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	Pitch overplayed.
87	Tring Sports Centre	Tring Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	4	Yes	Poor	14	8	6	Pitches overplayed
87	Tring Sports Centre	Tring Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	4.5	1	3.5	Pitch overplayed.
91	The Adeyfield School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3	8	5	Potential spare capacity.
91	The Adeyfield School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Poor	4.5	2	2.5	Pitches overplayed.
91	The Adeyfield School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Poor	5	2	3	Pitches overplayed.
93	The Hemel Hempstead School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity.
94	The Pavillion	Eastern Villages Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
94	The Pavillion	Eastern Villages Area	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	8	7.5	Potential spare capacity.
94	The Pavillion	Eastern Villages Area	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
94	The Pavillion	Eastern Villages Area	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	2	2	Potential spare capacity.
95	The Thomas Coram C of E School	Berkhamsted	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity.
95	The Thomas Coram C of E School	Berkhamsted	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Pitch at capacity
96	Tring Corinthians FC	Tring Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Pitch at capacity
97	Tring Park Cricket Club	Tring Area	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	4	Yes	Standard	-	16	16	Potential spare capacity.
97	Tring Park Cricket Club	Tring Area	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	-	2	2	Potential spare capacity.
98	Tring Town Amateurs FC	Tring Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity.
100	Velvet Lawn	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
101	Warners End Playing Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		8	Yes	Poor	4	8	4	Potential spare capacity.
101	Warners End Playing Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Poor	3	4	1	Potential spare capacity.
101	Warners End Playing Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	2	1	1	Pitch overplayed.
103	Wigginton Sports Field	Tring Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity.
104	Yew Tree Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
104	Yew Tree Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
104	Yew Tree Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	2	Potential spare capacity.
105	Tring Athletic FC	Tring Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2.5	3	0.5	Potential spare capacity.
113	Markyate Village School	Eastern Villages Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	Potential spare capacity.
123	The Lifestyle Centre	Berkhamsted Area	Private	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity.

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ⁷ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Comments
123	The Lifestyle Centre	Berkhamsted Area	Private	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity.
6	Beechwood Park School	Eastern Villages	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	6	No	Standard	-	24	-	No community use.
7	Belswains Primary School	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	-	2	-	No community use.
17	Bovingdon Primary Academy	Southern Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Standard	-	8	-	No community use.
21	Broadfield Academy	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Standard	-	2	-	No community use.
27	Chaulden Junior School	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	-	4	-	No community use.
29	Chesham Fields	Berkhamsted	School	Unsecure	Adult		3	No	Standard	-	6	-	No community use.
29	Chesham Fields	Berkhamsted	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Standard	-	8	-	No community use.
29	Chesham Fields	Berkhamsted	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Standard	-	4	-	No community use.
36	Egerton Rothesay School	Berkhamsted	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Standard	-	8	-	No community use.
40	George Street Primary School	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	-	4	-	No community use.
45	Hammond Academy	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	-	4	-	No community use.
54	Hobletts Manor Junior School	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	-	4	-	No community use.
66	Lime Walk Primary School	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	-	4	-	No community use.
68	Lockers Park	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Poor	-	2	-	No community use.
71	Maple Grove Primary School	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Standard	-	8	-	No community use.
81	Rudolf Steiner School	Southern	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	-	4	-	No community use.
88	St Cuthbert Mayne RC School	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Standard	-	8	-	No community use.
88	St Cuthbert Mayne RC School	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	-	4	-	No community use.
89	St Marys School	Berkhamsted	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	-	4	-	No community use.
90	St Thomas More RC School	Berkhamsted	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	-	4	-	No community use.
99	Two Waters Primary School	Hemel	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	No	Standard	-	4	-	No community use.
102	Westbrook Hay School	Southern	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Standard	-	8	-	No community use.
102	Westbrook Hay School	Southern	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	5	No	Standard	-	20	-	No community use.
102	Westbrook Hay School	Southern	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	No	Standard	-	2	-	No community use.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Spare capacity

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

Over marked pitches which are used and exhibit potential spare capacity have not been considered available to accommodate further play in order to protect pitch quality, given the nature of repeated and sustained use over a short period of time.

Match equivalent sessions

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

At this stage, match equivalent sessions do not equate to a number of pitches. This is because an analysis area might show three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity, however, this is likely to be spread across a number of sites. Further to this, minimal spare capacity on one site may be required to accommodate strategic reserve and as such should be retained. If the spare capacity is on one pitch then it might indicate a need to create a different type of pitch to address a deficiency. This will be fully determined and recommendations will be made accordingly within the Strategy and Action Plan.

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Table 2.15: Potential spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ⁸ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
2	Aldbury Sports Club	Tring Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
5	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	5.5	8	2.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
5	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	4	Yes	Standard	4.5	16	11.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
5	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
5	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Yes	Standard	3	12	9	-	No capacity in peak period.
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	No capacity in peak period.
9	Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club	Berkhamsted Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Standard	3	6	2	-	No capacity in peak period.
16	Bovingdon Football Club	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1	3	2	-	Stadia pitch. No allowance for further play.
16	Bovingdon Football Club	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	-	No capacity in peak period.
16	Bovingdon Football Club	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	1.5	8	6.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
16	Bovingdon Football Club	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
19	Boxmoor Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
20	Bridgewater Primary School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	1.5	8	6.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
20	Bridgewater Primary School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Yes	Standard	2	12	10	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
20	Bridgewater Primary School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
23	Brockwood Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
25	Cavendish School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
25	Cavendish School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
31	Chipperfield Corinthians FC	Southern Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	Stadia pitch. No allowance for further play.
32	Chipperfield Playing Fields	Southern Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	No capacity in peak period.
34	Cupid Green Sports Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.

⁸ 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.

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ⁸ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
34	Cupid Green Sports Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	-	No capacity in peak period.
34	Cupid Green Sports Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	3	Yes	Standard	1	6	5	2	Actual spare capacity.
35	Dorian Williams Sports Centre (Tring Tornadoes Junior Sports Club)	Tring Area	School	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Standard	3.5	6	2.5	-	No capacity in peak period.
35	Dorian Williams Sports Centre (Tring Tornadoes Junior Sports Club)	Tring Area	School	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	No capacity in peak period.
37	Flaunden Playing Fields	Southern Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
37	Flaunden Playing Fields	Southern Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	-	No capacity in peak period.
38	Gadebridge Lane	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
38	Gadebridge Lane	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	-	8	8	2	Actual spare capacity.
38	Gadebridge Lane	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	-	8	8	2	Actual spare capacity.
38	Gadebridge Lane	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
42	Greenway School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
42	Greenway School	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
43	Grovehill Playing Fields	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		6	Yes	Poor	1.5	6	4.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
43	Grovehill Playing Fields	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Poor	-	4	4	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
46	Haslam Fields	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	6	Yes	Standard	8	24	16	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
46	Haslam Fields	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	3.5	8	4.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
46	Haslam Fields	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	2	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
49	Hemel Hempstead Town FC	Hemel Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	1.5	3	1.5	-	Stadia pitch. No allowance for further play.
51	High Street Green Playing Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
51	High Street Green Playing Field	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	-	No capacity in peak period.
53	Hobbs Hill School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	8	7.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
56	Home Field	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
57	John F Kennedy Roman Catholic School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ⁸ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
57	John F Kennedy Roman Catholic School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	School	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	8	7	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
60	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	8	7	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
60	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
60	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamsted Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
61	Lagley Meadow	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	-	No capacity in peak period.
62	Leverstock Green CE Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	8	7	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	4	Yes	Standard	1	16	15	3	Actual spare capacity.
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	-	No capacity in peak period.
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
70	Long Marston Recreation Ground	Tring Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
72	Markyate Recreation Ground	Eastern Villages Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	-	No capacity in peak period.
73	Micklem Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
75	Northchurch Sports Ground	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
76	Pennine Way	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		3	Yes	Standard	1	6	5	2	Actual spare capacity.
77	Pixies Hill Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
78	Pound Meadow	Tring Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
79	Reith Fields	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
80	Roman Fields	Southern Area	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
82	South Hill Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
83	Sportspace Athletics Track	Hemel Area	Commercial	Secure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use?	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ⁸ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
86	Sportspace Longdean	Hemel Area	Commercial	Secure	Adult		2	Yes - unused	Standard	-	4	4	2	Actual spare capacity.
86	Sportspace Longdean	Hemel Area	Commercial	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	No capacity in peak period.
86	Sportspace Longdean	Hemel Area	Commercial	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	-	No capacity in peak period.
91	The Adeyfield School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Standard	2	8	5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
93	The Hemel Hempstead School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
94	The Pavilion	Eastern Villages Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	-	No capacity in peak period.
94	The Pavilion	Eastern Villages Area	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	0.5	8	7.5	2	Actual spare capacity.
94	The Pavilion	Eastern Villages Area	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
94	The Pavilion	Eastern Villages Area	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
95	The Thomas Coram C of E School	Berkhamsted	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
97	Tring Park Cricket Club	Tring Area	Sports Club	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	4	Yes	Standard	-	16	16	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
97	Tring Park Cricket Club	Tring Area	Sports Club	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	-	2	2	-	Actual spare capacity.
98	Tring Town Amateurs FC	Tring Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
100	Velvet Lawn	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
101	Warners End	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Adult		8	Yes	Poor	4	8	4	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
101	Warners End	Hemel Area	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes	Poor	3	4	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
103	Wiggington Sports Field	Tring Area	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	-	No capacity in peak period.
104	Yew Tree Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
104	Yew Tree Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
104	Yew Tree Primary School	Hemel Area	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	2	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
105	Tring Athletic FC	Tring Area	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Good	2.5	3	0.5	-	Stadia pitch. No allowance for further play.
113	Markyate Village School	Eastern Villages Area	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
123	The Lifestyle Centre	Berkhamsted Area	Private	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
123	The Lifestyle Centre	Berkhamsted Area	Private	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes - unused	Standard	1	4	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type.

Table 2.16: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Berkhamsted Area	1.5		0.5		3
Eastern Villages Area			1	1	2
Hemel Area	8.5		3	1	2
Southern Area	1.5		1.5	0.5	
Tring Area	2				
Total	13.5	-	6	2.5	7

In total, 29 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity are identified through Dacorum. Adult pitches are identified with having the most spare capacity 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). Only sites which are overplayed and have current community use have been included in the overplay summary, therefore school sites which do not currently have any community use but may be overplayed due to curriculum use and school fixtures have not been included.

In total, 21 pitches across eight sites are overplayed by a combined total of 28.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.17: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
3	Ashlyn's School	Berkhamsted	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
			Adult	3	3
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted	Youth 9v9	1	1
10	Berkhamsted Football Club Ltd	Berkhamsted	Adult	1	0.5
39	Gaywood Park	Southern	Adult	3	5
74	Mortimer Park	Tring	Youth 11v11	1	1
87	Tring Sports Centre	Tring	Adult	1	0.5
			Youth 9v9	1	3.5
			Mini 7v7	4	6
91	The Adeyfield School	Hemel	Youth 11v11	2	2.5
			Youth 9v9	2	3
101	Warners End	Hemel	Youth 9v9	1	1

The majority of overplay is identified on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. This is as a result of high levels of concentrated demand on key football sites across the Borough. For example, Berkhamsted Raiders CFC accesses Ashlyn's School as its main home venue and therefore pitches at this site accommodate a more frequent level of use.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There is no identified overplay on mini pitches in Dacorum.

Table 2.18: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Berkhamsted Area	3.5	1.5	1	-	-
Eastern Villages Area	-	-	-	-	-
Hemel Area	-	2.5	4	-	-
Southern Area	5	-	-	-	-
Tring Area	0.5	1	3.5	6	-
Total	9	5	8.5	6	-

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and identified exported demand for adult football) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions.

As identified earlier, total future demand in Dacorum accounts for participation (from reported club aspirations) increases only and as such, these are the figures applied in the tables below.

Adult pitch analysis

Table 2.19: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Berkhamsted Area	1.5	3.5	2	0.5	2.5
Eastern Villages Area	-	-	-	-	-
Hemel Area	8.5	-	8.5	1	7.5
Southern Area	1.5	5	3.5	0.5	4
Tring Area	2	0.5	1.5	-	1.5
Total	13.5	9	4.5	2	2.5

The table above highlights that there is an overall adequate supply of adult pitches across Dacorum both now and in the future. Despite this, there are clear shortfalls identified in the Berkhamsted and Southern analysis areas.

⁹ In match equivalent sessions

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Youth 11v11 pitch analysis

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁰	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Berkhamsted Area	-	1.5	1.5	4	5.5
Eastern Villages Area	-	-	-	-	-
Hemel Area	-	2.5	2.5	2	4.5
Southern Area	-	-	-	2.5	2.5
Tring Area	-	1	1	1	2
Total	-	5	5	9.5	14.5

There is currently an insufficient supply of youth 11v11 pitches in Dacorum to accommodate current demand. Future demand expressed by clubs exacerbates current shortfalls and creates a future shortfall in the Southern Analysis Area.

It must also be noted that a large number of youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, meaning shortfalls would greatly exacerbate should these transfer to the correct pitch type.

Youth 9v9 pitch analysis

Table 2.21: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹¹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Berkhamsted Area	0.5	1	0.5	-	0.5
Eastern Villages Area	1	-	1	-	1
Hemel Area	3	4	1	1.5	2.5
Southern Area	1.5	-	1.5	0.5	1
Tring Area	-	3.5	3.5	2	5.5
Total	6	8.5	2.5	4	6.5

The table above shows that there is an insufficient supply of youth 9v9 pitches across Dacorum. When accounting for future growth, all spare capacity is expected to be utilised and shortfalls exacerbated.

¹⁰ In match equivalent sessions

¹¹ In match equivalent sessions

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Mini 7v7 pitch analysis

Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹²	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Berkhamsted Area	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Villages Area	1	-	1	-	1
Hemel Area	2	-	2	2	-
Southern Area	0.5	-	0.5	1	0.5
Tring Area	-	6	6	2	8
Total	3.5	6	2.5	5	7.5

The table above shows that there is a current shortfall of mini 7v7 pitches in Dacorum, with current shortfalls identified in the Tring Analysis Area. When accounting for future growth, any spare capacity is expected to be utilised with shortfalls being created in the Southern analysis areas.

Mini 5v5 pitch analysis

Table 2.23: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹³	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Berkhamsted Area	3	-	3	-	3
Eastern Villages Area	2	-	2	-	2
Hemel Area	2	-	2	1	1
Southern Area	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Tring Area	-	-	-	2	2
Total	7	-	7	3.5	3.5

There is currently a sufficient supply of mini 5v5 pitches in Dacorum, with no shortfalls identified. When accounting for future growth, shortfalls are created in both the Southern and Tring analysis areas.

2.6: Conclusions

Using the supply and demand analysis tables, it is considered that there is overall insufficient supply of football pitches across all pitch types with the exception of adult and mini 5v5. When accounting for future growth, current shortfalls are exacerbated and spare capacity on adult and mini 5v5 pitches is reduced.

¹² In match equivalent sessions

¹³ In match equivalent sessions

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.24: Summary of supply and demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	13.5	9	4.5	2	2.5
Youth 11v11	-	5	5	9.5	14.5
Youth 9v9	6	8.5	2.5	4	6.5
Mini 7v7	3.5	6	2.5	5	7.5
Mini 5v5	7	-	7	3.5	3.5

Football – grass pitch summary

- ✦ Using the supply and demand analysis tables, it is considered that there is overall insufficient supply of football pitches across all pitch types with the exception of adult and mini 5v5.
- ✦ When accounting for future growth, current shortfalls are exacerbated and spare capacity on adult and mini 5v5 pitches is reduced.
- ✦ The audit identifies a total of 234 grass football pitches within Dacorum across 84 sites. Of the pitches, 191 are available, at some level, for community use across 65 sites.
- ✦ Both Berkhamsted Raiders CFC and Tring Tornados are identified as playing across several sites and each club has aspirations for a large, dedicated home venue.
- ✦ There are four disused football pitches located at Coronation Fields. This is due to the pitches have a significant slope and being considered unsuitable for competitive football matches.
- ✦ Of pitches available for community use, seven are good quality, 143 standard and 41 are poor.
- ✦ Tring Sports Forum has a proposal for land at Dunsley Farm for it to be turned into a sporting hub linked to its promotion through the Local Plan for residential, community and employment purposes.
- ✦ Berkhamsted School is promoting residential development of Haslam Fields through the Local Plan with mitigation proposed south of the A41.
- ✦ Kings Langley FC does not meet FA ground grading requirements to compete at Step 2 due to its changing rooms not meeting minimum regulations.
- ✦ There are 328 football clubs in Dacorum from within 63 clubs.
- ✦ Consultation with clubs identifies growth aspirations totalling 48 teams
- ✦ 21 pitches across eight sites are overplayed by a combined total of 28.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

¹⁴ In match equivalent sessions

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

3.1: Introduction

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

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

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

Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability

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

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

3.2: Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 64 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. Nationally, many 3G pitches are slightly undersized due to being converted from sand-based provision (dimensions for hockey are smaller than for football).

There are three full size 3G pitches in Dacorum that fully comply with the above specification, consisting of one pitch in the Berkhamsted Analysis Area and two in the Hemel Analysis Area.

All of the pitches are available to the community and are floodlit.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.2: Full size 3G pitches in Dacorum

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted	Yes	Yes	106 x 70
25	Cavendish School	Hemel	Yes	Yes	100 x 60
93	Hemel Hempstead School	Hemel	Yes	Yes	106 x 70

In addition, there are eight smaller size 3G pitches servicing Dacorum across five sites. Such pitches are generally not suitable for adult match play but can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches provided they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with adequate run-off areas. More commonly, they are used to accommodate commercial football leagues and social play.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
49	Hemel Hempstead Town FC	Hemel	2	Yes	Yes	36 x 20
50	Hemel Stags Rugby Club	Hemel	1	Yes	Yes	45 x 27
53	Hobbs Hill Primary School	Hemel	2	Yes	Yes	30 x 15
84	Berkhamsted Leisure Centre	Berkhamsted	2	Yes	Yes	38 x 34
					No	38 x 34
125	Knowlton Sports Centre	Berkhamsted	1	Yes	Yes	50 x 40

Six of the small sided 3G pitches are in the Hemel Analysis Area and two are located in the Berkhamsted Analysis Area. There is no provision, either full or small size located in the Eastern Villages, Southern or Tring analysis areas.

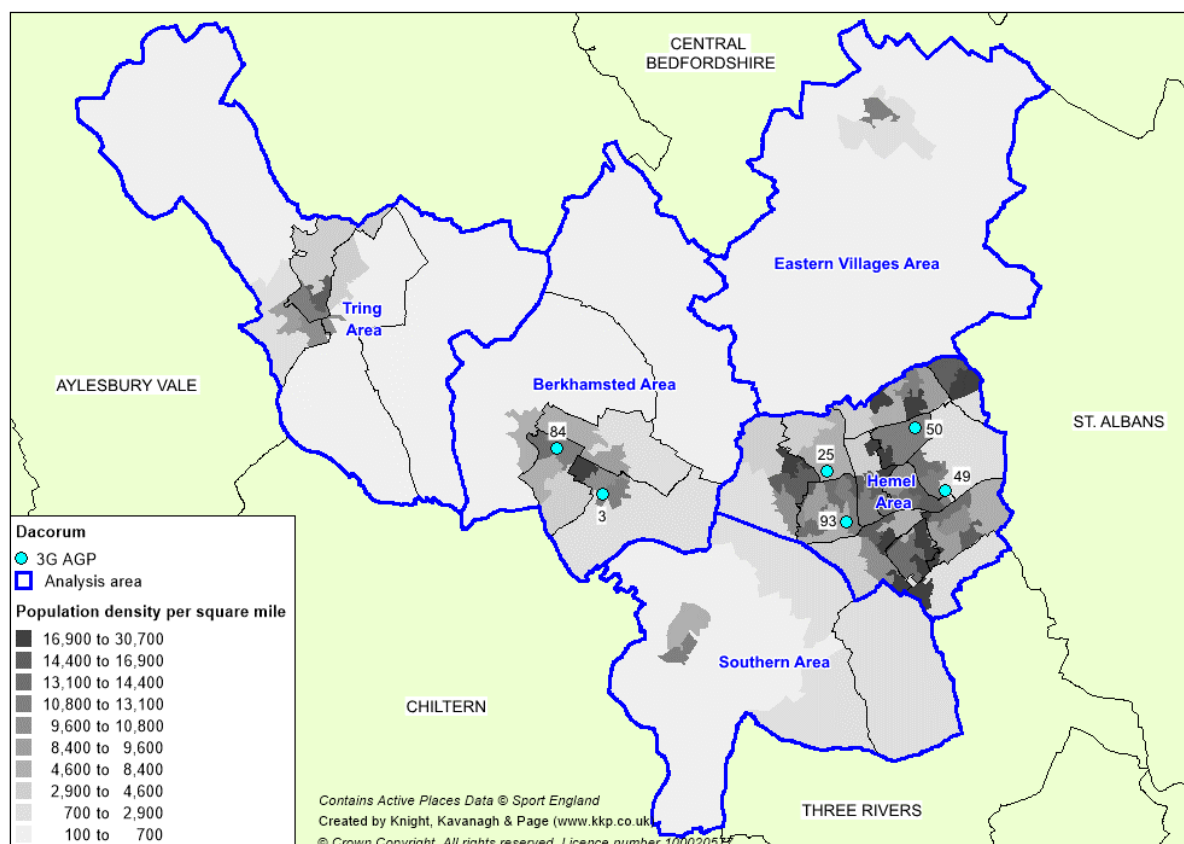
Figure 3.1 overleaf shows the location of all 3G pitches within Dacorum, regardless of size.

Future provision

There are no formal plans in place to create additional 3G provision in Dacorum. However, Berkhamsted Raiders CFC aspires to create a full size 3G pitch at the Broadwater Stadium in place of a natural turf grass pitch. The current users of the Stadium, Berkhamsted FC Ltd, oppose any development taking place.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Dacorum



FA pitch register

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

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

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

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Two full size 3G pitches in Dacorum are currently on the FA register and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. Re-testing is required every three years to ensure that this remains the case. The pitch at Cavendish is not on the 3G register and it is recommended that this is certified as part of any future investment into the pitch. No small sided 3G pitches are on the FA register.

World Rugby compliant pitches

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

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

The RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.

There are no dedicated World Rugby Compliant 3G pitches in Dacorum, however, there is one located at Aylesbury Rugby Club (Aylesbury District) which fringes onto the Tring Analysis Area.

Management

All full size 3G pitches are managed in-house through their respective education provider.

Small sided pitches located at Hemel Stags Rugby Club and Hemel Hempstead FC are managed by the respective sporting club, the small sided pitches at Hobbs Hill School are managed in house by the school and the two small sided pitches at Berkhamsted Leisure Centre are managed by leisure operator, Everyone Active.

Availability

All full size pitches are generally reserved for education use during the week until 18:00 with community access available. Pitches at Cavendish School and Hemel Hempstead are available from 18:00 – 21:00 during the week, and Ashlyns School is available from 18:00 – 22:00.

Weekend opening times vary, Hemel Hempstead School is available from 12:00 – 20:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 – 20:00 Sundays. The pitches at Ashlyns School and Cavendish School are open from 09:00 on both Saturdays and Sundays. Ashlyns School closes at 18:00 on Saturday and 21:00 on Sundays and the pitch at the Cavendish School closes at 17:00 on both days.

All small sided provision is generally available from 09:00 – 21:00 throughout the week and the weekends as each facility is generally managed on a commercial basis. This is with the exception of the small sided pitch at Hobbs Hill School which is available from 16.30 – 22:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 – 16:00 on weekends.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday. Pitch is available from 09:00 to 18:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 - 21:00 on Sundays.
25	Cavendish School	Hemel	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday. Pitch is available from 09:00 to 17:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 - 17:00 on Sundays.
93	Hemel Hempstead School	Hemel	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday. Pitch is available from 12:00 to 20:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 - 20:00 on Sundays.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, 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.

The pitch at Ashlyns School was built in 2010 and is assessed as being standard quality, the pitch is rigorously maintained and although nearly reaching the end of its anticipated life expectancy, is generally considered to be adequate to meet current demand. It should be noted that despite this, the pitch will require resurfacing in the next three years to be able to sustain the high levels of use it receives.

The pitch at Cavendish School is of poor quality having last been resurfaced in 2006. The playing surface is therefore 13 years old, three years over its anticipated life expectancy. The pitch is not on the FA register and it is unlikely it will gain certification with its current quality.

The pitch at Hemel Hempstead School was built in 2017 and is good quality.

Table 3.5: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted	2010	Standard
25	Cavendish School	Hemel	1995/2006	Poor
93	Hemel Hempstead School	Hemel	2017	Good

All small sided pitches are identified as either being good or standard quality with no issues identified through non-technical assessments.

Ancillary facilities

All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate and no issues were raised during consultation or via site assessments.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

3.3: Demand

All three full size pitches in Dacorum are well used, especially midweek during winter months due to training demand with both identified as operating close to capacity. Likewise, weekend usage is identified as being close to capacity at both Ashlyns School and Hemel Hempstead School.

Football

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

Training demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities.

Of clubs responding to consultation, 16 report that they require access to additional training facilities and specifically mention demand for 3G pitches. Some teams currently access sand-based pitches or indoor sports halls, whilst others do access 3G pitches but do so at undesirable times. The clubs that express a need for more 3G pitches or for greater access to the existing stock are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ◀ Tring Athletic FC | ◀ Tring Tornadoes Junior Sports Club |
| ◀ Echoes FC | ◀ FC Hemel |
| ◀ Gossoms End FC | ◀ Berkhamsted Raiders CFC |
| ◀ Hemel Aces FC | ◀ Bovington FC |
| ◀ Hemel Hempstead Town Youth FC | ◀ Watford Ladies Youth FC |
| ◀ Tring Town FC | ◀ Hemel Athletic FC |
| ◀ Woodhall Wanderers FC | ◀ Kings Langley FC |
| ◀ Box Athletic FC | ◀ Robin Hood FC |

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

Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or 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.

Given the above, with 328 teams currently affiliated to Dacorum there is a need for eight full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 8.6). As there are currently three full size 3G pitches provided, an additional five full size 3G pitches are required to meet current demand.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Alternatively, 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. Note that demand identified in Eastern Villages Analysis Area is not considered to be substantial enough to warrant providing full size 3G pitch provision and demand would likely be better catered for through a small sided offering. As can be seen, once applied by analysis area, the shortfall reduces to an overall need for four, with shortfalls identified in each analysis area (except for Eastern Villages).

Table 3.6: Current demand for 3G pitches in Dacorum (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ¹⁵	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Berkhamsted Area	100	2	1	1
Eastern Villages Area	10	-	-	-
Hemel Area	121	3	2	1
Southern Area	53	1	-	1
Tring Area	44	1	-	1
Total	328	7	3	4

When accounting for future demand of 48 teams¹⁶ (a total demand of 376 teams) the overall need across Dacorum increases to nine full size 3G pitches, a shortfall of six pitches. However, when accounting for future demand by analysis area the overall shortfall remains at four and does not exacerbate the current shortfalls, as can be seen in table below.

Table 3.7: Future demand for 3G pitches in Dacorum (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Future number of teams playing ¹⁷	Future requirement for 3G pitches ¹⁸	Current number of available 3G pitches	Future shortfall of 3G pitches
Berkhamsted Area	109	2	1	1
Eastern Villages Area	10	-	-	-
Hemel Area	136	3	2	1
Southern Area	63	1	-	1
Tring Area	58	1	-	1
Total	376	7	3	4

Match play demand

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

¹⁵ 3G requirement rounded down where applicable.

¹⁶ Based on club aspirations reported.

¹⁷ Based on increased demand from club aspirations

¹⁸ 3G requirement rounded down where applicable.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

In Dacorum, 3G pitches at Ashlyns School and Hemel Hempstead School have undergone testing and are therefore FA approved to host competitive matches.

The full size pitch at Cavendish School is not on the FA Register and therefore is not used for competitive football. If the pitch is to become certified (which is likely to require resurfacing) it may enable match play within the Hemel Analysis Area and reduce identified future shortfalls on grass pitches.

Rugby

As mentioned previously, there is currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitch within Dacorum, however, it is noted that the pitch located at Aylesbury RUFC accommodates midweek training demand from Tring RUFC and is therefore considered to meet the need the demand for the Club. Although midweek training demand issues are identified at Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC it is considered that this can be alleviated through other solutions and therefore the Club has no requirement for 3G access.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

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 Dacorum. As such, it is determined that an increase in provision is required, with future provision best located in Berkhamsted, Hemel, Southern and Tring analysis areas to service demand.

To ensure that 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.

For rugby union, it is considered that access to pitches in neighbouring authorities can accommodate midweek training demand and therefore there is not a specific need for additional World Rugby compliant provision to be provided in the Borough.

3G summary

- ◀ **When considering demand on an analysis area level, it is considered there is a need for four full size 3G pitches both now and in the future, with a need in the Berkhamsted, Hemel, Southern and Tring analysis areas.**
- ◀ There are three full size 3G pitches in Dacorum, all of which are floodlit and available to the community.
- ◀ In addition, there are eight smaller size 3G pitches located across five sites.
- ◀ Pitches at Ashlyns School and Hemel Hempstead School are on the FA register and can accommodate competitive football. The pitch at Cavendish School is not certified for competitive play.
- ◀ There are no World Rugby Compliant 3G pitches within Dacorum. Given access to World Rugby 3G pitches on the fringes of Dacorum, it is not considered that there is a need to create dedicated World Rugby Compliant pitches.
- ◀ Of the three full size pitches, one is identified as being poor quality; located at Cavendish School.
- ◀ All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate.
- ◀ With 328 teams currently affiliated to Dacorum there is a need for eight full size 3G pitches identified (Borough wide) a current shortfall of five. When accounting for future growth, the shortfall increases to six full size pitches.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

Hertfordshire Cricket serves as the governing and representative body for cricket across Dacorum. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

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

Consultation

There are 16 cricket clubs identified as playing within Dacorum, 14 of which, responded to consultation resulting in a response rate of 88%.

4.2: Supply

There are 36 grass wicket squares in Dacorum located across 24 sites. Of these, 23 squares are available, at some level, for community use across 19 sites. All provision which is unavailable for community use is located at educational sites.

Table 4.1: Summary of grass wicket squares

Analysis area	No. of squares		Total
	No. available for community use	No. unavailable for community use	
Berkhamsted Area	7	4	11
Eastern Villages Area	3	4	7
Hemel Area	6	-	6
Southern Area	4	5	9
Tring Area	3	-	3
Total	23	13	36

The Berkhamsted Area contains the largest amount of community available cricket provision with seven grass squares, followed by the Hemel Area which contains six grass squares. The Tring Area has the lowest amount of provision with three squares.

Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets.

In Dacorum, there are two NTPs that accompany a grass wicket square in addition to six standalone NTPs. The location of these can be seen in table 4.2

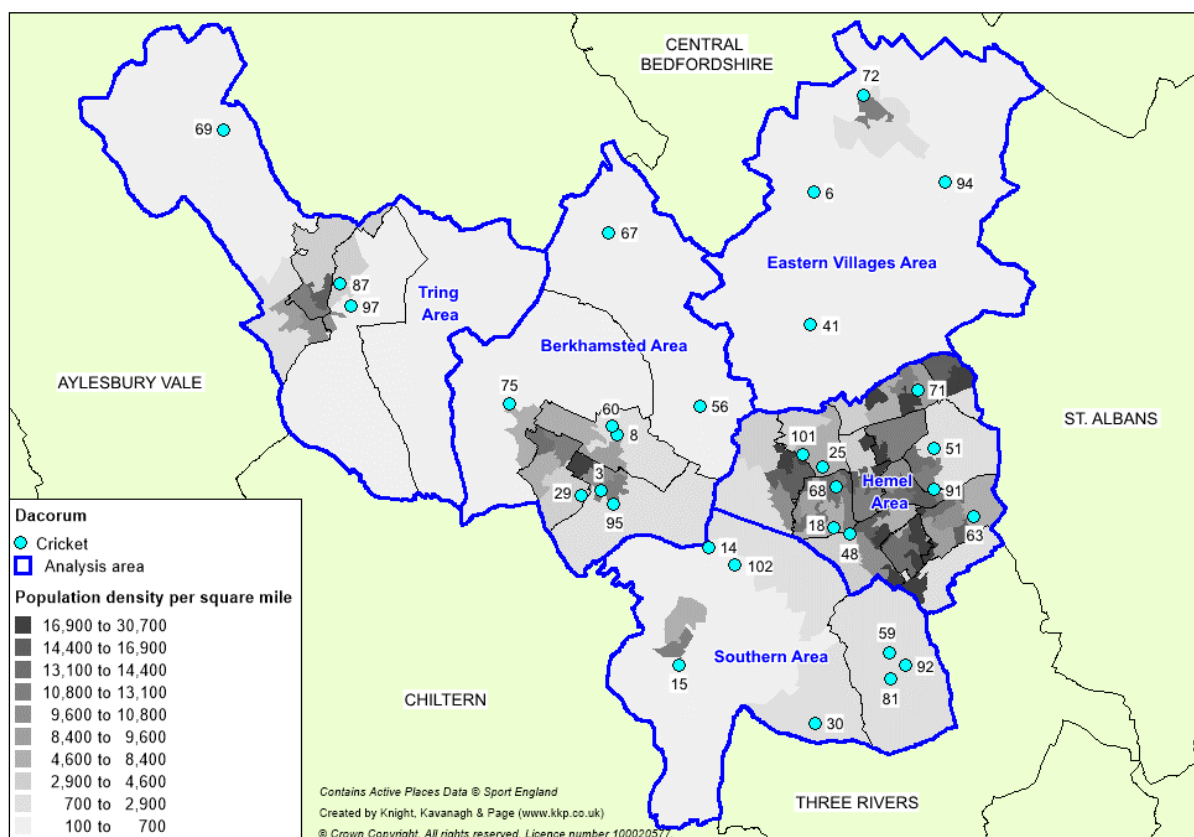
DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.2: Summary of NTPs in Dacorum

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of NTPs	Position
48	Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club	Hemel Area	1	Square
68	Lockers Park	Hemel Area	1	Standalone
71	Maple Grove Primary School	Hemel Area	1	Standalone
87	Tring Sports Centre	Tring Area	1	Standalone
91	The Adeyfield School	Hemel Area	1	Standalone
94	The Pavilion	Eastern Villages Area	1	Square
95	The Thomas Coram C of E School	Berkhamsted Area	1	Standalone
102	Westbrook Hay School	Southern Area	1	Standalone

The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares (grass and non-turf) currently servicing Dacorum.

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in Dacorum



DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.3: Key to map of cricket pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
6	Beechwood Park School	Eastern Villages Area	No	4	8	-
					6	-
					6	-
					6	-
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	2	14	-
					10	-
14	Bourne End Cricket Club	Southern Area	Yes	1	4	-
15	Bovingdon Cricket Club	Southern Area	Yes	1	10	-
18	Boxmoor Cricket Club	Hemel Area	Yes	1	12	-
29	Chesham Fields	Hemel Area	No	4	10	-
					6	-
					6	-
					4	-
30	Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	Southern Area	Yes	1	12	1
41	Great Gaddesden Cricket Club	Eastern Villages Area	Yes	1	11	-
48	Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club	Hemel Area	Yes	2	15	-
					5	1
51	High Street Green Playing Field	Hemel Area	Yes	1	8	-
56	Home Field	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	1	18	-
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	No	1	5	-
60	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	2	8	-
					3	-
63	Leverstock Green Cricket Club	Hemel Area	Yes	1	14	-
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	1	10	-
69	Long Marston Cricket Club	Tring Area	Yes	1	16	-
72	Markyate Recreation Ground	Eastern Villages Area	Yes	1	7	-
75	Northchurch Sports Ground	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	1	15	-

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
81	Rudolf Steiner School Kings Langley	Southern Area	No	1	5	-
92	The Common	Southern Area	Yes	1	12	-
94	The Pavilion	Eastern Villages Area	Yes	1	8	1
97	Tring Park Cricket Club	Tring Area	Yes	2	15	-
					12	-
101	Warners End	Hemel Area	Yes	1	8	-
102	Westbrook Hay School	Southern Area	No	3	7	-
					6	-
					3	-

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Security of tenure

Most clubs in the Borough are considered to have secure tenure at their main home ground, whether that be through ownership of the site or long rental/lease agreements. Potten End CC is currently in the process of renewing its lease agreement with the parish council while Bovingdon CC note that its long-term lease with Dacorum Borough Council will expire in six years.

Bourne End CC has a one year rolling rental arrangement with a private land owner and has previously been threatened with eviction. Boxmoor CC's third team is also due to use this site as its home ground for the 2019 season if access can be guaranteed.

Pitch quality

As part of the PPS guidance, there are three levels to assessing the quality of cricket pitches: good, standard and poor. Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous.

The non-technical assessment of community available grass wicket squares found, five to be good quality and 18 to be standard quality. No squares were assessed as poor quality.

Table 4.4: Quality ratings for community available grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	2	Standard
14	Bourne End Cricket Club	Southern Area	1	Standard
15	Bovingdon Cricket Club	Southern Area	1	Standard
18	Boxmoor Cricket Club	Hemel Area	1	Standard
30	Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	Southern Area	1	Standard
41	Great Gaddesden Cricket Club	Eastern Villages Area	1	Good
48	Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club	Hemel Area	1	Good
			1	Standard
51	High Street Green Playing Field	Hemel Area	1	Standard
56	Home Field	Berkhamsted Area	1	Standard
60	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamsted Area	2	Standard
63	Leverstock Green Cricket Club	Hemel Area	1	Good
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	1	Standard
69	Long Marston Cricket Club	Tring Area	1	Standard
72	Markyate Recreation Ground	Eastern Villages Area	1	Standard
75	Northchurch Sports Ground	Berkhamsted Area	1	Standard
92	The Common	Southern Area	1	Standard
94	The Pavilion	Eastern Villages Area	1	Standard
97	Tring Park Cricket Club	Tring Area	2	Good
101	Warners End	Hemel Area	1	Standard

Despite no squares being assessed as poor quality, consultation with clubs suggests a variety of issues are affecting the quality of their respective pitches as detailed below.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Northchurch and Great Gaddesden cricket clubs both highlight issues with rabbits and foxes damaging the outfield. Berkhamsted and Flamstead cricket clubs note that their outfields are also marked for football and are used heavily through the winter. Maintaining these to a good quality is difficult and expensive. Long Marston CC states the quality of its outfield is often affected by adverse weather conditions. Chipperfield Clarendon CC report that its outfield is uneven.

Regarding non-turf wickets, no quality issues or concerns were highlighted. Artificial wickets located at private schools are of good quality, while state school wickets are generally deemed to be adequate for curricular use. No community usage takes place on artificial wickets at education sites. However, non-technical assessments indicate that the artificial wicket located at Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club shows signs of moss, rips and surface lifting. Therefore, this may be due for replacement to remain suitable for match-play.

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards, which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship.

Table 4.5: Performance Quality Standard Ratings

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

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

Ancillary facilities

The audit of ancillary facilities determines that all sites currently accessed for affiliated cricket in Dacorum are accompanied by some form of ancillary provision.

Table 4.6: Changing room quality (grass wicket squares, site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Changing room quality
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	2	Good
14	Bourne End Cricket Club	Southern Area	1	Good
15	Bovingdon Cricket Club	Southern Area	1	Good
18	Boxmoor Cricket Club	Hemel Area	1	Poor
30	Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	Southern Area	1	Good

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Changing room quality
41	Great Gaddesden Cricket Club	Eastern Villages Area	1	Good
48	Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club	Hemel Area	2	Good
51	High Street Green Playing Field	Hemel Area	1	Standard
56	Home Field	Berkhamsted Area	1	Poor
60	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamstead Area	2	Good
63	Leverstock Green Cricket Club	Hemel Area	1	Good
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	1	Good
69	Long Marston Cricket Club	Tring Area	1	Good
72	Markyate Recreation Ground	Eastern Villages Area	1	Standard
75	Northchurch Sports Ground	Berkhamsted Area	1	Good
92	The Common	Southern Area	1	Good
94	The Pavilion	Eastern Villages Area	1	Poor
97	Tring Park Cricket Club	Tring Area	2	Good
101	Warners End	Hemel Area	1	Poor

Boxmoor, Home Field, The Pavilion and Warners End cricket clubs are all deemed to have poor quality ancillary provision with facilities noted as being dated and in need of refurbishment. In addition, Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted, Boxmoor, Bovington, Flamstead, Long Marston, Tring Park, Little Gaddesden and Bourne End cricket clubs have all been victims of crime in recent years, with break-ins, vandalism and general damage reported.

Of the squares accompanied by standard quality changing facilities, no major issues were noted.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Seven community available sites in Dacorum are not serviced by fixed bay practice nets, these being:

- ◀ Bourne End Cricket Club
- ◀ High Street Green Playing Field
- ◀ Home Field
- ◀ Markyate Recreation Ground
- ◀ The Pavilion
- ◀ Warners End
- ◀ Kitcheners Field

Flamstead CC indicates demand for fixed bay practice nets at The Pavilion as its mobile practice net is damaged and unusable.

Chipperfield Clarendon CC notes demand for refurbished practice nets whilst Hemel Hempstead Town CC states ambitions for two new practice nets by 2020.

In addition to outdoor nets, Tring Park and Hemel Hempstead Town cricket clubs report demand for indoor training facilities during the off-season. Through consultation with the ECB, it was revealed that Tring Park CC has ambitions of developing an indoor training centre to accommodate its training demand in partnership with Tring TC. Hemel Hempstead Town CC uses indoor cricket nets located at Lockers Park School.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

4.3: Demand

There are 16 clubs competing in Dacorum, generating 137 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 51 senior men's, two senior women's, 81 junior boys' and three junior girls' team. The distribution of these teams across the clubs can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.7: Summary of teams

Club name	Site	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
			Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Berkhamsted CC	Berkhamstead Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	5	1	15	1
Bourne End CC	Bourne End CC	Southern Area	1	-	-	-
Bovingdon CC	Bovingdon CC	Southern Area	2	-	2	-
Boxmoor CC	Boxmoor CC	Hemel Area	5	-	6	2 ¹⁹
Chipperfield Clarendon CC	Chipperfield Clarendon CC	Southern Area	5	-	4	-
Flamstead CC	The Pavilion	Eastern Villages Area	3	1	4	-
Great Gaddesden CC	Great Gaddesden CC	Eastern Villages Area	2	-	-	-
Hemel Hempstead Town CC	Hemel Hempstead CC	Hemel Area	5	-	8	-
Leverstock Green CC	Leverstock Green CC	Hemel Area	3	-	6	-
Little Gaddesden CC	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	1	-	1	-
Long Marston CC	Long Marston CC	Tring Area	3	-	2	-
Markyate Cricket and Football Club	Markyate Recreation Ground	Eastern Villages Area	2	-	-	-
Northchurch CC	Northchurch Sports Ground	Berkhamsted Area	3	-	10	-
Kings Langley CC	The Common	Southern Area	3	-	3	-
Potten End CC	Home Field	Berkhamsted Area	3	-	4	-
Tring Park CC	Tring Park CC	Tring Area	5	-	16	-
Total			51	2	81	3

Most senior teams play in the Hertfordshire Cricket League and most junior teams play in the Hertfordshire Junior Cricket League, with junior teams also playing in friendly competitions.

A summary of teams by analysis area can be seen in the table below. The greatest number of teams play in the Berkhamsted Area (32%). The analysis area with the least amount of competitive cricket is the Eastern Villages Area which represents 9% of total team demand.

¹⁹ Junior girls teams at Boxmoor CC operate as a joint programme with Hemel Hempstead Town CC.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.8: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of teams				Total
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	
Berkhamsted Area	12	1	30	1	44
Eastern Villages Area	7	1	4	-	12
Hemel Area	13	-	20	2	35
Southern Area	11	-	9	-	20
Tring Area	8	-	18	-	26
Total	51	2	81	1	137

Participation at cricket clubs in Dacorum is strong with most clubs fielding multiple senior teams. In addition, Leverstock Green and Long Marston cricket clubs export a total of three senior men's teams outside of the Borough.

Exported demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Dacorum 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.

Leverstock Green CC exports its third and fourth teams to play at Parmiter's Sports Centre in Three Rivers. Due to its proximity to the Club's home ground at Leverstock Green Cricket Club (6.2 miles), this is not perceived to be an issue. Likewise, Long Marston CC exports its third team to play at Mentmore Cricket Club near Leighton Buzzard and due to the proximity to the Club's home ground at Long Marston Cricket Club (3.5 miles), this is also not perceived to be an issue.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Dacorum study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. No imported cricket demand was identified in Dacorum.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not able to access sufficient 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. There is no recorded unmet demand for cricket in Dacorum.

Last Man Stands

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on non-turf wickets. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity. There is no LMS league currently in Dacorum, with the closest league in operation located in Milton Keynes and Aylesbury.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

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

Participation increases

In addition to potential increases from population growth a number of clubs state that they wish to increase the number of teams they currently have.

Table 4.9: Summary of future demand (club aspirations)

Club	Analysis area	Future demand			
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior	Total
Berkhamsted CC	Berkhamsted Area	-	-	2	2
Bovingdon CC	Southern Area	-	-	1	1
Chipperfield Clarendon CC	Southern Area	1	1	1	3
Flamstead CC	Eastern Villages Area	1	-	1	2
Great Gaddesden CC	Eastern Villages Area	1	-	-	1
Hemel Hempstead Town CC	Hemel Area	1	-	-	1
Northchurch CC	Berkhamsted Area	-	-	2	2
Potten End CC	Berkhamsted Area	-	-	2	2
Tring Park CC	Tring Area	1	-	2	3
Total		5	1	11	17

Match equivalent sessions for future demand is calculated using the average number of matches played per season (10 matches for senior men's teams, seven matches for senior women's teams and four matches for junior teams). In total, clubs in Dacorum have future growth ambitions for five senior men's, one senior women's and 11 junior teams which equates to a total future demand of 101 match sessions per season.

Population growth

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2036) based on population growth. When team generation rates are applied across Dacorum (on a Borough wide basis) there is considered enough demand to create one senior men's team and 10 junior boys' teams. As is the case for potential club team increases, it is considered that future demand is calculated using the average number of matches played per season (10 matches for senior men's teams, seven matches for senior women's teams and four matches for junior teams).

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.10: Team generation rates based on population growth (2036)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate ²⁰	Future population within age group ²¹	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (18-55)	37,750	48	1:786	23,672	49	1
Senior Women's (18-55)	38,518	2	1:19,259	25,240	2	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	11,319	76	1:149	9,231	86	10
Junior Girls (7-18)	10,852	1	1:10,852	9,005	1	0

However, once TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas a more detailed representation of where exactly the predicated growth will occur emerges. It is anticipated that four junior boys' teams will be generated in the Berkhamsted Area and two junior boys' teams in both the Hemel and Tring areas. Residual demand in the remaining analysis areas is likely to compliment pre-existing teams. This demand translates to a total demand of 38 match sessions per season for junior cricket.

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. For example, female growth at women's and girls' age groups is relatively small, however, there are planned increases in activity around female participation through both All Stars Cricket and a programme of softball cricket in 2018 which are likely to reflect in growth above levels shown through team generation rates.

All Stars Cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine cricket clubs in Dacorum can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs.

The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

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

In Dacorum, Berkhamsted, Boxmoor and Hemel Hempstead Town cricket clubs all ran All Stars Cricket centres in 2018 and are subsequently likely to experience significant interest and growth in junior participation.

²⁰ Please note TGR figures are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

²¹ There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Softball cricket

Softball cricket 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.

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.

Both Tring Park and Hemel Hempstead Town cricket clubs have women and girls' sections which participate in softball cricket events in Dacorum.

Cricket unleashed

The ECB unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the game and the plan sets out five important headline elements: More play; great teams; inspired fans; good governance and social responsibility; strong finance and operations.

In addition, the ECB has also recently announced new five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024. This includes a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. The new deals also include a return to free to air television for live cricket, with the BBC to show coverage of some international and domestic matches.

Together, significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPS and the impact should therefore be reviewed over coming years.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturday, with the majority of teams playing at this time (33 teams). The remaining senior teams play on Sundays (15 teams) or mid-week (two teams).

For junior cricket, peak time demand is mid-week, with most clubs' youth sections playing between Monday and Friday (66 teams). The remaining junior teams play on Sundays (12 teams). As a result, squares have greater capacity to carry junior demand as play can be spread across numerous days (providing the squares are not overlaid).

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

4.4: Capacity analysis

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

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square. For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not safe for play.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, the assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

Please note that non-turf wickets have been discounted from the table overleaf. No non-turf wicket squares are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and matches can be played on a variety of days.

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Table 4.11: Capacity of community available cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Club	Analysis area	Tenure	Community use?	No. of squares	Non-technical pitch quality	No. of grass wickets (per square)	Recommended ECB capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted CC	Berkhamsted Area	Secure	Yes	2	Standard	14	96	107	-11
								10			
14	Bourne End Cricket Club	Bourne End CC	Southern Area	Unsecure	Yes	1	Standard	4	16	9	7
15	Bovingdon Cricket Club	Bovingdon CC	Southern Area	Secure	Yes	1	Standard	10	40	32	8
18	Boxmoor Cricket Club	Boxmoor CC	Hemel Area	Secure	Yes	1	Standard	12	48	55	-7
30	Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	Chipperfield Clarendon CC	Southern Area	Secure	Yes	1	Standard	12	48	54	-6
41	Great Gaddesden Cricket Club	Great Gaddesden CC	Eastern Villages Area	Secure	Yes	1	Good	11	55	14	41
48	Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club	Hemel Hempstead Town CC	Hemel Area	Secure	Yes	1	Good	15	95	85	10
						1	Standard	5			
51	High Street Green Playing Field	-	Hemel Area	Secure	Yes – unused	1	Standard	8	32	0	32
56	Home Field	Potten End CC	Berkhamsted Area	Secure	Yes	1	Standard	18	72	39	33
63	Leverstock Green Cricket Club	Leverstock Green CC	Hemel Area	Secure	Yes	1	Good	14	70	65	5
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Little Gaddesden CC	Berkhamsted Area	Secure	Yes	1	Standard	10	40	13	27
69	Long Marston Cricket Club	Long Marston CC	Tring Area	Secure	Yes	1	Standard	16	64	35	29
72	Markyate Recreation Ground	Markyate Cricket and Football Club	Eastern Villages Area	Secure	Yes	1	Standard	7	28	8	20
75	Northchurch Sports Ground	Northchurch CC	Berkhamsted Area	Secure	Yes	1	Standard	15	60	67	-7
92	The Common	Kings Langley CC	Southern Area	Secure	Yes	1	Standard	12	48	48	-
94	The Pavilion	Flamstead CC	Eastern Villages Area	Secure	Yes	1	Standard	8	32	46	-14
97	Tring Park Cricket Club	Tring Park CC	Tring Area	Secure	Yes	2	Good	15	135	109	26
								12			
101	Warners End	Boxmoor CC	Hemel Area	Secure	Yes	1	Standard	8	32	10	22

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual spare capacity' by which it is available at peak time. 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 regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

Those sites which have squares that display potential capacity of less than 10 matches per season (Leverstock Green Cricket Club, Bovingdon Cricket Club and Bourne End Cricket Club) have been excluded from the capacity analysis on the basis that they do not exhibit enough spare capacity to accommodate another senior team, based on an average of 10 home matches per team each season. It is noted that Boxmoor CC aspires to access Bourne End CC in the 2019 season to accommodate its third team, on the basis that the site has a seasonal capacity of seven match sessions remaining, it is likely that the site will become overplayed. In addition, the site is unsecure and therefore this cumulative demand may need to be accounted for elsewhere in Dacorum in the future.

Of the remaining squares, there are 14 which show potential spare capacity on senior grass cricket squares, totalling 583 match equivalent sessions per season. Of these, 299 match equivalent sessions across four sites (Beechwood Park School, Chesham Fields, Rudolph Steiner School Kings Langley and Westbrook Hay School) are discounted as they are not available for community use. These sites are unused for community use to ensure quality is protected for curricular and extracurricular use. Therefore, there is total potential spare capacity on senior squares equating to 284 match equivalent sessions per season across ten squares (Tring Park CC has two squares at its home site).

Table 4.12: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Squares available in the peak period (Saturday)	Comments
41	Great Gaddesden Cricket Club	Eastern Villages Area	41	0.5	The square is used by a single Saturday team, meaning there is capacity for another senior team at peak time.
48	Hemel Hempstead Cricket Club	Hemel Area	10	-	The square is currently used to capacity at peak time.
51	High Street Green Playing Field	Hemel Area	32	1	The square is unused so there is capacity to host two senior teams at peak time.
56	Home Field	Berkhamsted Area	33	-	The square is currently used to capacity at peak time.
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	27	0.5	The square is used by a single Saturday team, meaning there is capacity for another senior team at peak time.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Squares available in the peak period (Saturday)	Comments
69	Long Marston Cricket Club	Tring Area	29	-	The square is currently used to capacity at peak time.
72	Markyate Recreation Ground	Eastern Villages Area	20	0.5	The square is used by a single Saturday team, meaning there is capacity for another senior team at peak time.
97	Tring Park Cricket Club	Tring	26	-	The square is currently used to capacity at peak time.
101	Warners End	Hemel Area	22	0.5	The square is used by a single Saturday team, meaning there is capacity for another senior team at peak time.

Of the nine squares which show potential spare capacity at peak time, five have actual capacity to accommodate additional teams at senior peak time.

For junior cricket, all squares with actual spare capacity for senior cricket and with secure tenure are also considered to be able to accommodate an increase in junior demand. This is because junior matches can be spread across numerous days, Tuesdays and Wednesday currently the most common. It should be noted that the amount of spare capacity on a given square can only be utilised up to its available capacity by future junior or senior demand or a mixture of both.

Overplay

There are five sites in Dacorum considered to be overplayed by a total of 45 match equivalent sessions per season. Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a resolution to overplay is recommended to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

Table 4.13: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	2	-11
18	Boxmoor Cricket Club	Hemel Area	1	-7
30	Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	Southern Area	1	-6
75	Northchurch Sports Ground	Berkhamsted Area	1	-7
94	The Pavilion	Eastern Villages Area	1	-14
Total			7	-45

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

With overplay at Northchurch Sports Ground, Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club and Boxmoor Cricket Club totalling less than 10 matches per season on each site, it is possible to sustain these levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place. A reduction in play is recommended at these sites to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. The tables below look at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and future demand highlighted through both club aspirations and forecasted growth generated through TGRs.

Table 4.14: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturdays)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Berkhamsted Area	27	-18	9	-	9
Eastern Villages Area	61	-14	47	20	27
Hemel Area	54	-7	47	10	37
Southern Area	-	-6	-6	17	-23
Tring Area	-	-	-	10	-10
Total	142	-45	103	57	46

There are sufficient levels of natural turf cricket provision across each analysis area in Dacorum, despite identified club specific overplay and an overall current shortfall in the Southern Analysis Area. When accounting for future demand, shortfalls are exacerbated, and a new shortfall is apparent in the Tring Analysis Area.

When considering spare capacity at junior peak time, there is adequate provision to meet current demand across Dacorum both now and in the future.

In summary, there is sufficient supply of overall cricket provision to cater for current senior and junior demand in Dacorum, although shortfalls are apparent in the Tring Analysis Area which need to be addressed. Scenarios to alleviate overplay will be explored in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cricket summary

- ◀ **There are sufficient levels of natural turf cricket provision across each analysis area in Dacorum, despite identified club specific overplay and an overall current shortfall in the Southern Analysis Area.**
- ◀ **When accounting for future demand, shortfalls are exacerbated, and a new shortfall is apparent in the Tring Analysis Area.**
- ◀ There are 36 grass wicket squares in Dacorum located across 24 sites. Of these, 23 squares are available, at some level, for community use across 19 sites. All provision which is unavailable for community use is located at educational sites.
- ◀ In Dacorum, there are two NTPs that accompany a grass wicket square in addition to six standalone NTPs. The NTP located at Hemel Hempstead Town Cricket Club is assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Most clubs in the Borough are considered to have secure tenure at their primary venue. However, Bourne End CC has a one year rolling rental arrangement with a private land owner and has previously been threatened with eviction.
- ◀ The non-technical assessment of community available grass wicket squares, carried out in August 2018, found five to be good quality and 18 to be standard quality.
- ◀ The audit of ancillary facilities determines that all sites currently accessed for affiliated cricket in Dacorum are accompanied by some form of ancillary provision. Non-technical assessments revealed 13 to be good quality, two to be standard quality and four of poor quality. Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted, Boxmoor, Bovington, Flamstead, Long Marston, Tring Park, Little Gaddesden, Bourne End and Chipperfield Clarendon cricket clubs have all been victims of crime in recent years.
- ◀ Seven community available sites in Dacorum are not serviced by fixed bay practice nets. London Colney CC indicate aspirations for training facilities through consultation whilst Hemel Hempstead Town CC and Chipperfield Clarendon CC have demand for refurbished or additional practice nets.
- ◀ There are 16 clubs competing in Dacorum, generating 137 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 51 senior men's, two senior women's, 81 junior boys' teams and three junior girls' team.
- ◀ In total in Dacorum there is total future growth, through team generation rates and club ambitions, of five senior men's teams, two senior women's teams, and 21 junior teams.
- ◀ There are five sites in Dacorum considered to be overplayed by a total of 45 match equivalent sessions per season.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions, Dacorum falls into Area 2. A full-time development officer is responsible for Dacorum (as part of the wider region) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are three rugby union clubs currently playing within Dacorum. Tring RFC was met with face-to-face (to inform the PPS assessment); whilst Berkhamsted RUFC and Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC completed an online survey, resulting in a 100% response rate.

In addition, the Rugby Development Officer (RDO) covering the three authorities was consulted with to provide an overview of rugby activity across the Area.

5.2: Supply

Within Dacorum there are 15 senior, eight junior and 18 mini rugby union pitches provided across 12 sites. Of these, 14 senior pitches, one junior pitch and 16 mini pitches are available for community use across eight sites. All unavailable pitches are located at private education sites or HMP The Mount.

Table 5.1: Supply of rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches
Berkhamsted	1	-	-
Eastern Villages	-	-	-
Hemel	4	1	8
Southern	2	-	-
Tring	7	-	8
Dacorum	14	1	16

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

Table 5.2: Pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ²²
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

²² Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ²²
U12	Mini	60 x 43
U13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 ²³

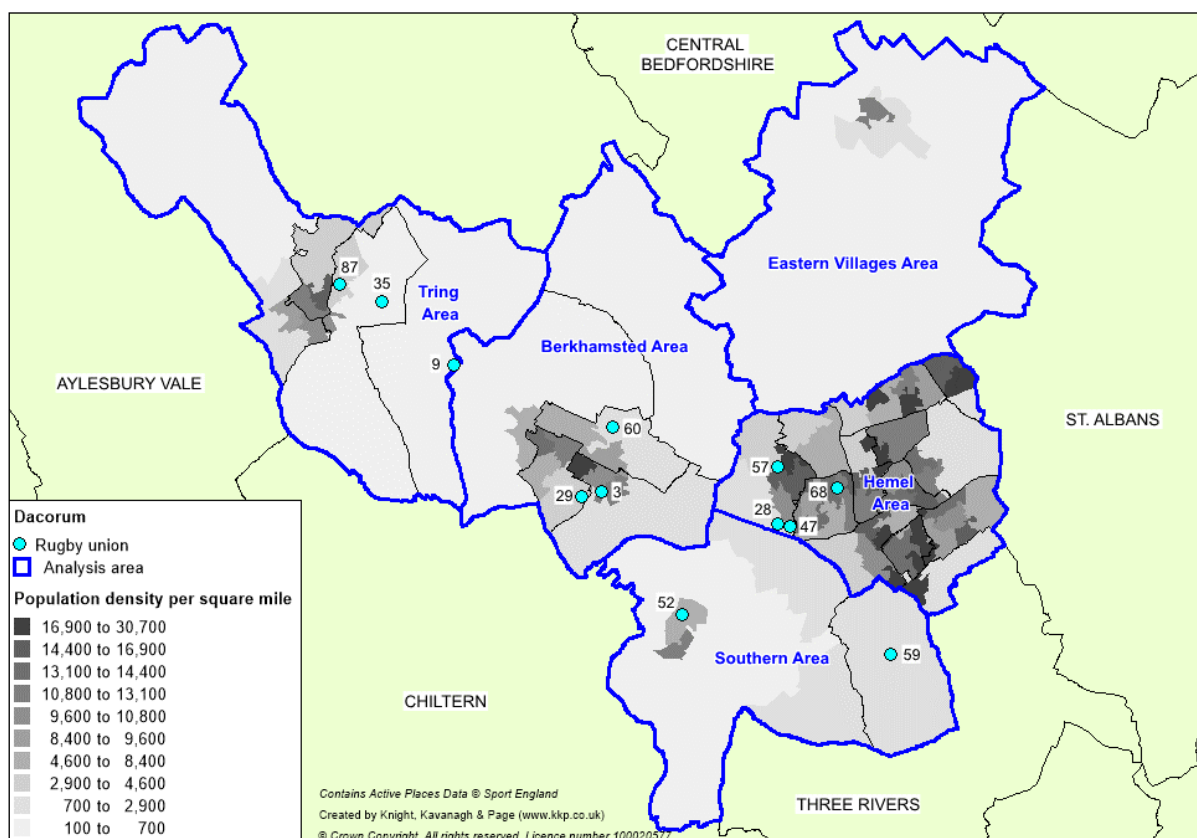
Development aspirations

Tring RUFC has plans to redevelop its existing site as a way of improving the infrastructure of its car-parking, clubhouse and changing facilities, as well as increasing its playing and training areas to accommodate current and future demand. At present, facilities are dated and showing signs of wear and tear with this apparent in both the changing block and in the bar and function area. Likewise, issues with car parking are prominent with the current car park shared with Tring Tornados FC, Tring Athletic FC, Tring Bowls Club and Tring Squash Club.

Tring Sports Forum has a proposal for land at Dunsley Farm for it to be turned into a sporting hub linked to its promotion through the Local Plan for residential, community and employment purposes. If this is to proceed in the future it would enable expansion by Tring RUFC by creation of the additional senior, mini and junior pitches and training facilities needed by the club.

At the same time, Tring RUFC proposes to create additional car parking spaces and a new two-story clubhouse with the adjoining changing and clubhouse facility redeveloped to provide improved changing rooms to meet the latest RFU specifications. This will be necessary to secure funding from the RFU and other sources.

Figure 5.1: Map of rugby union pitches within Dacorum



²³ Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Security of tenure

Tring RUFC has a long-term lease on its site from Pendley Sports Trust Ltd. The lease was signed in 2008 and has 115 years remaining on the arrangement. The Club also accesses land adjacent to its site to accommodate demand from its mini's section which is owned by Pendley Hotel which it arranges to access on a month by month basis by way of a gentlemen's agreement. Likewise, it also accesses land owned by Tring Bowls Club for further mini activity, although Tring Bowls Club has indicated that it will soon need to take back possession as they have development plans of their own for this land.

Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC has four years remaining on its lease arrangement from DBC. The Club is in the process of renegotiating its lease to secure a long term agreement which will allow it to secure grant funding to improve its existing site. In addition to this, it annually rents pitches at Chaulden Lane Playing Field to cater for its mini and junior section.

Berkhamsted RUFC rents pitches on an annual basis from Berkhamsted Hockey Club.

Pitch quality

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

Table 5.3: Definition of maintenance categories

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

Table 5.4: Definition of drainage categories

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

Table 5.5: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Of the community available senior pitches in Dacorum, three are assessed as good quality, two as standard and nine as poor quality.

Table 5.6: Quality of senior rugby union pitches by analysis area (community use only)

Analysis area	Pitch quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Berkhamsted	-	-	1
Eastern Villages	-	-	-
Hemel	-	-	4
Southern	-	-	2
Tring	3	2	2
Dacorum	3	2	9

All good quality senior pitches are located at Tring RUFC which has a sophisticated maintenance regime relative to other community rugby union clubs in the area. However, after an independent inspection by specialist consultants, it was suggested that piped land drainage is needed over all of the pitches on site in order to preserve the good pitch quality. The inspection revealed that excessive compaction has been caused by the long-term overplay of these pitches.

Pitches at Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC are maintained to an adequate standard but are identified as having inadequate drainage which significantly impacts on the playability of pitches, particularly during adverse weather conditions in the winter months, further to this, it is identified by the Club that current drainage issues impact on its ability to accommodate all midweek training.

Pitches Berkhamsted RUFC are all standard quality, with all further poor quality pitches situated at state schools.

In addition to the above senior pitches, there is one junior pitch located at Chaulden Lane Playing Field which is poor quality alongside seven mini pitches which are also poor quality (M0/D1). These collective pitches are based in the Hemel Analysis Area. There are also eight mini pitches located at Tring RUFC which are standard quality (M1/D1).

Pitches unavailable for community use are generally considered to be of a standard quality. As previously mentioned, most pitches unavailable for community use are mainly located at private education sites which provide a higher level of maintenance relative to other education establishments.

There are no community available rugby union pitches in the Eastern Villages Analysis Area.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.7: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Number of pitches	Floodlit?	Pitch type	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Comments
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted	Yes – unused	1	No	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	Pitch basically maintained. Drainage natural and adequate.
9	Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club	Tring	Yes	2	No	Senior	M1/D1	Standard	Both pitches adequately maintained. Drainage natural and adequate.
28	Chaulden Lane Playing Field	Hemel	Yes	1	No	Junior	M0/D1	Poor	Pitches basically maintained by Council.
				7	No	Mini	M0/D1	Poor	
29	Chesham Fields	Berkhamsted	No	1	No	Senior	M1/D1	Standard	Pitches are adequately maintained and drainage well naturally.
35	Tring RUFC	Tring	Yes	3	No	Senior	M2/D1	Good	Senior pitches are maintained to a high standard
				8	No	Mini	M1/D1	Standard	
47	Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC	Hemel	Yes	3	2 x Yes	Senior	M1/D0	Poor	Pitches adequately maintained. Drainage is inadequate on senior pitches.
					No				
				1	No	Mini	M1/D1	Standard	
52	HMP The Mount	Southern	No	1	No	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	Pitch basically maintained. Drains well naturally.
57	John F Kennedy Roman Catholic School	Hemel	Yes – unused	1	No	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	Pitch basically maintained. Drains well naturally.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern	Yes – unused	2	No	Senior	M0/D0	Poor	Pitch basically maintained. Drainage issues identified.
60	Kitcheners Field	Berkhamsted	No	2	No	Junior	M1/D1	Standard	Pitches are adequately maintained and drainage well naturally.
				3	No	Mini	M1/D1	Standard	
68	Lockers Park	Hemel	No	1	No	Junior	M0/D1	Poor	Pitches basically maintained. Drain well naturally.
				3	No	Mini	M0/D1	Poor	
87	Tring Sport & Leisure Ltd	Tring	Yes	2	No	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	Pitches basically maintained. Drain well naturally.

Ancillary facilities

The term ancillary facility includes; clubhouse buildings, changing facilities and car parking but excludes pitches.

Ancillary facilities at Tring RUFC are generally considered to be out of date or not fit for purpose for modern rugby union. As previously mentioned, car parking at the Club site is shared with Tring Tornados FC, Tring Athletic FC, Tring Bowls Club and Tring Squash Club and therefore, at peak times, congestion overflows onto Cow Lane.

Changing facilities at the Club are dated and unfit for women's and girl's rugby with six dedicated changing rooms, one officials' room and one communal shower facility (with a dedicated shower cubicle within it for women's/girls use). There have been previous issues with both male and female referees officiating at the Club and facilities not being of a required standard.

Likewise, the clubhouse is dated and whilst functional as a bar and social area, is showing signs of its age. The Club has outlined plans to redevelop both its changing rooms and clubhouse through an ambitious project which will see the creation of a two story dedicated clubhouse and function room facility, in addition to its pre-existing clubhouse and changing facilities being upgraded into a dedicated changing pavilion which will be compliant with the latest RFU specifications. To do this, its current 1st xv pitch will be rotated which in turn, will allow for a new carpark to be created. However, the provision of extra car parking will reduce the overall pitch space available unless extra land is secured, as previously indicated.

Berkhamsted RUFC report that facilities at Berkhamsted Hockey Club are adequate for the needs of the Club. Given the Club generally only uses the site for one fixture every other week (based on the one senior team playing on a home vs away basis) facilities are sufficient to accommodate this level of demand with no quality issues identified.

Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC highlight that it has outgrown its clubhouse facilities which were built over 50 years ago. The Club has seen significant growth since the creation of its ancillary facilities and the current clubhouse and changing facilities are insufficient in both overall quality and size. The Club specifically note that its current facility offering cannot adequately accommodate women's and girl's rugby and that the kitchen struggles to prepare food for post match meals.

Ancillary facilities at school sites are generally considered to be of sufficient quality if pitches were to be gained for both mini and junior rugby union.

5.3: Demand

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

Competitive play

There are three community rugby union clubs based in Dacorum; Berkhamsted RUFC, Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC and Tring RUFC. Berkhamsted RUFC operates a single senior men's team and has no mini or junior section.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Competitive play for mini and junior teams mainly consists of friendly matches against other local clubs; with training weekends often built in to the season, allowing players to develop core skills and tactical awareness. Junior teams will also compete in County level cup competitions as an introduction to competition rugby. Colts teams, U17 (Junior) and U19 (Senior) often compete in organised league structures, providing frequent competitive fixtures, with the leagues acting as a bridge to senior rugby.

Table 5.8: Summary of club demand

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams			
		Senior (19+)	Colts (17-19)	Junior (13-16)	Mini (6-12)
Berkhamsted RUFC	Tring	1	-	-	-
Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC	Hemel	3	2	3	6
Tring RUFC	Tring	3	1	9	7
Total		7	3	12	13

Table 5.9: Summary of overall demand

Team play	No. of rugby union teams			
	Senior (19+)	Colts (17-19)	Junior (13-16)	Mini (6-12)
Club leagues	7	3	3	1
Club friendlies/infrequent	-	-	9	12
University leagues	-	-	-	-
Total	7	3	12	13

Training demand

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

An alternative to training on floodlit grass pitches is via a World Rugby compliant 3G pitches. For an AGP to be suitable for contact rugby, it must have a 3G surface and must be approved by World Rugby (WR). A WR compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality. The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. There are no dedicated World Rugby Compliant 3G pitches in Dacorum, however, there is one located at Aylesbury Rugby Club (Aylesbury Vale District) which borders onto the Tring Analysis Area.

As mentioned in Part 3, the RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Tring RUFC does not have any permanent floodlighting at its site on Cow Lane but does access portable floodlighting to accommodate its demand. The Club's senior teams collectively train on Tuesday and Thursdays with around 50 players on Tuesdays and 30 players on Thursdays in attendance with an average training time of 1.5 hours on each night. In addition to this, the Club's junior teams train on Wednesdays for an hour each (this demand equates to an average of ten junior/colts' teams accessing senior pitches midweek for training). Collectively this demand equates to 8.5 match sessions per week. On occasional Thursdays, the senior first team access the 3G pitch at Aylesbury Rugby Club.

Berkhamsted RUFC trains at its home site at Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club. Similar to Tring RUFC, pitches are not floodlit so temporary floodlighting is used. The Club's one senior team trains twice per week for around 1.5 hours. This demand translates to two match equivalent sessions per week.

Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC has access to two floodlit senior pitches which accommodates all its midweek training demand. The Club's four senior teams train on both Tuesday and Thursday for around 1.5 hours and each of its U13, U14, U15, U16 train for around an hour every Wednesday or Friday. In total, this demand equates to 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Infrequent play

The RFU has plans to encourage participants which have previously played rugby union to re-engage through participation as part of a more casual sporting offer. The league will provide opportunities for teams and players which are unable to play weekly or frequently for various reasons and will operate on an occasional basis. The league will also act as an entry point for newly created clubs and provide competitive opportunities. Matches will take place outside of peak time for senior rugby (Saturday PM), with Friday evenings or midweek being the most likely times for matches to take place.

Touch rugby

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.

O2 touch rugby are 90 minutes long sessions 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. Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC (Dacorum) run sessions on Mondays at 7pm.

Walking rugby

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. At present there are no formal walking rugby sessions taking place in Dacorum.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Use of artificial pitches

Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost. Further detail on use of 3G pitches can be found in Part 3: Third Generation Artificial Pitches.

In December 2015, the RFU announced plans to increase the supply of available World Rugby (WR) certified pitches across the country as part of its Investment Strategy. This is to be made up of 60 pitches on rugby club sites, with a further 40 pitches on other community based sites with usage agreements securing capacity for use by local rugby clubs and groups. The RFU believes increased investment into 3G pitches will allow it to sustain and grow participation in the game given increasing pressure on grass pitches, changing player expectations, competition from other sports investing in artificial pitches and changing weather conditions.

Exported/imported demand

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 within the study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. At present, Tring RUFC exports some training demand out of the Borough, but this is not a perceived issue given the proximity to Aylesbury Rugby Club.

There is no identified demand imported into the Borough to access natural turf rugby union provision.

Unmet/latent demand

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

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. No club reports any unmet or latent demand.

Future demand

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

Participation increases

Tring RUFC aspires to further develop its women's and girls' section. The Club wants to develop a dedicated U15 and U18 girls' team in addition to a senior women's team. This total demand equates to 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. It is considered that all new teams will be based at Cow Lane for both matches and training.

Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC aspires to develop a further senior men's team, a senior ladies team and two further mini teams. This equates to a total future demand of 1.5 of match equivalent sessions of demand for competitive match play.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Further to this, the Club is working in partnership with Adeyfield School through the RFU All Schools programme which is likely to increase participation at junior age levels. As the Club operates a full complement of junior teams, it is likely that increased demand will contribute to pre-existing squads rather than create new teams.

Berkhamsted RUFC reports no aspiration for developing further teams currently.

Population increases

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 (2036).

Table 5.10: Team generation rates (2036) (Dacorum wide)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group ²⁴	Predicted future number of teams (2036)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (19-45)	25,847	9	1:2872	26,267	9	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	26,360	0	0	26,388	0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	5,193	9	1:577	6,460	11	2
Junior Girls (13-18)	5,198	1	1:5198	6,254	1	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	11,780	12	1:982	12,468	12	0

When TGRs are applied to Dacorum as a whole, the forecasted growth in demand is considered sufficient to lead to the creation of two additional junior boys' team. When TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas it is shown that one junior boys' team will be established in both the Hemel and Tring analysis areas. TGRs do not forecast demand for other age groups or in other analysis areas, increasing enough to create new teams; it is considered that any increase in demand will merge with pre-existing playing squads.

It is important to note that TGRs are based exclusively on population figures and do not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as CRC coaching activity within schools linking to local clubs or NGB aims as part of the Whole Sport Plan.

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 traditional reduction in participation numbers at this time and it is hoped that by addressing the decrease and offering alternative match times then clubs may be able to retain a larger number of players.

This is not the sole focus of the RFU, which is developing junior participation within Dacorum based on a model of coaching sessions delivered in schools and local communities. Intentions are to form junior teams from these training groups which are linked to local schools and will use pitches at school sites, in some cases also linking to existing clubs to provide a performance pathway.

²⁴ There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Please note there is just one dedicated girls' team in Dacorum and that team generation rates automatically predict that no further demand will be created in the future as it takes current participation as a baseline. An increase in population could potentially result in the creation of further dedicated female teams, particularly with female rugby being a focus for the RFU.

Education

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools; however, the RFU is also active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012. This aims to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to a local team of RFU rugby development officers (RDOs) which deliver coaching sessions and offer support to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme. As mentioned earlier, Adeyfield School is part of the RFU All Schools programme and is directly linked to Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior men's teams play at this time, with senior women's teams generally playing on Sundays.

Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

5.6: Capacity analysis

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

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

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ Use of school pitches by schools increases demand by one match equivalent session, unless school activity levels are known.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch.
- ◀ For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
- ◀ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ◀ Senior 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.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.

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

Table 5.11: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

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

**DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Table 5.12: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Dacorum

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)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted	Yes – unused	Unsecure	1	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	No	1	1.5	0.5	Potential spare capacity on pitch.
9	Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club	Tring	Yes	Unsecure	2	Senior	M1/D1	Standard	No	1.5	4	2.5	Site has potential spare capacity.
28	Chaulden Lane Playing Field	Hemel	Yes	Secure	1	Junior	M0/D1	Poor	No	1	1.5	0.5	All pitch types have potential spare capacity. Note none of these pitches are senior size.
					7	Mini	M0/D1	Poor	No	3	10.5	9	
35	Tring RUFC	Tring	Yes	Secure	3	Senior	M2/D1	Good	No	15	9	6	Senior pitches are overplayed through a combination of midweek training and match play. Potential spare capacity of mini pitches.
					4	Mini	M1/D1	Standard	No	3.5	8	6.5	
				Unsecure	4	Mini	M1/D1	Standard	No	3	8	7	
47	Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC	Hemel	Yes	Secure	2	Senior	M1/D0	Poor	Yes	9	3	6	Both floodlit senior pitches are cumulatively overplayed by six match equivalent sessions per week. Non-floodlit pitch at capacity through match play. Potential spare capacity on mini pitch.
					1	Senior	M1/D0	Poor	No	2	2	-	
					1	Mini	M1/D1	Standard	No	1	2	1	
57	John F Kennedy Roman Catholic School	Hemel	Yes – unused	Unsecure	2	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	No	2	3	1	Potential spare capacity on pitches.
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern	Yes – unused	Unsecure	2	Senior	M0/D0	Poor	No	1	1	-	Pitches at capacity through curricular use.
87	Sportspace Tring	Tring	Yes	Unsecure	2	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	No	3	3	-	Pitches at capacity through curricular use and adhoc matches from Tring RUFC juniors.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Actual spare capacity

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

Pitches located at education and 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. Given this, no spare capacity at school sites is considered to exist.

When breaking pitches down into specific type, for senior pitches, there is actual spare capacity located at Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club. This has, however, been discounted due to the site being owned by the hockey club and not Berkhamsted RUFC and therefore the future of access to the pitches cannot be guaranteed.

The remaining potential spare capacity is located on either junior or mini rugby union pitches. Whilst there is identified potential spare capacity throughout the week on these pitch types, in reality, these are at capacity during the peak period for junior/mini rugby (Sunday AM). As such, it is not considered that these pitch types can accommodate further mini activity without impeding on the remaining stock of senior pitches within Dacorum.

Overplay

Five pitches in Dacorum are overplayed. Two are located at Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC. These pitches are used to accommodate both match and training demand; and are overplayed by an accumulative six match equivalent sessions per week. The remaining pitches are located at Tring RUFC. The three senior pitches on site are also overplayed by total of six match equivalent sessions per week. This is due to these pitches accommodating the Club's senior, colts and junior match demand, as well as the majority of training demand for these teams.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.

Total future demand in Dacorum is based on adding population and participation increases (reported club development plans).

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.13: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches

Local authority	Actual spare capacity ²⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Berkhamsted	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Villages	-	-	-	-	-
Hemel	-	4.5	6	1.75	7.75
Southern	-	-	-	-	-
Tring	-	2.5	6	1.75	7.75
Dacorum	-	7	12	3.5	15.5

There is a currently an overall shortfall of senior rugby union pitches in Dacorum totalling seven match equivalent sessions per week. This is solely attributed to overplay at Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC and Tring RUFC; located in the Hemel and Tring analysis areas respectively.

When future demand is considered the current shortfall is exacerbated to 10.5 match equivalent sessions; with anticipated increases in both the Tring and Hemel analysis areas (with growth attributed to both Tring RUFC and Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC).

5.5: Conclusions

In summary, the current supply of rugby union provision is insufficient to accommodate current demand at both Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC and Tring RUFC.

When accounting for future growth, shortfalls are expected to be exacerbated in both the Hemel and Tring analysis areas.

Rugby union summary

- ▶ **Having considered supply and demand, an overall shortfall is evident to service senior demand in Dacorum.**
- ▶ **When accounting for future growth generated through TGRs and aspirations from Tring RUFC shortfalls are exacerbated to a total of 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week.**
- ▶ There is a total of 15 senior, eight junior and 18 mini pitches in Dacorum, provided across 12 sites. Of these, 14 senior pitches, one junior and 16 mini pitches are available for community use.
- ▶ Of the senior pitches available for community use, three are good quality, two are standard and nine are poor.
- ▶ There are three clubs operating within Dacorum; Berkhamsted RUFC, Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC and Tring RUFC.
- ▶ Berkhamsted RUFC has unsecure tenure at Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club. The Club has a one year agreement to use pitches at the site.
- ▶ Ancillary provision at Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) are poor quality and in need of modernisation.
- ▶ Tring RUFC aspires to redevelop its home ground which will include the rotation of its 1st xv pitch which will enable a two story clubhouse to be developed in addition to reconstruction of its current changing facilities.
- ▶ Tring Sports Forum has a proposal for land at Dunsley Farm for it to be turned into a sporting hub linked to its promotion through the Local Plan for residential, community and employment purposes.

²⁵ In match equivalent sessions

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

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

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

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

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

For senior hockey 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 & three metres at the ends. England Hockey'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.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

Club consultation

There are two hockey clubs based in Dacorum; Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC and Tring HC. Both clubs were responsive to consultation requests resulting in a 100% response rate. In addition, consultation was also undertaken with England Hockey to gather a strategic overview.

6.2: Supply

There is one full size AGP in Dacorum located at Tring Sports Centre (Tring Analysis Area). In addition to this, there are five small sided pitches spread across the Borough.

The full size AGP at Tring Sport Centre and the small sided AGPs at Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre and Longdean Sport Centre are fully available for community use. The remaining three small sided pitches are not available for community use.

Table 6.2: AGP summary

Site ID	Site name	Size	Size (m)	Community use?	Analysis area	Floodlit?
87	Tring Sport Centre	Full	100 x 60	Yes	Tring	Yes
6	Beechwood Park School	Half	74 x 50	No	Eastern Villages	No
12	Berkhamsted School (Castle Campus)	Half	70 x 40	No	Berkhamsted	No
20	Bridgewater Primary School	Half	30 x 16	No	Berkhamsted	No
85	Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre	Half	50 x 30	Yes	Hemel	Yes
86	Longdean Sport Centre	Half	36 x 30	Yes	Hemel	No

Development aspirations

Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club aspires to deliver a full size hockey AGP on its home site; Cow Roast. The land lies within an AONB and therefore gaining planning permission to develop the site for hockey is likely to be challenging.

RAF Halton

RAF Halton has a full size hockey suitable AGP on its site and is located in neighbouring authority, Aylesbury Vale. The pitch is accessed by both community hockey clubs in Dacorum and is strategically important for accommodating midweek training and matches. It has been announced by the MoD that the site will close in 2022 and there has been no formal decision made over what will happen to existing provision on site.

Ownership/management

The three community available AGPs are all currently managed by leisure operator; Everyone Active. However, in Spring 2019, management of Tring Sports Centre will be passed back to the School.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Security of tenure

Neither Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead or Tring hockey clubs are identified as having secure tenure on AGPs accessed for hockey. Each club rents pitches on an annual basis to accommodate for both training and fixtures.

This has not been identified as a key issue in Dacorum. However, it is recognised nationally that hockey clubs without secure tenure may be forced to relocate to alternate venues if pitch providers no longer allow access to pitches utilised for hockey use. Furthermore, it is an aspiration of Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead Hockey Club to manage an AGP of its own.

Availability

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

The AGP at Tring Sport Centre is available from Monday to Friday from 17:00 – 22:00 and 08:30 – 20:00 on both Saturday and Sunday. Therefore, the pitch is fully available during the peak period (34 hours).

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, 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, on-going repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

The AGP at Tring Sport Centre is standard quality. It was built in 1995 and refurbished in 2010 with its carpet currently being nine years old. Consultation with Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC identifies that the pitch is of an adequate quality but note that it has worsened in recent years as a result of high usage levels. Likewise, Tring HC state that the pitch is of an adequate quality.

Given that the average lifespan of an AGP carpet is ten years, it is expected that the pitch at Tring Sports Centre will require surfacing in the next two years to ensure it remains fit for competitive hockey.

Ancillary facilities

Access to ancillary facilities at school sites can often be restricted or limited for security reasons where changing rooms may be located in the main school building or where there is a lack of staffing to open and manage access. Schools also often have limited budget amongst other competing requirements for investment to make any qualitative improvements to changing provision, consequently they are often tired, dated and in need of modernisation.

Tring Sports Centre is a dual use leisure facility and therefore has no restricted access to changing rooms at the site. Tring HC highlight that the quality of the changing facilities is poor with the room being inadequately sized for competitive hockey teams and toilet facilities being dated.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Both clubs access alternative provision to accommodate their social activity; Tring HC rents Tring CC on an annual basis and uses the site for its post match activities and function events which it reports as being of an overall good quality for its needs. Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC has freehold of its own site at Cow Roast. The clubhouse accommodates a bar and function area and it is generally considered to be of an overall good quality. The site also has changing rooms and appropriate carparking for the site, albeit the surface of the carpark is poor and could be improved through a resurfacing in the future, if required.

6.3: Demand

Competitive play

In total, two community clubs play competitive fixtures in Dacorum. This level of demand translates to a total of 444 affiliated hockey players in the area. It should be noted that these figures do not account for levels of informal or recreational hockey in Dacorum.

Community club hockey is generally played on Saturdays throughout the day in competitive England Hockey leagues.

Table 6.3: Competitive hockey teams playing in Dacorum

Clubs	No. of competitive teams playing on AGPs in Dacorum			Affiliation figures 17/18	Membership trends over previous three years
	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors*		
Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC	5	4	-	218	Teams have remained static.
Tring HC	2	3	-	226	Decline in senior men's membership.
Total number of teams	7	7	-	444	

Both Tring and Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead hockey clubs have substantial junior sections, despite no formalised junior teams being identified. Based on 2017/2018 England Hockey affiliation data, the clubs have 122 and 66 junior members respectively with members aged below 13 years and therefore unable to adjoin existing senior teams. These players generally play in festival formats on an ad hoc basis throughout the hockey season.

EH Player Pathway

The Player Pathway (PP) is the junior talent development pathway. It encompasses the whole of the hockey landscape which includes club and school activity as well as the PP Development Centres (DCs). The purpose of the PP is to provide development opportunities for young people, which are 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.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Development Centres (DCs) and Academy Centres (ACs)

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

Performance Centre (PC)

A PC is a training centre for the U15 and U17 age groups. Merchant Taylors Sport Complex is utilised as a Performance Centre for the Hertfordshire region.

Displaced demand

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

Both Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC and Tring HC are identified as exporting demand outside of Dacorum.

Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC exports both training and competitive match demand outside of the Borough into neighbouring authority, Aylesbury Vale. The Club accesses both RAF Halton and Meadowcroft Open Space to accommodate its demand. Likewise, Tring HC also accesses the same sites for its training and match day use.

Cumulatively, there is 3.45 hours of training demand exported outside of the authority as demand for access at Tring Sports Centre cannot be satisfied. Furthermore, there is an average of six teams (three match equivalent sessions) exported to the aforementioned pitches to accommodate competitive match play.

Training demand

Access to AGPs for midweek training is important to sustain and grow all formats of hockey. Currently, all clubs are identified as accessing suitable provision to train midweek. There is no identified unmet or latent demand for access to pitches midweek. In total, between both community hockey clubs in Dacorum, there is a total of 10.5 hours of midweek use identified.

Table 6.4: Training demand

Club	Training venue	Hours	Total midweek training use
Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC	Tring Sports Centre	2	6.5
	RAF Halton	1.45	
	Berkhamsted School (Castle Campus)	2.5	
Tring HC	Tring Sports Centre	4	6
	RAF Halton	2	
Total			12.5*

* Includes a cumulative 4.5 hours of junior training from Tring HC at Tring Sport Centre and Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC at Berkhamsted School on Sunday mornings.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

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 aside 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.

Nationally, since 2012, hockey has seen a 65% increase in juniors taking up the sport within the club environment. This increase is expected to continue across all age groups in the future, especially given the success of Great Britain's women's team in the 2016 Rio Olympics and the anticipated legacy impact.

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

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

Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC aspires to further develop its senior section by creating an additional ladies' team. In addition to this, it wants to quadruple demand in its junior section (equating to circa 264 junior members). While junior members do not participate in competitive matches during the peak period, there remains to accommodate this level of demand on Sunday mornings. If this level of demand is achieved, it is also likely that there will be an increase of competitive playing members in senior teams which is likely to create further organic growth.

Tring HC highlights that it does not have any structured plans to create additional playing teams but notes that its junior section is large and additional teams may be created organically.

Peak time demand

Most men's and women's hockey teams currently play matches on a Saturday therefore this is considered to be the peak time for use of AGPs for competitive play.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

The PPS guidance considers a floodlit pitch as able to accommodate a maximum of four match equivalent sessions (MES) on a Saturday with teams playing in a home and away format, as such this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight "home" teams. Team play matches on home v away formats and therefore one team requires 0.5 match sessions per week on its "home" AGP.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.5: Supply and demand analysis of used AGPs for Saturday match play

Site ID	Site	Club users	Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions available at peak time	Current play (MES)	Overall capacity
87	Tring Sport Centre	Tring HC	Tring Area	4	4	-
		Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC				

The AGP at Tring Sport Centre is at capacity for competitive match play. The pitch accommodates four competitive matches during the peak period (eight teams) and therefore cannot accommodate further play.

Furthermore, when considering the impact of future demand, if materialised, further access to an AGP will be required during the peak time period to accommodate growth from Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC. Likewise, if organic growth at either hockey club is achieved, this will further exacerbate capacity issues.

When accounting for exported demand from both Tring and Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead hockey clubs for match play (equating to three match equivalent sessions) there is a clear and obvious need for further full size hockey provision within the Tring Analysis Area.

Conclusions

The current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered insufficient to accommodate the current levels of hockey demand both at peak time for match demand and for midweek training requirements.

The priority for hockey in Dacorum is to explore opportunities to deliver a new full size hockey suitable AGP within Tring Analysis Area to accommodate both current and future demand of Tring and Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead hockey clubs. There is also a requirement to resurface the AGP at Tring Sport Centre in the next two to three years to ensure that the pitch can continued to be used for competitive hockey in the future.

Further to this, a key issue for hockey in Dacorum is the potential closure of RAF Halton in 2022 (Aylesbury), which is accessed by both Tring and Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead hockey clubs for training and matches. If the site is to close, or access can no longer be granted, then there will be a need to accommodate all match sessions and training demand elsewhere in Dacorum.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Hockey summary

- ◀ **There is an insufficient supply of hockey pitches within Dacorum to accommodate current and future demand for both training and fixtures.**
- ◀ There is one full size hockey AGP in Dacorum, located at Tring Sports Centre.
- ◀ There are five small sided hockey AGPs across the Borough of which one is available for community use, located at Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre.
- ◀ The full size AGP at Tring Sport Centre is standard quality, but it is acknowledged it is nearer its end of life expectancy and will require resurfacing in the next few years.
- ◀ Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC has aspirations to deliver a full size hockey AGP at its home site; Cow Roast.
- ◀ It has been announced by the MoD that RAF Halton will close in 2022 and there has been no formal decision made of what will happen to existing provision on site. If the site is to close, further demand will need to be accommodated in the Tring Analysis Area.
- ◀ There are two community clubs in Dacorum; Tring HC and Berkhamsted & Hemel Hempstead HC. Both clubs are based within the Tring Analysis Area.
- ◀ Affiliated demand for hockey totals 444 players. This does not account for people playing in informal formats of hockey.
- ◀ Tenure on AGPs for each community club is unsecure with no community user agreements identified.
- ◀ There are high levels of displaced demand outside of Dacorum to accommodate both matches and training.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 7: GOLF

7.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 650,000 members belonging to one of 1900 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. Nationally, it is governed by England Golf. The role of the NGB includes providing competitions for all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules and introducing new golfers via its initiative 'get into golf'.

As of March 2017, England Golf solely oversees the Whole Sport Plan and receive golf's National Lottery grant under Sport England's strategy. England Golf's Whole Sport Plan identifies how England will achieve its vision of becoming 'the leading golf nation in the world by 2020' from grass roots through to elite level.

Since 2004, participation in golf and club membership has been in decline, with only recent signs showing that the reduction may be levelling off.

7.2: Supply

There are four golf courses situated within Dacorum, as follows:

- ◀ Ashridge Golf Club
- ◀ Berkhamsted Golf Club
- ◀ Little Hay Golf Club
- ◀ Shendish Manor Golf Club

There is also a separate driving range in Dacorum at Berkhamsted Golf Range. It has 22 covered bays and was refurbished in 2016.

There are nine golf courses within a 20-minute drive of Dacorum across six authorities. Of particular note (due its size and proximity to Dacorum) is Chesham and Ley Hill Golf Club in Chiltern which is likely to have members from Dacorum.

For the location of the courses currently servicing the Borough, please see the figure overleaf.

Management

Of the four golf courses in Dacorum, three are privately owned and Little Hay Golf Club is a municipal course.

Course facilities

Ashridge Golf Club consists of a partially covered driving range, practice putting greens, a short game area and a practice net in addition to the 18-hole course.

Berkhamsted Golf Club is an 18-hole, heathland golf course established in 1890. There is also a PGA Professional based at the club to offer tuition to adults or juniors.

Little Hay Golf Club is located at Little Hay Golf Complex, which is a municipal site run by SportSpace. There is an 18-hole golf course, pitch and putt, driving range and FootGolf on site. There is one PGA Professional offering a range of adult and junior coaching.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Designed to USPGA specifications, Shendish Manor Golf Club hosts an 18-hole, 5,660 yard, Par 70 course with a mix of hazards through both parkland and woodland copses.

Table 7.1: Summary of Golf courses in Dacorum

Site ID	Course name	Holes	Par	Yardage ²⁶		
114	Ashridge Golf Club	18	72	6,368	6,045	5,643
115	Berkhamsted Golf Club	18	71	6,605	6,220	5,773
119	Little Hay Golf Complex	18	71	6,300	6,030	5,466
120	Shendish Manor Golf Club	18	70	5,660	5,556	5,036

Figure 7.1: Location of Golf courses in Dacorum with 20 minute drive time catchment

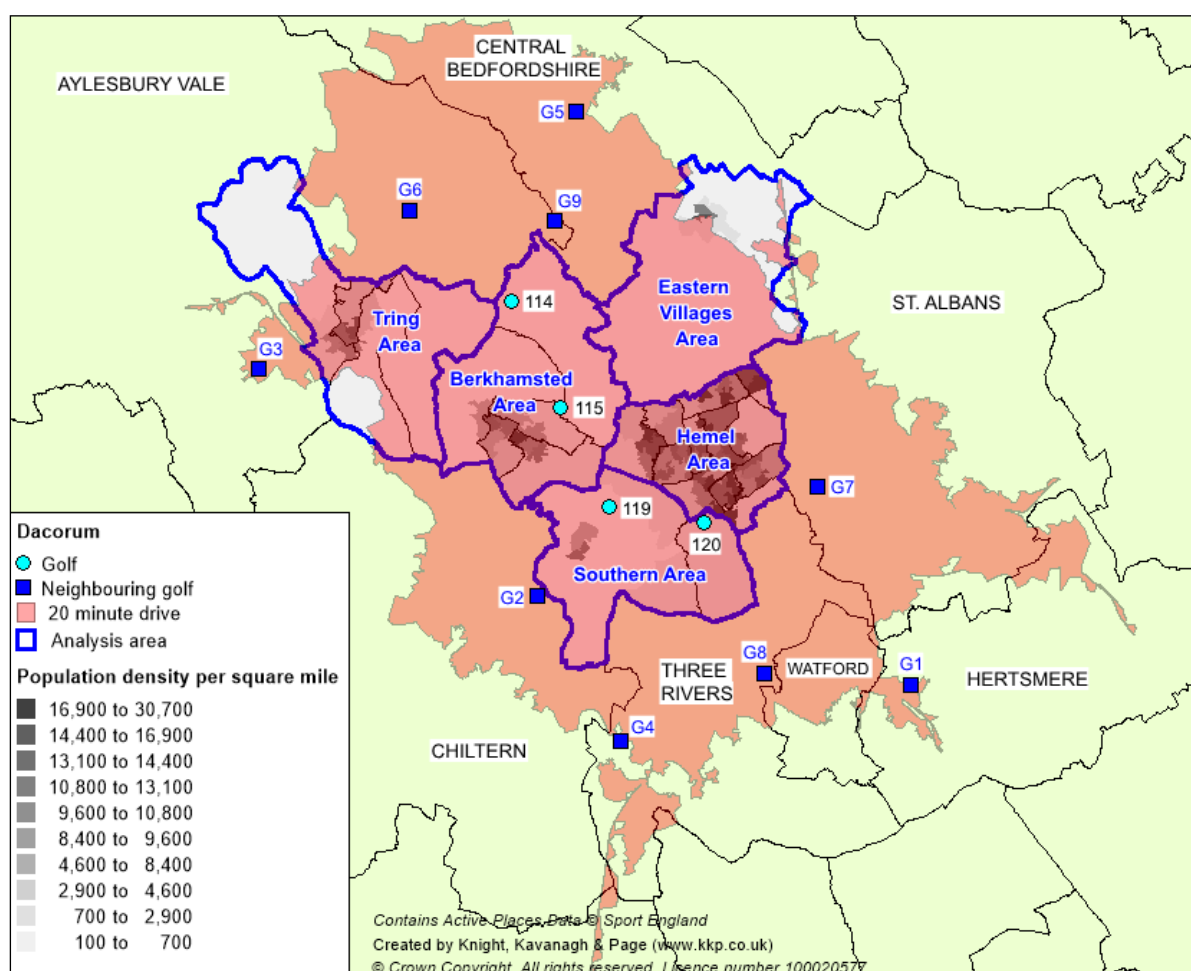


Table 7.2: Neighbouring golf facilities within 20 minute catchment

Map ID	Site	District
G3	Chiltern Forest Golf Club	Aylesbury Vale
G6	Ivinghoe Golf Club	Aylesbury Vale
G9	Whipsnade Park Golf Club	Aylesbury Vale
G5	Dunstable Downs Golf Club	Central Bedfordshire
G2	Chesham And Ley Hill Golf Club	Chiltern
G1	Aldenham Golf Club	Hertsmere

²⁶ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Map ID	Site	District
G7	The Centurion Golf Course	St. Albans
G4	Chorleywood Golf Club	Three Rivers
G8	The Grove	Three Rivers

Quality

All of these courses are considered to be good quality, with a dedicated maintenance regime carried out at each facility.

Ancillary facilities

Golf clubs need multiple revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a clubhouse can often be key for golf clubs as it can provide an income stream, not only from members but also through hiring the venue out for occasions (e.g. wedding receptions).

Opened in March 2003, Ashridge Golf Club's clubhouse consists of a dining room, lounge and bar.

Berkhamsted Golf Club has a clubhouse with a bar and restaurant to accommodate private functions and wedding receptions throughout the year.

Little Hay Golf Complex is also home to a bar and restaurant. The suite is a function and events venue for private dining, parties, conferences.

The 18-hole golf course at Shendish Manor is just part of the offer on site. Shendish Manor also operates as a hotel with bar and restaurant.

Membership and costs

Nationally, many clubs have begun to alter their pricing structure to allow for discounted rates following a decline in golf participation, with England Golf determining that clubs are more likely to experience growth with flexible membership packages. For instance, some now offer a five-day membership (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not during a weekend), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21). Previously, many clubs throughout the country had a waiting list for membership but that is rarely the case in the present day.

In Dacorum, all four courses offer memberships and pay and play green fees. That being said, most clubs in the area are primarily membership clubs.

Table 7.3: Summary of costs in Dacorum

Club name	Cost summary
Ashridge Golf Club	Full membership at Ashridge Golf Club is limited and so, the club must be contacted directly in order to register interest in becoming a member and view prices. Green fees are charged at £75pp in the summer or £65pp in the winter. A 36-hole option is also available in the summer for £100pp.
Ashridge Golf Club (Artisans)	No membership prices are available online.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club name	Cost summary
Berkhamsted Golf Club	<p>Membership prices at Berkhamsted Golf Club varies depending on age. Prices start at £105 for 10-15 year olds and increase to £1,596 for 30+ year olds. Joining fees also apply to new male members. These are charged at £275 for 25-29 year olds, £525 for 30-34 year olds, £1,050 for 35-39 year olds and £2,100 for 40+ year olds. Social memberships are also available for £336.</p> <p>For green fees, guests of members are charged at £27.50 or £15 for juniors. During the week, non-members are charged at £55, or £25 for juniors. At the weekend an adult round increases to £60 but junior prices remain at £25. Five-day members are entitled to a discounted green fee at weekends of £27.50. County card holders are also charged at £40.</p>
Little Hay Golf Club	<p>Little Hay Golf Club and Little Hay Golf Complex operate separately and therefore, membership to Little Hay Golf Club does not include green fees or use of the course. Membership to the club is currently offered for six months and is charged at £45 for adults, £31 for seniors (60 and over), £22 for intermediates (18 to 24) and £11 for juniors (under 18s).</p> <p>Membership is also available from the complex which does include unlimited access to the courses on site, however, the prices for this are not online. The complex also offer a 'Player Card' free of charge which provides a small discount each time they play on the course.</p> <p>For pay and play, there are a wide range of prices dependent on the time of day, weekday or weekend, the age of the player and whether the player holds a Player Card or not. Therefore, prices range from £27.50 for an adult weekend round to £7.70 for a junior dusk weekday round.</p>
Shendish Manor Golf Club	<p>No membership prices are displayed online.</p> <p>For pay and play, a midweek round is £22 for non-members, £17 for seniors (over 60s) and £14 for juniors (16 and under). Twilight rounds are also available from 3pm for £16.50. At weekends, these prices increase to £29.50 for non-members, £24.50 for seniors, £18.50 for juniors and £21 for a twilight round.</p> <p>Discounted rates are available for hotel guests, guests of members and emergency services workers. The discounted rate is £16.50 for a midweek round or £21.50 at the weekend.</p>

Hertfordshire Golf National Passport

The Hertfordshire Golf Union currently run a County Card scheme which was renamed the Hertfordshire Golf National Passport in 2014. This passport is provided free of charge to all Hertfordshire Golf affiliated members over the age of 18, as part of their annual county affiliation fee. In return for this card, players will gain access to approximately 1,300 courses in many English counties at reduced rates. Rates are generally reduced by 25-50%.

In Dacorum, Berkhamsted and Shendish Manor golf clubs are members of the County Card scheme and therefore can be accessed at a reduced rate by holders.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

7.3: Demand

England Golf's Club Membership Questionnaire (2018) highlights that the average number of members per golf course nationally is 484. As a breakdown, this consists of 381 adult males, 70 adult females, 27 junior boys and six junior girls.

In Dacorum, only Ashridge and Berkhamsted golf clubs have a larger than average membership base. All of the other golf clubs in the area are significantly below the national average.

Table 7.4: Summary of demand

Club name	Current membership
Ashridge Golf Club	657
Ashridge Golf Club (Artisans)	30
Berkhamsted Golf Club	650
Little Hay Golf Club	184
Shendish Manor Golf Club	142

Despite the varying levels of membership, it must be noted that each club will have a different financial model in terms of income generation from membership versus green fees. This means that further exploration is required before determining that clubs with a low membership base are unsustainable.

Participation trends

Nationally, the average number of members per golf club has increased slightly from 460 in 2016 compared to 484 in 2018. A total of 38% of clubs saw an increase in membership over this time-period. Clubs showing growth are increasingly offering more tailored packages, which provide flexibility and cater for less traditional golfers. These include flexible, points-based memberships for those who are time poor, corporate packages which provide opportunities to network, academy/trial memberships for those getting into the game and student/intermediate offers to enable younger people to manage the cost of a significant outlay.

In Dacorum, membership at Ashridge and Berhamstead golf clubs has increased since 2015, whilst membership at Little Hay and Shendish Manor golf clubs has declined since 2015. Ashridge Artisans Golf Club has remained static over the same time-period.

Table 7.5: Summary of participation trends

Course name	2015 membership	2016 membership	2017 membership
Ashridge Golf Club	569	548	657
Ashridge Golf Club (Artisans)	30	28	30
Berkhamsted Golf Club	636	621	650
Little Hay Golf Club	239	234	184
Shendish Manor Golf Club	194	165	142

Whilst declining membership at Little Hay and Shendish Manor golf clubs is not an immediate cause for concern, support should be offered to ensure the downward trend does not continue.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

England Golf published the 'Raising Our Game' strategy in 2014, which defines its strategic direction up to 2017. The document highlights the need for a strategy to enhance market understanding of current golf facilities, which is identified as one of the key considerations to increasing participation. To enable this, market segmentation has been created that is specific to golf, identifying that 24% of adults in England are potential players. This is made up of 9% current players, 8% lapsed players and 7% latent players and amounts to around 9.6 million people in total.

The research also provides nine defined profiles and clearly identified behaviours, motivations and barriers within each one. The nine segments are:

- ◀ Relaxed members
- ◀ Older traditionalists
- ◀ Younger traditionalists
- ◀ Younger fanatics
- ◀ Late enthusiasts
- ◀ Occasional/time-pressed
- ◀ Social couples
- ◀ Casual fun

To align with this, a facility mapping tool has been created to provide a statistical data engine that identifies golfing demand within a 20-minute drive time of each facility within England using the segments above. The tool highlights the dominant profiles within each catchment area and also within access to each course. This can then be used to predict likely demand for each type of facility and can support informed marketing, development and investment decisions whilst allowing providers to adapt their offer to cater for a range of different needs.

The demand for golf within Dacorum by segment type is seen in the table below. The figures represent the number of people within each profile that are within a 20-minute drive time of each course. It is then averaged across the available courses to ensure no double counting.

Table 7.6: Summary of demand in Dacorum by segment

Segment no.	Segment name	Average number of people per affiliated facility (20-minute drive time)
1	Relaxed members	6,840
2	Older traditionalists	6,305
3	Younger Traditionalists	6,583
4	Younger fanatics	6,868
5	Younger actives	6,645
6	Late enthusiasts	6,591
7	Occasional time pressed	6,657
8	Social couples	6,414
9	Casual fun	7,138

In total, an average of 60,041 people are identified as current or potential users of golf courses within Dacorum. This demand is relatively evenly spread across the profiles, with "casual fun" generating the most demand and "older traditionalists" generating the least.

Each profile is applied on a facility by facility basis in the table overleaf.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 7.7: Summary of demand per course by profile type

Course name	Segment no.								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ashridge Golf Club	5,533	5,020	5,395	5,431	5,362	5,232	5,403	5,147	5,564
Berkhamsted Golf Club	4,902	4,558	4,789	4,969	4,785	4,747	4,820	4,584	5,134
Berkhamsted Golf Range	7,399	6,997	7,038	7,699	7,230	7,334	7,202	7,005	8,134
Little Hay Golf Club	7,887	7,236	7,584	7,847	7,651	7,558	7,662	7,400	8,134
Shendish Manor Golf Club	10,419	9,735	9,935	10,671	10,149	10,200	10,125	9,826	11,211

The table above summarises that demand is likely to be highest for Shendish Manor Golf Club, with 92,271 potential users, followed by Little Hay Golf Club, which has 68,959 potential users. Demand is lowest for Berkhamsted Golf Club, which has 43,288 potential users.

Given that it is difficult for one facility to cater for the needs of all potential members, there is clear scope for some clubs to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate. This way, all golfing profiles can be collectively catered for.

In order to increase membership and to target the golfing profiles detailed above, England Golf sets out the following key themes:

- ◆ Creating a welcoming environment
- ◆ Catering for a range of different needs
- ◆ Communicating regularly with members and visitors
- ◆ Developing facilities to broaden income streams
- ◆ Becoming part of the local community

FootGolf

FootGolf is a relatively new activity that is played on a golf course using a football. The object of the game is to get the ball into the hole using only your feet in the fewest number of shots possible. It is governed by the UK FootGolf Association.

Nationally, there are currently 160 recognised Golf courses that incorporate FootGolf, with many clubs recognising it as a chance to provide an income stream that can provide sustainability at a time when participation in the traditional game has decreased. The sport is generally played on a smaller than average courses, with Par 3 courses being ideal.

In Dacorum, there is currently one FootGolf course at Little Hay Golf Complex. The course is a nine-hole, 715 yard course. Footballs are provided and a nine-hole round is charged at £6 for adults, £4.20 for seniors and £3.50 for under 16s. A family ticket for two adults and two under 16s is also available for £13.50.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is significant demand for golf within Dacorum and the demand cuts across all nine golfing profiles as set out by England Golf. This is met with a good range of facilities that includes traditional 18-hole courses, shorter 9-hole courses and driving ranges that can be accessed on a casual basis.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Given the above, it is considered that the current supply of facilities can meet current and future demand. However, only two of the five golf clubs in Dacorum have higher than the national average membership bases. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on capitalising on untapped demand in Dacorum.

Currently, provision would appear to cater for segments such as “older traditionalists” which the smallest demand segment in Dacorum. Whilst non-traditional facilities also exist such as driving ranges, a pitch & putt course and a FootGolf course, these facilities may be insufficient to fully engage the ‘Casual fun’ segment which is the most prominent segment within the Borough.

Further analysis at club or facility level, along with some additional England Golf tools, can be used to better understand the existing members and visitors of each venue. This may help to establish a clearer picture of the overall facility landscape and how well it caters for the local demographic.

Golf summary

- ◀ **It is considered that the current supply of facilities in Dacorum can meet current and future demand, with emphasis placed on ensuring sites are able to retain current members and users as well as assisting them in capitalising on any untapped demand and future demand.**
- ◀ There are four golf courses within Dacorum.
- ◀ In addition, there is a standalone driving range (Berkhamsted Golf Range) and one dedicated FootGolf course (Little Hay Golf Complex).
- ◀ All of the clubs provide 18-hole courses. Little Hay Golf Complex also offers a six hole pitch and putt course.
- ◀ Quality is considered to be good at all courses in the Borough.
- ◀ All of the clubs within the Borough provide clubhouse provision with an array of facilities.
- ◀ In Dacorum, only Ashridge and Berkhamsted golf clubs have a larger than average membership base. All of the other golf clubs in the area are significantly below the national average.
- ◀ In total, an average of 60,041 people are identified as current or potential users of golf courses within Dacorum.
- ◀ Demand is likely to be highest for Shendish Manor Golf Club, with 92,271 potential users and lowest for Berkhamsted Golf Club, which has 43,288 potential users.
- ◀ Emphasis should be placed on capitalising on untapped demand in Dacorum to increase membership numbers of the smaller golf clubs.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 8: BOWLS

8.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Dacorum are flat greens. Bowls England is the NGB for flat green bowls with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance. Regionally, it is administered by the Hertfordshire Bowls.

The flat green bowling season runs from May to September.

Consultation

There are eight bowling clubs identified in Dacorum, all of which, completed an online survey resulting in a 100% response rate as shown below.

Table 8.1: Summary of responses

Club name	Responded?
Kings Langley BC	Yes
Berkhamsted BC	Yes
Bovingdon BC	Yes
Hemel Hempstead BC	Yes
Kitcheners BC	Yes
Little Gaddesden BC	Yes
Potten End BC	Yes
Tring BC	Yes

8.2: Supply

There are nine bowling greens in Dacorum located across eight sites, all of which, are available for community use.

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

Analysis area	Number of greens
Berkhamsted Area	4
Eastern Villages Area	0
Hemel Area	2
Southern Area	2
Tring Area	1
Dacorum	9

Four greens are located in the Berkhamsted Area and two greens each in the Hemel and Southern areas. There is a single flat green located in the Tring Area and no bowls provision located in the Eastern Villages Area.

Indoor bowls

Although there are no indoor bowls facilities in Dacorum, the majority of Dacorum's current population has access to an indoor bowls facility within a 30 minute drive. There are four indoor bowls facilities within 30 minutes' drive; the number of rinks at each varies from four through to eight.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.1: Flat greens in Dacorum

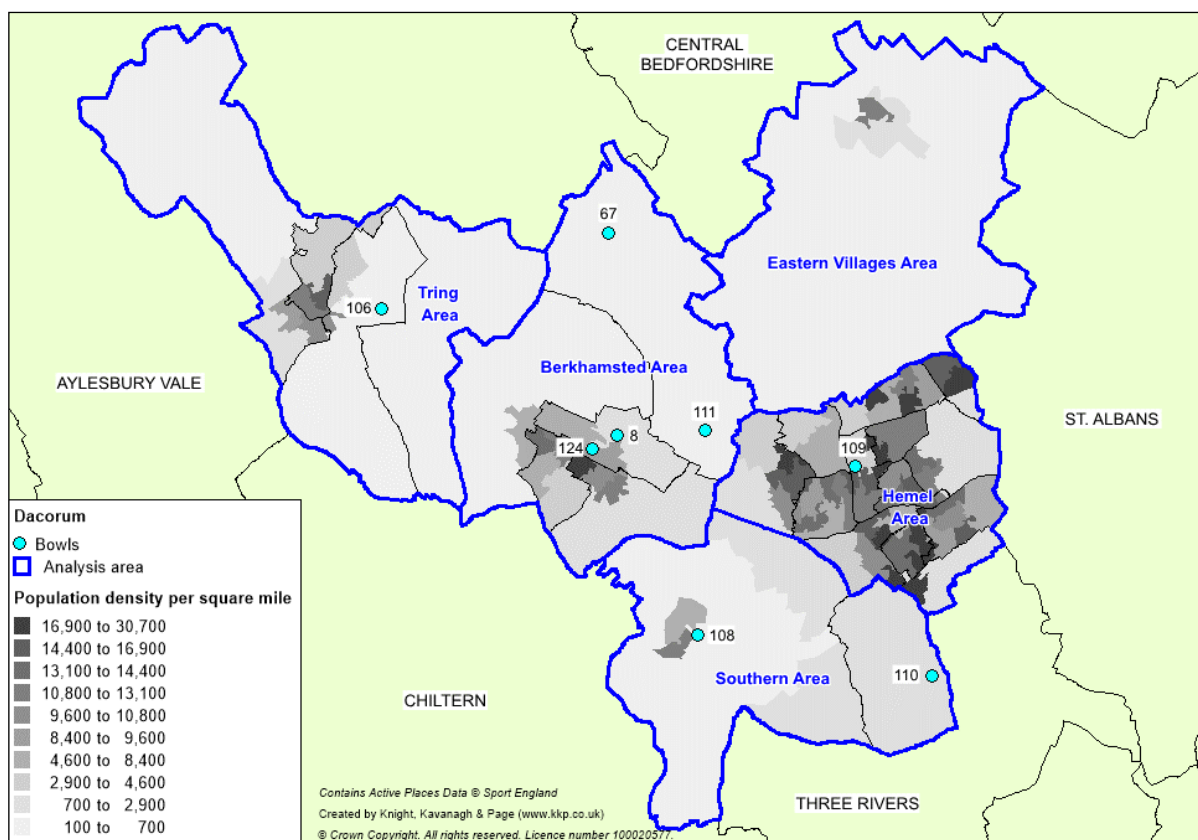


Table 8.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of greens
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club (Kitchener's Field)	Berkhamsted Area	1
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	1
106	Tring Bowls Club	Tring Area	1
108	Bovingdon Bowls Club	Southern Area	1
109	Hemel Hempstead Bowls Club	Hemel Area	2
110	Kings Langley Bowls Club	Southern Area	1
111	Potten End Bowls Club	Berkhamsted Area	1
124	Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club	Berkhamsted Area	1

Ownership/management

Of the eight responsive bowling clubs in Dacorum, Hemel Hempstead BC, Berkhamsted BC and Kings Langley BC rent or lease their respective greens from the Borough Council. Bovingdon and Little Gaddesden bowls clubs lease their greens from their respective parish councils whilst Kitchener's Bowls Club has a rental agreement with Berkhamsted School for use of its green. Tring BC and Potten End BC own their respective site/green.

Quality

Following a non-technical assessment of greens in Dacorum and consultation with clubs, five greens are assessed as good quality, one as standard quality and three as poor quality.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 8.4: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Number of greens	Quality of green
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club (Kitchener's Field)	1	Poor
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	1	Good
106	Tring Bowls Club	1	Good
108	Bovingdon Bowls Club	1	Good
109	Hemel Hempstead Bowls Club	2	Poor
110	Kings Langley Bowls Club	1	Good
111	Potten End Bowls Club	1	Standard
124	Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club	1	Good

The issues affecting the green at Berkhamsted Sports & Social Club and Hemel Hempstead BC include signs of wear and tear, leaf fall on the green and poor disabled access. Hemel Hempstead, Kitcheners and Bovingdon bowls clubs all note that the quality of their greens has deteriorated from the previous season.

Hemel Hempstead BC report that the quality of the Council's green maintenance has reduced due to lack of funds and resources. Both Kitcheners BC and Bovingdon BC state that the quality of their greens has deteriorated due to external factors, with last years hot summer and a bank surrounding the green subsiding reported respectively.

Only Kings Langley BC report that the quality of its green has improved which is due to an improved maintenance regime. Tring and Little Gaddesden bowls clubs note that there has been no change in the quality of their greens in recent years.

Ancillary facilities

All responding clubs all have access to a clubhouse/pavilion of good or standard quality. Although, there are no shower facilities at any of these sites.

Berkhamsted BC reports that its carparking capacity is insufficient at peak times. The Club has a total of 11 carparking spaces onsite and is reliant on the public carparking spaces provided at Canal Fields to accommodate peak time demand for matches.

Bowls England grants²⁷

Provided a club is affiliated to the Bowls England it is eligible to apply for a club loan. These loans can relate to a variety of ancillary issues, include the following:

- ◀ Fencing
- ◀ Car Parking
- ◀ New Pavilion
- ◀ Changing rooms

Clubs can repay these loans interest free over an eight year period. The highest amount available is £20,000.

²⁷ <https://www.bowlsengland.com/for-clubs/club-loans>

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Floodlighting

No greens in Dacorum are serviced by floodlighting which services the whole green. This means that opportunities for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months is limited. However, floodlit bowling greens are relatively rare across the country and this should not necessarily be considered an issue.

Potten End BC has low level floodlighting which service two rinks during poor light conditions.

8.3: Demand

Current demand

There are eight bowls clubs playing in Dacorum, seven of which, responded to consultation requests. Across the Borough, there is a current demand of 364 senior males, 188 senior females and 14 juniors.

Table 8.5: Current club membership for bowls clubs in Dacorum

Club name	Site	Current			
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior	Total
Hemel Hempstead BC	Hemel Hempstead Bowls Club	55	26	-	81
Little Gaddesden BC	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	25	11	-	36
Kings Langley BC	Kings Langley Bowls Club	49	34	1	84
Kitcheners BC	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	45	20	-	65
Tring BC	Tring Bowls Club	43	22	1	66
Bovingdon BC	Bovingdon Bowls Club	40	10	-	50
Potten End BC	Potten End Bowls Club	47	24	2	73
Berkhamsted BC	Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club	60	41	10	111
Total		364	188	14	566

Berkhamsted BC is the largest club with 111 members, whilst Little Gaddesden BC is the smallest with 36 members.

Despite there being a decline in senior membership for bowls nationally, three of the six responding clubs in Dacorum report that membership levels have increased over the last three years. Hemel Hempstead and Little Gaddesden bowls clubs note that their membership bases have remained relatively consistent, whilst Tring BC has had a slight decrease in membership.

Bovingdon BC also note that its green is only four-rinks and as such reports current demand for an additional two rinks to accommodate six rink fixtures.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

Using ONS projections (2018-2036)²⁸, the number of persons aged 65 and over living in Dacorum is likely to increase from 26,553 in 2018 to 38,488 in 2036, equivalent to an increase of 69%. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for bowling greens is likely to increase slightly in the future or at least remain static.

All the responding bowls clubs report ambitions of increasing their current membership base and none report having a waiting list. Total future demand aspirations across the eight Dacorum clubs equates to 104 members.

Table 8.6: Summary of club future demand aspirations

Club name	Future growth
Hemel Hempstead BC	10 senior and two junior members
Little Gaddesden BC	10 senior members
Kings Langley BC	10 senior and five junior members
Kitcheners BC	Six senior and four junior members
Tring BC	10 senior members
Bovingdon BC	10 senior members
Berkhamsted BC	10 senior and 10 junior members
Potten End BC	15 seniors and two junior members

Latent demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 225 people who would like to participate in the sport within Dacorum. The most dominant segment is 'Ralph & Phyllis' – Comfortable Retired Couples with 44 people (20%).

This latent demand is considerably higher than the figures identified in the neighbouring authorities of Three Rivers and Hertsmere, with 137 and 154 people respectively identified as wanting to play bowls but not currently doing so.

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

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

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

²⁸ There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 8.7: Supply & demand balance

Site ID	Site name	Clubs	Playing membership	Current capacity (members)	Future demand (members)	Future capacity (members)
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club (Kitchener's Field)	Kitcheners BC	65	-5	10	-15
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Little Gaddesden BC	36	24	10	14
106	Tring Bowls Club	Tring BC	66	-6	10	-16
108	Bovingdon Memorial Hall	Bovingdon BC	50	10	10	0
109	Hemel Hempstead Bowls Club	Hemel Hempstead BC	81	39	12	27
110	Kings Langley Bowls Club	Kings Langley BC	84	-24	15	-39
111	Potten End Bowls Club	Potten End BC	73	-13	10	-23
124	Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club	Berkhamsted BC	111	-51	20	-71

8.5: Conclusions

When considering current demand, five clubs have membership levels over 60 and are therefore considered to be overplayed. Overplay doesn't equate to sites being unable to sustain current demand but is indicative of usage levels which should be monitored to ensure green quality is sufficient relative to high levels of potential wear and tear.

Based on the above, there is a clear requirement to work with clubs identified as currently overplayed or expressing high levels of future demand to ensure quality of each bowling green does not further deteriorate in quality. It is important to note that no clubs report a need to access additional greens at their home venues to accommodate demand.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Bowls summary

- ◀ **All current and future demand can be accommodated on existing provision in Dacorum so long as greens are maintained regularly, and quality improvements are undertaken at sites accommodating the highest levels of demand and/or are identified as being poor quality.**
- ◀ There are nine flat greens located across eight sites in Dacorum, none of which, are fully floodlit.
- ◀ There are four greens located in the Berkhamsted Area and two greens in each Hemel and Southern areas and a single flat green in the Tring Area. There is no bowls provision in the Eastern Villages Area.
- ◀ Five greens are assessed as good quality, one as standard and three as poor
- ◀ Poor quality greens are located at Berkhamsted Sports & Social Club (Kitchener's Field) and Hemel Hempstead BC.
- ◀ Bovingdon BC cites a bank surrounding its green at Bovingdon Memorial Hall is subsiding, causing green quality to deteriorate. The Club also note it has demand for an additional two rinks on the green to accommodate six rink fixtures.
- ◀ There are eight bowls clubs playing in Dacorum. Berkhamsted BC is the largest club with 101 members, whilst Little Gaddesden BC is the smallest with 36 members.
- ◀ All the responding bowls clubs report ambitions of increasing their current membership base by a cumulative total of 104 members.
- ◀ Taking the above into account, there is no requirement for additional flat green bowls provision to be provided in Dacorum to service current or future demand.
- ◀ The Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy did not identify any demand for indoor bowls.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 9: TENNIS

9.1: Introduction

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

Consultation

There are eight tennis clubs identified in Dacorum. Of these, all eight responded to consultation requests resulting in an 100% response rate, as seen in the table below.

Table 9.1: Summary of responses

Club name	Responded?
Berkhamsted LTC	Yes
Bovingdon & Flaunden TC	Yes
Chipperfield TC	Yes
Langley TC	Yes
Leverstock Green LTC	Yes
Little Gaddesden TC	Yes
Long Marston TC	Yes
Tring LTC	Yes

9.2: Supply

There are 139 tennis courts identified in Dacorum across 40 sites, with 110 of the courts being available for community use. Unavailable courts are provided at private education sites and commercial hotels/spas.

For the purposes of this report, availability for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs. This also includes availability for social use or pay and play.

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

Analysis area	Courts available for community use	Courts unavailable for community use
Berkhamsted Area	33	9
Eastern Villages Area	-	9
Hemel Area	53	7
Southern Area	12	-
Tring Area	12	4
Dacorum	110	29

The Hemel Area contains the largest number of tennis courts with 60, however, only 53 of these are available for community use. The Eastern Villages Area has the lowest amount of tennis provision, with just nine courts in the area, all of which, are unavailable for community use.

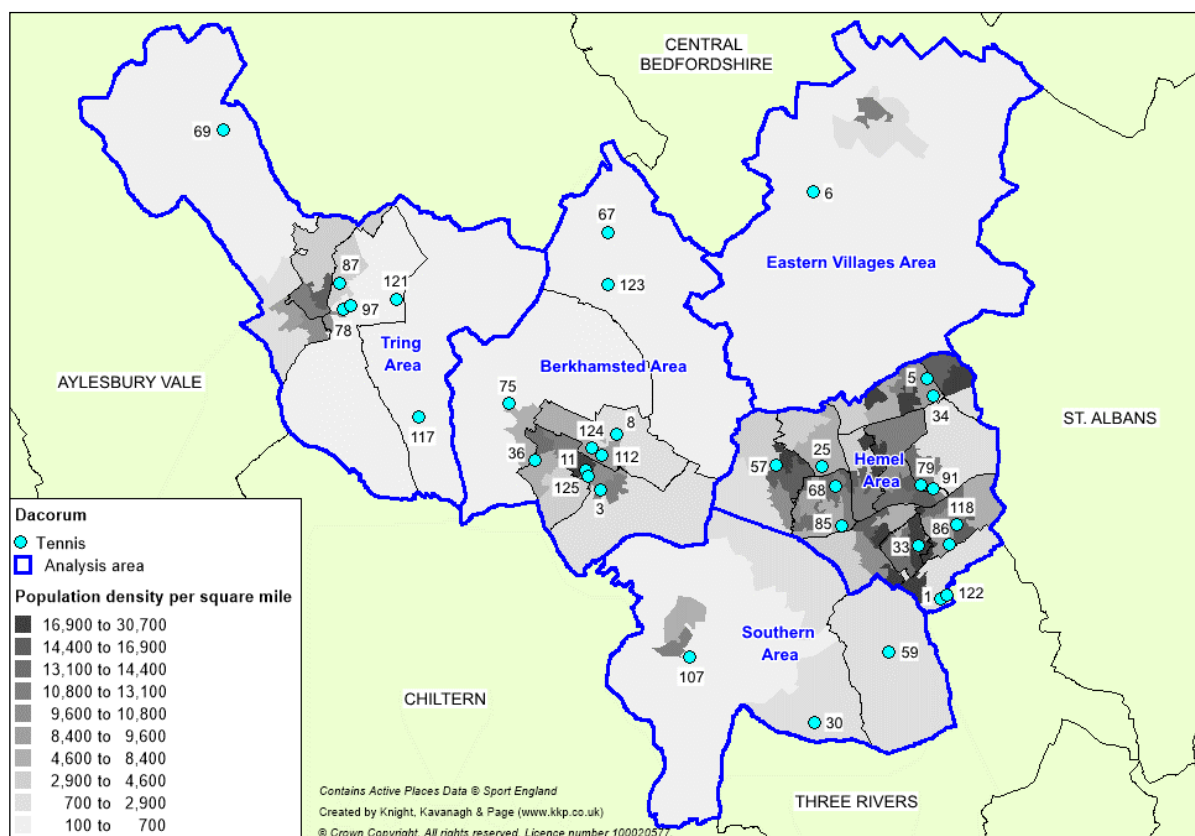
DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Indoor courts

There are two indoor tennis facilities in Dacorum; Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club and Langley Tennis Club. Both facilities are of good quality and drive time catchment modelling suggests that the whole Dacorum population lives within 30 minutes' drive of an indoor tennis court.

Indoor tennis is further examined in the Indoor Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment that is being produced in conjunction with this report.

Figure 9.1 below identifies the location of current tennis courts in Dacorum



DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 9.3: Summary of provision site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type
1	Abbots Hill School	Hemel Area	Education	No	5	No	Macadam
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted Area	Education	Yes	6	No	Macadam
5	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	Education	Yes	5	Yes	Macadam
6	Beechwood Park School	Eastern Villages Area	Education	No	6	Yes	Artificial
					3	Yes	Macadam
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	Sports Club	Yes	3	No	Macadam
11	Berkhamsted Prep School	Berkhamsted Area	Education	No	1	No	Macadam
25	Cavendish School	Hemel Area	Education	Yes	6	No	Macadam
30	Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	Southern Area	Sports Club	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam
					1	No	Macadam
33	Coronation Fields	Hemel Area	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
34	Cupid Green Sports Field	Hemel Area	Council	Yes	4	No	Macadam
36	Egerton Rothesay School	Berkhamsted Area	Education	No	2	No	Macadam
57	John F Kennedy Roman Catholic School	Hemel Area	Education	Yes	5	No	Macadam
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	Education	Yes	4	No	Macadam
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	Council	Yes	3	No	Macadam
68	Lockers Park School	Hemel Area	Education	No	2	No	Macadam
69	Long Marston Cricket Club	Tring Area	Sports Club	Yes	2	Yes	Artificial
75	Northchurch Sports Ground	Berkhamsted Area	Sports Club	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam
78	Pound Meadow	Tring Area	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
79	Reith Fields	Hemel Area	Sports Club	Yes	2	No	Macadam
85	Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre	Hemel Area	Commercial	Yes	3	No	Macadam
86	Longdean Sports Centre	Hemel Area	Commercial	Yes	6	No	Macadam
87	Tring Sports Centre	Tring Area	Commercial	Yes	2	No	Macadam

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type
91	The Adeyfield School	Hemel Area	Education	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam
					1	No	Macadam
97	Tring Lawn Tennis Club	Tring Area	Sports Club	Yes	4	Yes	Artificial
					2	Yes	Macadam
107	Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club	Southern Area	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
					3	No	Macadam
112	Greene Field Road Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	Education	No	6	No	Artificial
117	Champneys at Tring	Tring Area	Commercial	No	2	No	Macadam
118	Leverstock Green Tennis Club	Hemel Area	Sports Club	Yes	6	No	Macadam
					2	Yes	Macadam
					4	Yes	Artificial
121	Pendley Hotel – Manor Leisure Centre	Tring Area	Commercial	No	2	No	Macadam
122	Langley Tennis Club	Hemel Area	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
123	The Lifestyle Centre	Berkhamsted Area	Commercial	Yes	3	No	Macadam
124	Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club ²⁹	Berkhamsted Area	Sports Club	Yes	6	Yes	Artificial
					4	Yes	Clay
					1	Yes	Macadam
125	Knox Johnston Sports Centre	Berkhamsted Area	Education	Yes	6	No	Macadam

²⁹ Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club also has two indoor tennis courts on site.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Ownership and management

Most responding clubs express no concerns with regards to security of tenure. In principle, they are happy with the agreements currently in place, whether that is through ownership, an annual rental agreement or a long-term lease arrangement. Langley Tennis Club mention that its lease agreement with Abbots Hill School expires in six years time. Whilst this is not an immediate concern, the Club is keen to ensure that a new site is identified for potential relocation before the agreement expires, on the basis that it is unable to come to an agreement about its future on the site.

Consultation with Bovingdon and Flaunden TC suggests that an increase in the cost of the Club's lease agreement with Dacorum Borough Council will result in an increase in the cost of its membership which in turn is likely to affect participation.

The remaining community courts are managed either through the Council, education centres, commercial organisations or trusts.

Table 9.4: Courts available for community use by ownership

Council	Sports club	Commercial	Education
11	48	14	37

Floodlighting

Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being particularly crucial for club development. There are 49 floodlit courts available for community usage across the Borough. These are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Astley Cooper School
- ◀ Long Marston Cricket Club
- ◀ Tring Park Cricket Club
- ◀ Leverstock Green Tennis Club
- ◀ Langley Tennis Club
- ◀ Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club
- ◀ Northchurch Sports Ground
- ◀ Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club
- ◀ Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club

Bovingdon and Flaunden TC reports aspirations of installing floodlights on two further courts at Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club in the next two years.

There is also potential for the courts at Kings Langley Secondary School to be floodlit as the necessary infrastructure and wiring was installed with the tennis courts.

Court type

The majority of courts in Dacorum have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. The LTA reports that this should cost £1,200 a year per macadam court (which includes on-going maintenance costs).

The remaining courts have an artificial turf (sand-based) or clay. Such provision generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Quality

Following a non-technical assessment, 58 community available courts are assessed as good quality, 25 as standard quality and 27 as poor quality.

Table 9.5: Summary of community available court quality

Good	Standard	Poor
58	25	27

Most poor quality courts in Dacorum are located at Borough Council or Parish Council owned sites including Coronation Fields, Cupid Green Sports Field, Little Gaddesden Playing Fields, Pound Meadow and Reith Fields. The maintenance of these courts is basic and infrequent, as opposed to club and privately maintained courts that tend to receive more specialised and dedicated work. Improving park courts is a national priority for the LTA; however, it reports that unless tennis courts are supported by changing facilities, a café and floodlighting, it becomes more difficult to operate a sustainable tennis programme, which therefore makes it more difficult to generate external investment. The LTA also advocates that sites with a minimum of four courts are likely to be more sustainable.

The remaining poor courts are located at Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club, Northchurch Sports Ground, Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre and Longdean Sports Centre. Poor quality is a result of a variety of reasons, with evidence of litter, evidence of moss & lichen, damage to court surfaces, poor safety margins, sloped surfaces, poor disabled access, poor line markings and poor surrounding fencing all reported across these sites.

In terms of club sites, all courts at Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club, Langley Tennis Club, Bovington and Flaunden Tennis Club, Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Squash Racket Club, Tring LTC, Long Marston TC and Leverstock Green TC is assessed as good quality. The only club not serviced by good quality courts is Little Gaddesden which are based at Little Gaddesden Playing Field. Consultation with the Club reveals that it already has a development plan in place to improve the quality of the courts.

Consultation with the LTA also reveals that Leverstock Green TC is exploring options of expansion of the provision of indoor courts. However, no progress has been made on this matter.

Bovington and Flaunden TC also indicates that it aims to resurface three of the six courts located at Bovington and Flaunden Tennis Club in the next two years.

No other issues were cited in relation to courts that are used by clubs. For a detailed breakdown of quality at each site with tennis courts, please see the table below.

Table 9.6: Site by site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of courts	Court quality
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted Area	6	Good
5	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	5	Standard
8	Berkhamsted Sports and Social Club	Berkhamsted Area	3	Poor
25	Cavendish School	Hemel Area	6	Standard
30	Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	Southern Area	2	Good
33	Coronation Fields	Hemel Area	2	Poor

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of courts	Court quality
34	Cupid Green Sports Field	Hemel Area	4	Poor
57	John F Kennedy Roman Catholic School	Hemel Area	5	Standard
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	4	Good
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Berkhamsted Area	3	Poor
69	Long Marston Cricket Club	Tring Area	2	Good
75	Northchurch Sports Ground	Berkhamsted Area	1	Poor
78	Pound Meadow	Tring Area	2	Poor
79	Reith Fields	Hemel Area	2	Poor
85	Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre	Hemel Area	3	Poor
86	Longdean Sports Centre	Hemel Area	4	Standard
			2	Poor
87	Tring Sports Centre	Tring Area	2	Standard
91	The Adeyfield School	Hemel Area	5	Poor
97	Tring Lawn Tennis Club	Tring Area	6	Good
107	Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club	Southern Area	6	Good
117	Champneys at Tring	Tring	2	Standard
118	Leverstock Green Tennis Club	Hemel Area	12	Good
122	Langley Tennis Club	Hemel Area	3	Good
121	Pendley Hotel – Manor Leisure Centre	Tring	2	Standard
123	The Lifestyle Centre	Berkhamsted Area	3	Standard
124	Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club	Berkhamsted Area	11	Good
125	Knox Johnston Sports Centre	Berkhamsted Area	6	Good

All courts that are unavailable for community use are assessed as good quality. Given that these are located at private school sites, there is a reluctance to hire out facilities in order to guarantee availability for the students.

Ancillary provision

No responding clubs highlight any major concerns with ancillary provision, all rating their respective facilities to be of good or adequate standard. However, Leverstock Green TC note its changing facilities are of poor quality. Tring TC also revealed that it is currently having discussions regarding a small refurbishment of the clubhouse at Tring Park Cricket Club.

9.3: Demand

Combined membership for tennis clubs in Dacorum equates to a total of 2,504 members, which is derived from 1,526 senior members and 978 junior members.

Table 9.7: Summary of club membership

Name of club	Number of members		
	Seniors	Juniors	Total
Chipperfield TC	165	60	225
Langley TC	100	250	350
Little Gaddesden TC	110	60	170
Berkhamsted LTC	650	350	1,000

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Name of club	Number of members		
	Seniors	Juniors	Total
Leverstock Green TC	201	88	289
Bovingdon and Flaunden TC	100	80	180
Tring LTC	131	68	199
Long Marston TC	69	22	91
Total	1,526	978	2,504

The largest club is Berkhamsted LTC, with 1,000 total members; the smallest club is Long Marston TC, catering for 91 members. As Long Martson TC and Chipperfield TC did not provide its current membership figures, membership information was provided by the LTA.

Participation trends

Little Gaddesden TC reports that membership has decreased over the previous five years at senior level but did not provide any indication as to why this may have occurred. Bovingdon and Flaunden and Tring tennis clubs also reports a decline in senior membership. This is perceived to be due to a decline in tennis participation nationally, as well as families leaving the area.

In contrast, Berkhamsted LTC reports an increase in senior membership, although the Club is unaware to why this is. Chipperfield, Langley and Leverstock Green tennis clubs state that their senior membership base has remained consistent over the last five years.

In terms of junior membership, Langley TC experienced an increase in its junior membership base due to improved facilities and coaching. Little Gaddesden TC experienced a decrease in junior membership, and again were unable to provide a reason for this. Similarly, Bovingdon and Flaunden and Tring tennis clubs also experienced a decline in junior membership figures. This is attributed to families leaving the area and tennis declining nationally. Chipperfield, Berkhamsted and Leverstock Green tennis clubs report that its junior membership has remained static over recent years.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack courts or appropriate facilities. One club identifies latent demand in Dacorum. Langley TC indicates that it does not have enough courts to accommodate all its mid-week training demand, however, this latent demand was not quantified.

Additionally, Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool³⁰ enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis within Dacorum, but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 2,847 people, 434 (15%) of which are within the segment 'Tim – settling down males'.

This is considerably higher than the figures identified in the neighbouring authorities of Hertsmere and Three Rivers, where latent demand of 2,008 people and 1,849 people is revealed.

³⁰ See Appendix 2

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

All the clubs which responded to consultation indicate plans to increase membership, expressing a total future demand of 155 senior members and 240 junior members. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 9.8: Summary of future demand (club aspirations)

Club	Site name	Future demand
Chipperfield TC	Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	Unknown
Langley TC	Langley Tennis Club	50 senior and 100 junior members
Little Gaddesden TC	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Unknown
Berkhamsted TC	Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Squash Racket Club	20 senior and 20 junior members
Leverstock Green TC	Leverstock Green Tennis Club	50 senior and 50 junior members
Bovingdon and Flaunden TC	Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club	25 seniors and 20 junior members
Tring LTC	Tring Lawn Tennis Club	10 senior and 50 junior members

Parks tennis

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

There is not a Parks Tennis League currently operating in Dacorum, with the closest located in neighbouring authority St Albans.

Tennis Tuesdays

After being trialled in London in 2014, the LTA launched Tennis Tuesdays in partnership with sportswear brand Nike. The initiative focuses on increasing women's participation in tennis and skill development with a key fundamental social element, seeking to engage women in new and innovative ways to help break down barriers to female participation.

Sessions are available to all abilities and are structured based on four ability levels ranging from beginner to advanced, each week based on one of six themes ranging from improving specific techniques to tactical awareness and match play. Sessions run from May to October, taking place every Tuesday evening for an hour.

As it stands there are no Tennis Tuesdays sessions running within Dacorum or the surrounding areas.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Tennis for Kids³¹

Tennis for Kids is a six week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing. To date nearly 25,000 kids have participated in the Tennis for Kids programme this year.

There are currently no Tennis for Kids programmes operating in Dacorum, with the nearest programmes running in Central Bedfordshire and Three Rivers.

Tennis for Free³²

Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that work 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', to unlock the large number of two court community venues that could benefit from the offer. 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.

There are currently no Tennis for Free sessions operating in Dacorum, with the nearest session operating in Cassiobury Park, Watford.

Great British Tennis Weekend³³

The Great British Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts two dedicated weekends a year which are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

There are currently no open days operating in Dacorum, with the closest event running in Wandsworth.

³¹ <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids>

³² <https://www.tennisforfree.com/index.php>

³³ www.lta.org.uk/gbtw.

Informal tennis

It is considered that all community available courts in Dacorum that are not accessed by clubs have spare capacity for any growth in demand, although 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 venue management software Clubspark, developed by Sportslabs in partnership with the LTA could be explored at education and park sites in order to track court usage. This is not currently in place at any sites within Dacorum.

LTA Clubspark Programme

LTA insight has identified unclear, lengthy or analogue booking journeys to be a significant barrier to people getting on court more often. As a result, it has recently developed a venue management system called Clubspark in order to improve the customer journey for people wanting to get on court at club, community and education sites.

Instead of providing open access, an online booking system (Clubspark) allows members and pay and play users access through the use of a fob or access code system via electronic gates. Not only does this deter misuse use of courts but it also allows genuine tennis participation to be more effectively tracked and monitored, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed and used. This online booking system sends an automated email as evidence as part of a self-policing system for managing court bookings.

Nationally, the LTA reports that over 2,000 hours of court time were booked in 2016 by a database of over 2,000 people held on Clubspark. Another advantage of securing access is to make tennis courts revenue generating rather than open access, with the income generation forming a sinking fund for the repair and eventual resurfacing of the courts at each site, thus making courts more sustainable in the long-term.

Pay and play

All clubs are asked to provide information in regard to whether their courts are available for pay and play when they register with the LTA. Using this, in Dacorum, Leverstock Green, Langley, Chipperfield and Berkhamsted tennis clubs all offer pay and play. This is featured on the LTA's Find a Court Tool, typically used by non-club members to identify local opportunities to play. The LTA strongly encourage tennis clubs to ensure that this information is kept up to date.

It should be noted that clubs which offer pay and play tennis can generate additional income and usage of courts, as well as helping them attract potential future members.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate 60 members. 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 both current and future demand.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 9.9: Summary of supply and demand

Site ID	Site name	Clubs	Current demand	Recommended site capacity	No. of members		
					Current capacity	Future demand	Future capacity
30	Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	Chipperfield TC	225	100	-125	Unknown	-125
67	Little Gaddesden Playing Fields	Little Gaddesden TC	170	120	-50	Unknown	-50
69	Long Marston Cricket Club	Long Marston TC	91	120	29	Unknown	29
97	Tring Lawn Tennis Club	Tring LTC	199	360	161	60	101
107	Bovingdon and Flaunden Tennis Club	Bovingdon and Flaunden TC	180	300	120	45	75
118	Leverstock Green Tennis Club	Leverstock Green LTC	289	600	311	100	211
122	Langley Tennis Club	Langley TC	350	380	30	150	-120
124	Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club	Berkhamsted LTC	1,000	1,060	60	40	20

As seen in the table above, six sites have spare capacity while two are overplayed. When considering the current demand, there is sufficient tennis provision in Dacorum, although spare capacity at Leverstock Green Tennis Club would have to be maximised to prevent overplay of the other club sites.

If demand aspirations are realised, Langley Tennis Club and Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club will become significantly overplayed. However, there is sufficient capacity across other sites in the Borough to accommodate this overplay. Options to prevent future overplay of these sites will be explored in the accompanying strategy report.

As all remaining non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to a suitable standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites that are currently assessed as poor or standard quality.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Tennis summary

- ◀ **There is an adequate supply of courts to meet current club demand. However, if future demand aspirations are realised, Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club and Langley Tennis Club will become significantly overplayed.**
- ◀ There are 139 tennis courts identified in Dacorum across 40 sites, with 110 of the courts being available for community use.
- ◀ The Hemel Area has the largest amount of provision, while the Eastern Villages area has no community available provision.
- ◀ All courts unavailable for community use are located at private school sites.
- ◀ Langley Tennis Club mention that their lease agreement with Abbots Hill School expires in six years time. The Club is keen to ensure that a potential new site is identified before this agreement expires.
- ◀ Except Little Gaddesden Tennis Club, each club is serviced by some level of floodlit provision, with 49 floodlit courts existing across the Borough.
- ◀ There are 58 courts assessed as good quality, 25 courts assessed as standard quality and 27 courts assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Responding tennis clubs generally consider their ancillary provision to be of good or adequate condition, although Leverstock Green TC note that their changing facilities are of poor quality.
- ◀ Combined membership for tennis clubs in Dacorum equates to a total of 2,504 members, which is derived from 1,526 senior members and 978 junior members Leverstock Green, Langley, Chipperfield and Berkhamsted tennis clubs all offer pay and play at their respective sites.
- ◀ As all remaining, non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play.

PART 10: NETBALL

10.1: Introduction

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

Nationally, netball activity takes place both indoors and outdoors. England Netball is currently working on delivering its new five-year plan, *Your Game Your Way*. Its mission is for netball to be played in a diverse range of ideal environments that inspire and enable participation, growth and world class performance. It is to achieve this mission through directing tailored programmes to each of its segments of participation, which are:

- ◀ Minis, returners, adult casual, youth social and recreational
- ◀ I Heart Netballers, Hooked on Netball
- ◀ Hooked on netball, Aspiring to perform, Talented youth and developing excellence
- ◀ Elite and high performance, aspiring to perform, Talented youth and developing excellence

Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with England Netball to gather strategic understanding of local facility provision and demand. Further, to this, consultation was carried out with Dacorum Netball Forum which includes membership from the four main clubs in the area, the Hemel Hempstead Netball League, Dacorum School Sports Network, Sportspace and the Herts Netball Association. Complimentary information was collected through online research.

10.2: Supply

In total, there are 84 outdoor netball courts located across 41 sites in Dacorum. Of the courts, 46 or 55% are available for community use.

Generally, schools do not allow their courts to be available for community use. This can be due to variety of reasons, such as a lack of local demand for court usage, lack of floodlighting, high staff costs to enable community usage or a preference to preserve court quality for curricular use. Despite 18 sites (46 courts) being available for community use only Longdean Sports Centre, Adeyfield School, Tring Sports Centre and Ashlyns School (17 courts) are regularly accessed for community netball.

Indoor courts

In Dacorum most netball is played outdoors, however, most training and England Netball sessions is accommodated indoors. Berkhamsted Leisure Centre and Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre sports halls are regularly accessed for both Back to Netball and Walking Netball sessions.

It is reported that booking of indoor courts for club training is a challenge as halls are generally booked and are not available at times at which clubs would like them. There are also reports of relatively high costs at some venues.

Indoor netball is further examined in the Indoor Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment that is being produced in conjunction with this report.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 10.1: Location of outdoor netball courts in Dacorum

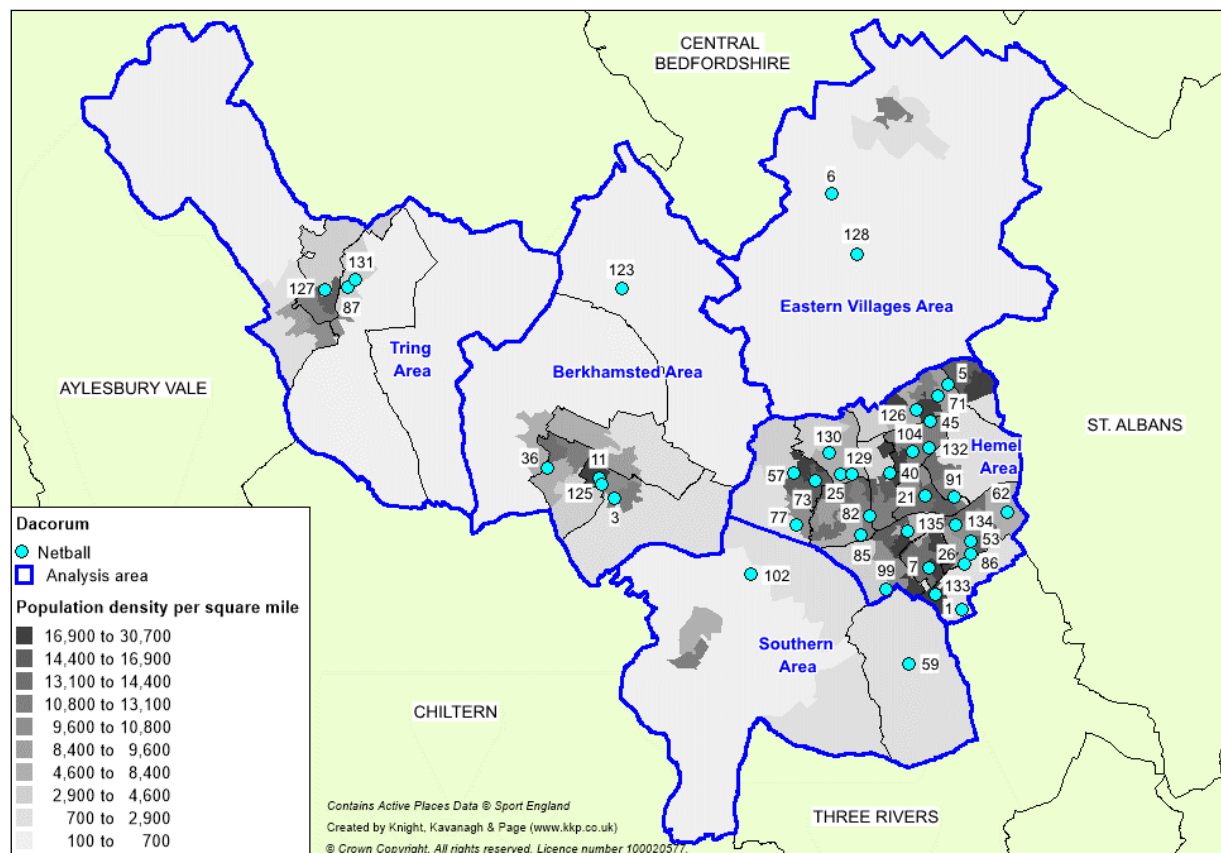


Table 10.1: Netball courts in Dacorum

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	No. of courts	Court quality
1	Abbots Hill School	Hemel Area	No	5	Good
3	Ashlyns School	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	4	Good
5	Astley Cooper School	Hemel Area	Yes	4	Standard
6	Beechwood Park School	Eastern Villages Area	No	6	Good
7	Belswains Primary School	Hemel Area	No	1	Standard
11	Berkhamsted Prep School	Berkhamsted Area	No	1	Good
				1	Standard
21	Broadfield Academy	Hemel Area	No	2	Standard
25	Cavendish School	Hemel Area	Yes	4	Standard
26	Chambersbury Primary School	Hemel Area	Yes	1	Standard
36	Egerton Rothesay School	Berkhamsted Area	No	2	Good
40	George Street Primary School	Hemel Area	No	1	Poor
45	Hammond Academy	Hemel Area	No	2	Standard
53	Hobbs Hill School	Hemel Area	Yes	1	Standard
57	John F Kennedy School	Hemel Area	Yes	5	Standard
59	Kings Langley Secondary School	Southern Area	Yes	3	Good
62	Leverstock Green CE Primary School	Hemel Area	Yes	2	Poor
71	Maple Grove Primary School	Hemel Area	No	1	Standard

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	No. of courts	Court quality
73	Micklem Primary School	Hemel Area	No	1	Standard
77	Pixies Hill Primary School	Hemel Area	Yes	1	Standard
82	South Hill Primary School	Hemel Area	Yes	1	Standard
85	Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre	Hemel Area	Yes	2	Poor
86	Longdean Sports Centre	Hemel Area	Yes	3	Standard
				2	Poor
87	Tring Sports Centre	Tring Area	Yes	3	Standard
91	The Adeyfield School	Hemel Area	Yes	5	Poor
99	Two Waters Primary School	Hemel Area	No	1	Standard
102	Westbrook Hay School	Southern Area	No	2	Good
104	Yew Tree Primary School	Hemel Area	Yes	1	Standard
123	The Lifestyle Centre	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	1	Standard
125	Knox Johnston Sports Centre	Berkhamsted Area	Yes	4	Good
126	Aycliffe Drive Primary	Hemel Area	No	1	Poor
127	Dundale Primary School	Tring Area	No	1	Poor
128	Gaddesden Row JMI School	Eastern Villages Area	No	1	Poor
129	Gade Valley JMI School	Hemel Area	No	1	Standard
130	Galley Hill Primary School	Hemel Area	No	1	Standard
131	Grove Road Primary School	Tring Area	No	2	Standard
132	Jupiter Community Free School	Hemel Area	No	1	Standard
133	Nash Mills C of E Primary School	Hemel Area	No	1	Standard
134	Saint Albert the Great Catholic Primary	Hemel Area	No	1	Standard
135	Tudor Primary School	Hemel Area	Yes	1	Standard

Quality

Following a non-technical assessment, half of netball courts in Dacorum, (42 courts) are assessed as standard quality, 27 are assessed as good quality (32%) and the remaining 15 (18%) courts are assessed as poor quality.

Further to the above, England Netball has established four categories of netball court that relate to the different levels of play and training that will take place on the courts:

- ✦ **Category 1** courts are outdoor courts intended for school, recreation and community use.
- ✦ **Category 2** courts are indoor or outdoor courts intended for local league, school, recreation and community use.
- ✦ **Category 3** courts are indoor or outdoor courts intended for county premier league and county first team use.
- ✦ **Category 4** courts are dedicated outdoor courts intended for higher levels of play such as national clubs league; inter county competitions and national squad training.

The local league/development requires courts to meet Category 2 of the classification in order to be suitable to play competitively on.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The Dacorum Netball Forum highlight that, although there is a significant number of courts in Dacorum, the majority fail to meet the EN Category 2 classification standard. In addition, although most are available for community use, single courts cannot be used as a central venue. There are a number of multi court venues in Dacorum (seven sites with four or more courts); however, many fail to meet the standard required for a central venue league. The Forum also has concerns about the standard of courts for school provision.

Ashlyns School, Tring Sports Centre, Longdean Sports Centre and The Adeyfield School are all regularly accessed for community netball. In the main, quality at these sites is considered to be adequate in accommodating current demand, although it has been identified that the courts at Ashlyns School are slippery in adverse weather conditions, and therefore can be a potential health and safety hazard and that courts at Adeyfield School are too close together which impacts on the ability to play fixtures concurrently.

Longdean Sports Centre is a key venue for outdoor netball in Dacorum with the Hemel Hempstead and District Netball League and Back to Netball sessions being based here. Non-technical assessment of the site found the courts to be of standard quality and consultation suggests that the courts are generally fit for purpose to accommodate the identified demand on site.

John F Kennedy School is a multi-court venue that meets EN Category 2 classification standard. However, the courts are not currently used by the League as it is further out than teams are willing to travel.

There are a number of school courts which are available for community use but do not meet EN standards. For example, Cavendish School courts do not currently meet EN standards, however, if improvements were made, this site has potential for community use.

There are also a number of courts which are not available for community use which have good quality courts. For example, Beechwood Park School has six good quality artificial courts which are unavailable for community. There may be an opportunity to further negotiate and explore community use at such schools in the future.

Over marking

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. Of the community available netball courts in Dacorum, only Chambersbury Primary School, Hobbs Hill School, Pixies Hill Primary School, South Hill Primary School, Yew Tree Primary School and Tudor Primary School have dedicated netball courts.

Court type

The vast majority of outdoor netball courts in Dacorum have a macadam surface (93%), with the remaining courts 7% having an artificial surface. Artificial courts are located at Beechwood Park School (albeit they are not currently available for community use).

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. Artificial courts generally allow for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

10.3: Demand

There are nine formal netball clubs identified in the Borough. In addition, the Hemel Hempstead and District Netball League is based within Dacorum and Mighty Netball operates various netball sessions across the Borough.

Table 10.2 Summary of club demand

Club	No. of teams	Comments
Berkhamsted Royals Netball Club	2 senior teams	Both teams compete in the Hemel Hempstead Netball League. The Club has approximately 20 members.
Berko Belles	2 senior teams	Teams compete in the Hemel Hempstead and District Netball League.
Camelot Netball Club	3 senior teams	All teams compete in the Hemel Hempstead and District Netball League.
Connexions Netball Club	4 senior teams	All teams compete in the Hemel Hempstead and District Netball League. The Club trains indoors on Monday evenings at Adeyfield School.
Dacorum Netball Club	5 junior teams 1 senior team	Total of 65 players across five age groups. Club training takes place indoors at Longdean Sports Centre. However, all of the Club's match demand is exported out of Dacorum.
Flamstead Netball Club	2 senior teams	One team competes in the Hemel Hempstead Netball League and the other competes in the Watford Netball League (Three Rivers).
Kings Langley NC	2 senior teams	Club has 25 members. Both teams compete in the Hemel Hempstead and District Netball League. The Club does not currently train as it has been unable to find a local and affordable facility to accommodate this demand.
Shelley Netball Club	3 senior teams 1 U14 team	Only the first team currently compete in the Hemel Hempstead and District League, with the remaining two senior teams and the U14s playing in the Watford Netball League in Three Rivers.
Tring Tornadoes	8 junior teams	Based at Tring Sports Centre, the Club has over 100 girls participating from Year 3 up to Year 11. All age groups, apart from the Year 3, train on the outdoor courts on site on Saturday mornings.

Hemel Hempstead and District Netball League

The Hemel Hempstead and District Netball League is based on the outdoor netball courts at Longdean Sports Centre. The League is broken into three divisions and all matches take place on Saturdays across four times slots.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Mighty Netball

Mighty Netball delivers engaging sporting experiences for children aged 4 to 11 years old, teaching the fundamentals of netball through creative, play-based sessions that promote personal and social development.

Two Mighty Netball sessions currently operate on outdoor netball courts in Dacorum. These take place on Saturday mornings at Ashlyns School and on Sunday mornings at Tring Sports Centre.

Play Netball

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 7 or 10 people. There is currently no Play Netball league operating in Dacorum.

Back to Netball and Walking Netball

Back to Netball sessions are running across England and provides 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. Currently, one Back to Netball session takes place outdoors in Dacorum. This is located at Longdean Sports Centre and takes place from 7-8pm on Thursday evenings and attracts an average of 11 attendees per session.

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. Currently, no Walking Netball sessions operate outdoors in Dacorum.

Other demand

The England Netball First Performance Pathway is for athletes aged 11 upwards and starts with the Satellite Academy. This is delivered by the Hertfordshire County Netball Association and sessions will normally be fortnightly.

The Saracens Mavericks compete in the Vitality Netball Superleague and Dacorum NC recently introduced a new network of 'Future Academies'. The network is based around a 'Performance Platform' based in Hatfield which will provide training and competition opportunities for 45 of the best U19 and U17 netballers. Six 'Future Academies' feed into this performance platform, with each academy catering for 20-25 14 to 18 year olds.

Exported demand

Dacorum NC is one of the largest netball clubs in the Borough, however, all of the Club's match demand is exported out of Dacorum to play in various central venue leagues. From a junior point of view, Year 7, 8, 9 and U16 teams all compete in the Garden City Junior League at Stanborough School in Welwyn Hatfield as there are no local junior leagues in Dacorum.

Further to this, its U21 team does not train but competes in the Watford Netball League (playing in Three Rivers). The Club also has a senior team which competes indoors in the St Albans Netball League.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Shelley NC exports demand for two senior teams and one U14 team to Parmiters School in Three Rivers as it operates as a central venue for the Watford Netball League.

Given that the Club only plays outside of Dacorum to participate in specific leagues, it is not thought that this is due to a lack of court access in Dacorum.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack courts or appropriate facilities. There is no identified latent demand in Dacorum.

Additionally, Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool³⁴ enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball within Dacorum but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 451 people, 129 (29%) of which are within the segment 'Chloe – fitness class friends'.

This is significantly higher than the latent demand identified in the neighbouring authorities of Hertsmere and Three Rivers, where 317 people and 292 people respectively were revealed as wanting to play Netball but not currently doing so.

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

In summary, there is enough outdoor netball provision in Dacorum to meet current and identified future club/league demand. As such, priority should be placed on maintaining existing levels of provision and improving court quality at key netball venues to better facilitate current demand.

Longdean Sports Centre is a key strategic site for netball in Dacorum, as it operates as a central venue for multiple teams. This, alongside; Ashlyns School, Tring Sports Centre and The Adeyfield School which accommodate high levels of netball training demand are the sites which should be considered for future investment to improve quality.

Furthermore, consideration should be given to the high levels of latent demand identified through the Sport England Market Segmentation Tool. If this potential demand of 451 people is engaged, there will be an additional pressure on the existing netball infrastructure which may impact on quality levels (due to increased demand) and accessibility of facilities.

It should be noted that netball in Dacorum is focused at school sites, whether it is outdoor or indoor, therefore securing long term community use of these sites is crucial for the growth of the sport.

³⁴ See Appendix 2

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Netball summary

- ◀ **In summary, there is enough netball provision in Dacorum to meet current demand and therefore priority should be placed on improving court quality at strategic netball venues to better facilitate current and future demand.**
- ◀ In total, there are 84 outdoor netball courts located across 41 sites in Dacorum. However, only 46 courts (55%) are available for community use.
- ◀ Of which, 42 (50%) are assessed as standard quality, 27 are assessed as good quality (32%) and the remaining 15 (18%) courts are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ There are a number of school courts which are available for community use but do not meet EN standards. For example, Cavendish School courts do not currently meet EN standards, however, if improvements were made, this site has potential for community use.
- ◀ There are also a number of courts which are not available for community use which have good quality courts.
- ◀ Generally, schools do not allow their courts to be available for community use. This can be due to variety of reasons, such as a lack of local demand for court usage, lack of floodlighting, high staff costs to enable community usage or a preference to preserve court quality for curricular use.
- ◀ There are nine formal clubs in the Borough. The Hemel Hempstead and District Netball League is based at Longdean Sports Centre. A regular Back to Netball session is held at Longdean Sports Centre on Thursday evenings.
- ◀ The Sport England Market Segmentation Tool identifies a latent demand of 451 people which would like to play netball in Dacorum, but currently do not participate.
- ◀ Dacorum NC exports all its demand outside of Dacorum. However, given this is due to playing in specific leagues, it is not thought that this is due to a lack of court access in Dacorum.

PART 11: ATHLETICS

12.1: Introduction

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

Locally, the sport is currently governed through England Athletics via a team of Club Support Managers with 12 existing across the country.

Consultation

There is currently one athletics club within Dacorum; Dacorum & Tring Athletics Club which was consulted with face-to-face. Further to this, there are two running clubs (one forming part of Dacorum & Tring Athletics Club) and Gade Valley Harriers. Consultation with the running section of Dacorum & Tring Athletics Club was undertaken as part of the wider consultation with the Club. Gade Valley Harriers was unresponsive to consultation attempts.

12.2: Supply

There is one purpose-built athletics facility in Dacorum located at Jarman Park.

The Jarman Park Athletics Track is an eight-lane, floodlit, synthetic 400m track which is available for community use. Situated between the track is an adult football pitch, which doubles up as an area for throwing events. Dedicated shot put and high jump areas are present, as are two sand pits for long jump and triple jump.

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

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

Ownership/management

Jarman Park Athletics Track is owned by Dacorum Borough Council and managed by Everyone Active. It is rented annually by Dacorum and Tring AC which uses the track for two nights a week for training.

The tracks at Pixies Hill Primary School and Westbrook Hay School are both managed internally by their respective schools.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Quality

The track at Jarman Park is assessed as poor quality. The track was installed in 1995 and has had limited renovative work undertaken and therefore the track surface is visibly worn. The track floodlights also have bulbs which have blown and not been replaced, leaving some areas of the track poorly lit.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision at Jarman Park Athletics Track is also managed by Everyone Active and is of adequate quality, within no concerns raised by the Dacorum & Tring Athletics Club. The Club has access to its own dedicated clubroom, as well as a kitchen available on site.

12.3: Demand

Dacorum has one formal athletics club; Dacorum & Tring Athletics Club. In addition, there are two prominent running clubs; Dacorum & Tring Athletics Club Road Runners and Gade Valley Harriers, participating within the Borough and numerous events being held such as Parkrun, the Hemel 10K and various RunBritain events.

Dacorum and Tring Athletics Club

Dacorum and Tring AC currently has 600 members and has sole use of Jarman Park Athletics Track on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 6-9pm. The Club also accesses the track on Saturdays and Sundays from 10am-1pm although these slots are also available to the general public.

Dacorum and Tring AC reports that its membership has increased significantly over the last few years, taking on an additional 200 members. The Club is now operating at capacity and as such has 50-100 junior members on its waiting list. These additional members cannot be accommodated due to the track being at capacity at peak time, as well as an insufficient number of coaches and volunteers. The Club has aspirations of owning and operating a new, independently operated athletics facility for which it is considering putting a business plan together.

Running clubs

There are also two running clubs located within Dacorum as Dacorum & Tring AC also operates as a road running club which meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It trains on the roads and footpaths around Hemel Hempstead, as well as the track and on average participants run between two to eight miles each session.

Gade Valley Harriers is the other running club based in Dacorum. It also meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays but uses Boxmoor Cricket Club as its starting point. It has 170 members and welcomes adult runners of all abilities. Running routes are usually off-road or on quiet country lanes.

Both clubs also compete in the Chiltern Cross Country League.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Hemel 10k

The Hemel 10k is an annual event organised by Rennie Grove Hospice Care. It begins at Astley Cooper School, and follows a hilly route through the surrounding countryside. In conjunction with the 10k, Rennie Grove also organises a 1.5k superhero fun run on the same day and with the same starting point as the 10k. Last year over 350 participants took part in either the 10k or 1.5k run.

Parkrun

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

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

At present, there are two Parkrun events in Dacorum every week located at Gadebridge Park and Tring Park.

Gadebridge Parkrun has taken place 179 times since its inception, attracting a total of 4,042 runners and an average of 122 runners. Its highest attendance to date is 223. Tring Parkrun has taken place 216 times since its inception, attracting a total of 6,416 runners and an average of 173 runners. Its highest attendance to date is 386.

There are no Junior Parkrun events in Dacorum. The closest Junior Parkrun event for Dacorum residents is Leavesden Junior Parkrun in Three Rivers.

RunBritain

RunBritain is a British Athletics tool which aims to make British road running the best in the world in terms of organisation, development and performance. The site provides a list of RunBritain affiliated races across the region over a variety of distances and surfaces.

There are four RunBritain registered races taking place in 2019 in Dacorum with Berkhamsted Rotary Club organising a half marathon event and a five-mile fun run which will begin from Berkhamsted Sports & Social Club. Bovingdon Parish Council is also organising two events; a 10k event and a 3k fun run. The 10k event will begin from George V Playing Field whilst the 3k fun run will begin outside Bovingdon Memorial Hall.

Great Run Local

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

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There are no Great Run Local events currently hosted in Dacorum, with the nearest found at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in the London Borough of Newham.

Race for Life

Race for Life is an initiative by Cancer Research UK to provide a series of women only events to raise money for research into various cancers. No Race for Life events currently take place in Dacorum, with the nearest events located in Watford or St Albans. Both Watford and St Albans Races for Life have 5k and 10k options.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise. The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

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

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

RunTogether

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

In Dacorum, there are currently no registered RunTogether groups. The closest RunTogether group is Run Redbourn which hosts 10 different weekly runs and is in St Albans.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to facilities. It is usually expressed when a club has a waiting list due to a lack of available space or insufficient staff members (coaches or volunteers) to cater for this additional demand.

As previously mentioned, Dacorum and Tring AC currently has between 50-100 juniors on its waiting list. These additional members cannot be accommodated due to the track being at capacity at peak time, as well as an insufficient number of coaches and volunteers.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

England Athletics reports that there is generally a current growth being experienced in relation to athletics and running. Therefore, it is expected that the popularity of Parkrun, RunBritain and local fun run events will increase in the future following national trends.

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool³⁵ enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics within Dacorum, but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies demand of 3,258 people, 573 (18%) of which are within the segment 'Tim – settling down males'.

This figure is higher than in the neighbouring authority of Hertsmere, where 2,273 people were identified as wanting to take part in athletics but not currently doing so. However, this latent demand is considerably lower than that revealed in Three Rivers, where 5,196 people were identified as potential participants in athletics.

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is considered that in order for an athletics track to be sustainable, a club membership of 200 is required; however, a number of other factors should also be considered. As Dacorum and Tring Athletics Club is operating well above this threshold with 600 members (and a waiting list) the track is deemed to be sustainable. In fact, the track is already operating at capacity at peak time resulting in unmet demand expressed through the waiting list of 50-100 juniors.

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

The Compact Athletics concept³⁶ is intended to fill this gap, providing training facilities in places where there is insufficient demand, funding or land to accommodate a full-size track. A Compact Athletics facility can take a number of forms, but essentially provides a strip of synthetic track plus some capacity for jumps and throws, enabling core athletic skills to be taught, enjoyed and developed.

Notwithstanding the quality issues which clearly need to be addressed at Jarman Park as a priority in order to protect the usage of the track and current club membership, this could be an option to explore to supplement the existing track and to meet unmet demand expressed for juniors in the longer term.

There is already a high level of demand for running events in Dacorum and as such emphasis should be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of these as well as exploring the growth of initiatives such as RunTogether groups.

³⁵ See Appendix 2

³⁶ More details of this concept can be found at <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/other-design-guidance>.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Athletics summary

- ◀ **There is one purpose built athletic facility in Dacorum, located at Jarman Park. This is able to largely satisfy both current and future demand on the basis quality improvements are undertaken. Further to this, a compact athletics facility could be an option to explore to supplement the existing track and to meet unmet demand expressed for juniors in the longer term.**
- ◀ The track at Jarman Park is assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Dacorum has one formal athletics club; Dacorum and Tring Athletics Club.
- ◀ It is also home to two running clubs as Dacorum and Tring Athletics Club also has a road running section whilst Gade Valley Harriers is also based in the Borough.
- ◀ There are two Parkrun events operating every Saturday, at Tring Park and Gadebridge Park.
- ◀ In addition, there is the annual Hemel 10k run taking place as well as four registered RunBritain events.
- ◀ Dacorum and Tring Athletics Club is currently operating at capacity with 600 members and as such also has a waiting list of 50-100 juniors which cannot be accommodated. The Club has aspirations to own and manage its own facility in the future.
- ◀ Notwithstanding the quality issues which clearly need to be addressed at Jarman Park as a priority in order to protect the usage of the track and current club membership.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 12: RUGBY LEAGUE

12.1: Introduction

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

Hemel Stags RLFC is a semi-professional club with three senior teams and plays throughout the summer season (from February to October). Senior play takes place in the Betfred League 1, London Premier League and East Rugby League Division One.

Consultation

There is one rugby league club playing in Dacorum; Hemel Stags RLFC which completed an electronic survey after a request for consultation.

12.2: Supply

There are two senior size rugby league pitches in Dacorum which are both located in the Hemel Analysis Area at Hemel Stags Rugby Club. One senior pitch is floodlit and is accompanied by a 400-seater covered stand.

In addition, the Club also has a 7aside 3G pitch with floodlights which is used by the Club for training and is also available to hire.

Pitch quality

Rugby league pitches are assessed as one of three categories, 'good', 'standard' or 'poor'. Carrying capacity of a pitch is dependent upon the quality of a pitch which is outlined below:

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

There are two senior rugby league pitches at Hemel Stags RLFC. Of these, the main pitch is good quality and meets RFL Ground Grading regulations for Tier 3 competition. The secondary pitch is standard quality and is generally used for competitive fixtures for the Club's junior teams.

Ancillary facilities

Hemel Stags RLFC note that the changing facilities at its Pennine Way ground are poor quality as they are dated and in need of modernisation and refurbishment. There are two changing rooms and a dedicated official changing room although there are no separate senior/junior or male/female facilities.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Development aspirations

The Club has ambitions of providing new additional changing rooms and a full size RFL Community Standard 3G pitch. To finance these potential developments, the Club is looking to secure the 2021 Rugby League World Cup Legacy Funding.

RFL Legacy Fund

Due the upcoming Rugby League World Cup, being hosted in England in 2021, the RFL has announced significant investment to improve rugby league facilities for local clubs and players. A record £10 million of government funding will be made available, delivered in partnership with Sport England.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, for example refurbishing changing rooms and installing new artificial pitches. The remainder of the funding will be used for smaller-scale initiatives such as supplying new kit or equipment to clubs. All investment will focus on four key areas: creating welcoming environments, encouraging more players, building community engagement and cultivating further investment resulting in an innovation fund for the community game.

Ownership/management

Hemel Stags RLFC lease its Pennine Way ground from Dacorum Borough Council. This lease agreement expires in 2029 (10 years left) and as such the Club is keen to extend this to at least 25 years to allow it to have long term security of tenure which would allow it to apply for funding to improve the facilities.

12.3: Demand

Competitive play

Hemel Stags RLFC operate three senior men's teams, four youth and three mini. The senior sides compete in the third tier of English rugby league (Betfred League 1), the London Premier League and the East Rugby League Division One. The youth and mini teams all compete in the London League.

However, the Club's first team has agreed with the RFL to pull out of the Betfred League 1 for the 2019 season, with a view to return in 2020 following a difficult season in 2018. The Club plans to concentrate on developing its community programme with an emphasis on open age players, which in turn, will help feed into its first team in forthcoming years.

Training

A total of six training sessions currently take place on each of Hemel Stags RLFC's pitches per week during the summer season.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the League. There is no report of unmet demand in Dacorum.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

Hemel Stags RLFC recently added the third senior and fourth junior team thanks to its increased recruitment drive to cater for a wider range of abilities. Therefore, the Club currently has no further ambitions to increase their number of teams. However, the Club's work involving the Sky Try Programme (detailed below) may lead to a future increase in youth and junior demand for rugby league in Dacorum. This may require the Club to increase its team offering.

Sky Try Programme

The Sky Try programme aims to increase viewers, spectators and participants to rugby league. It aims to achieve this through four distinct pillars which each have their own specific targets:

- ◀ Primary rugby league: a minimum five-week coaching programme in primary schools.
- ◀ Secondary school competition and player development: aimed at increasing secondary school participation in rugby league through workshops.
- ◀ Play Touch Rugby League: a six-week workout project aimed at increasing mini/junior girls' participation.
- ◀ Making the big games bigger: aimed at increasing spectator numbers through major rugby league events

Hemel Stags RLFC was involved in the London Foundation's Sky Try programme in 2017 alongside 12 other clubs. The programme provided two months of rugby league coaching for boys and girls from Year 2 to Year 4 across 58 primary schools.

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

It is determined that there is an insufficient supply of rugby league pitches in Dacorum as identified in the table below, although it should be noted that all demand for rugby league is based in the Hemel Analysis Area with no demand identified elsewhere across the Borough.

Table 12.1: Rugby league capacity balance

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Pitch quality	Floodlights?	Current play (MES)	Pitch capacity (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)
50	Hemel Stags RLFC	2	Good	Yes	5	3	2
			Standard	No	2.25	2	0.25

Overplay across the two pitches at Hemel Stags RLFC is generated through concentrated midweek training and demand for competitive matches. The proceeding Strategy & Action Plan will explore specific scenarios to alleviate identified shortfalls.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Rugby league summary

- ◀ **The current supply of rugby league pitches is sufficient to accommodate both current and future demand on the basis quality improvements are undertaken.**
- ◀ There are two rugby league pitches identified in Dacorum, with both located at Hemel Stags Rugby Club.
- ◀ There is one good quality and one standard quality pitch at Hemel Stags RLFC. This creates a carrying capacity of five match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Changing facilities at Hemel Stags Rugby Club are poor quality and the Club has ambitions of creating additional changing facilities through the 2021 Rugby League World Cup Legacy Fund.
- ◀ Hemel Stags RLFC has ten years remaining on its lease agreement from DBC and is looking to extend this to a minimum 25 years so it can begin to look for grant funding.
- ◀ Hemel Stags RLFC operate three senior men's teams, four youth teams and three mini teams.
- ◀ Despite Hemel Stags RLFC having two standard quality pitches at Hemel Stags Rugby Club, the site is currently overplayed by a total of 2.25 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Due to the upcoming Rugby League World Cup, being hosted in England in 2021, the RFL has announced significant investment to improve rugby league facilities for local clubs and players.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

National Planning Policy Framework (2018)

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

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

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

As a prerequisite, the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

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

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

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

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.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities. The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The Strategic Plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***
 - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for FCCs
 - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and CCBs
 - ◀ Invest in club facilities
 - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
 - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ ***Inspire through elite teams***
 - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
 - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
 - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
 - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ ***Make cricket accessible***
 - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
 - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
 - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
 - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
 - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
 - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
 - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
 - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
 - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
 - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
 - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
 - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ **Support our communities**
 - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
 - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
 - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
 - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7's offering

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

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

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

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

- ◀ The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- ◀ Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Pitch Size Guidance
- ◀ The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- ◀ Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

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

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

Rugby League World Cup ‘Inspired by 2021’ Legacy Programme

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

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

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

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

The vision is for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation’s pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

1. Grow our Participation

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

2. Deliver International Success
3. Increase our Visibility
4. Enhance our Infrastructure
5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

Club participation

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

England Hockey Strategy

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

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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.

Growing the Game of Golf in England (2017-2021)

In 2014, England Golf developed its first national strategy to help golf in England rise to some serious challenges. Membership was declining, many clubs were facing financial and business problems and the perception of the game was proving damaging. As such, it decided to set out recommendations for actions that would help “raise the game”. The 2014 strategy helped achieve the following:

- ◀ 427,111 people being introduced to golf for the first time.
- ◀ 31,913 new members for England’s golf clubs from national initiatives.
- ◀ Over £25 million generated for golf clubs through new members.
- ◀ Four counties to merge their men’s and women’s unions associations.
- ◀ Support for 15,200 national, regional and county squad players.
- ◀ Over 150 championships and events organised across the country.

Following the above strategy, England Golf is now setting out to “grow the game” of golf through seven strategic objectives. Developed in consultation with the golfing community, six of these are developed from the previous work in 2014, whilst one (being customer focussed) is brand new and intends on boosting the impact of them all.

The objectives are:

- ◀ Being customer focussed
- ◀ Stronger counties and club
- ◀ Excellent governance
- ◀ Improve image
- ◀ More members and players
- ◀ Outstanding championships, competitions and events
- ◀ Winning golfer

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Although the Plan is currently being updated, this version remains the most up to date available. Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

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

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

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

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

The intention is to:

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

British Tennis Strategy 2019

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

Vision: tennis opened up

Mission: to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
 - The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
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.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.

To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.

3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)

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

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