



MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT JUNE 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BARLA	British Amateur Rugby League Association
BC	Bowls Club
BE	Bowls England
CC	Cricket Club
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
MBC	Melton Borough Council
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB(s)	National Governing Body (of sport)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned by Melton Borough Council to undertake a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS). This report, known as the Assessment Report, presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities within the Borough and is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports).

Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the proceeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing once the work has been adopted. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is regularly refreshed.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the Strategy is being developed

The PPOSS replaces the previous study for Melton, which was published in 2014 and used as an evidence base during the production of the Melton Local Plan, which was adopted in October 2018. The plan is for the whole of the Borough and sets out the development strategy, policies and proposals, including site allocations, which will guide land use and development of the Borough up to 2036. Thanks to this vision, there will be provision for play areas and the development will contribute to the delivery of sports pitches. This provision should be informed by an up-to-date Playing Pitch Strategy which has led to the commission of an updated Strategy. This new PPS will be sufficiently robust to be used alongside the current Local Plan as a 'material consideration' so that identified needs can be met over the course of the plan period.

Sections 7.13 (Sports Pitches and Playing Fields) and 7.14 (Indoor Sport and Recreation) provide the specific background context for policy EN7.

Policy EN7 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation establishes that: Where there are identified local deficiencies in the quantity, accessibility and/or quality of open space, sports and recreational facilities, new residential development of 10 dwellings or more will be required to contribute towards their provision and/or enhancement, subject to viability considerations.

New development proposals will be supported where they protect sports facilities and strategically important sites and key centres as identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy.

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The strategic open space, sport and recreation needs of the Borough up to 2036 will be met by working in partnership with Parish Councils through the development of Neighbourhood Plans, and with other partners, to deliver:

- ◀ New allotment space as part of new development in Melton Mowbray, Bottesford and Waltham on the Wolds.
- ◀ Enhancement of the following natural greenspaces: Stathern Road Local Nature Reserve; Wymondham Rough SSSI; Cribbs Meadow SSSI and National Nature Reserve; and River Meadow (Lake Terrace) and Dieppe Way/Nottingham Road.
- ◀ 7.5ha of amenity greenspace in central Melton and 0.25ha of space in west Melton.
- ◀ 2.59ha of parks/gardens in central Melton.
- ◀ 0.44ha of facilities for children and young people in central Melton, 0.1ha of provision in north Melton and 0.38ha of provision in west Melton.
- ◀ New teenage facilities to a minimum of 0.04ha in Buckminster and 0.04ha in Burton & Dalby.
- ◀ Redevelopment of King Edward VII community sports centre to the Melton Sports and Leisure Village, a multi-sports hub, in accordance with the Melton Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2016-2021.

The PPOSS will also meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). 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, with paragraph 98 discussing 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.

Paragraph 99 discusses assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

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 standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS 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 the Council, Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

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

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Agreed scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities have been agreed for inclusion in the Assessment Report and Strategy:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Golf courses
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Tennis courts

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, both rugby codes, cricket and hockey and the ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

Study area

The study area comprises the whole of the Melton Borough Council's administrative area. Moreover, for the purposes of this project, Melton has been divided into four analysis areas. These are based on grouping wards together and reflect how sport is played in the Borough as well as the travel patterns of users, as agreed by the Steering Group. They allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch surplus and deficiencies at a local level and allow local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

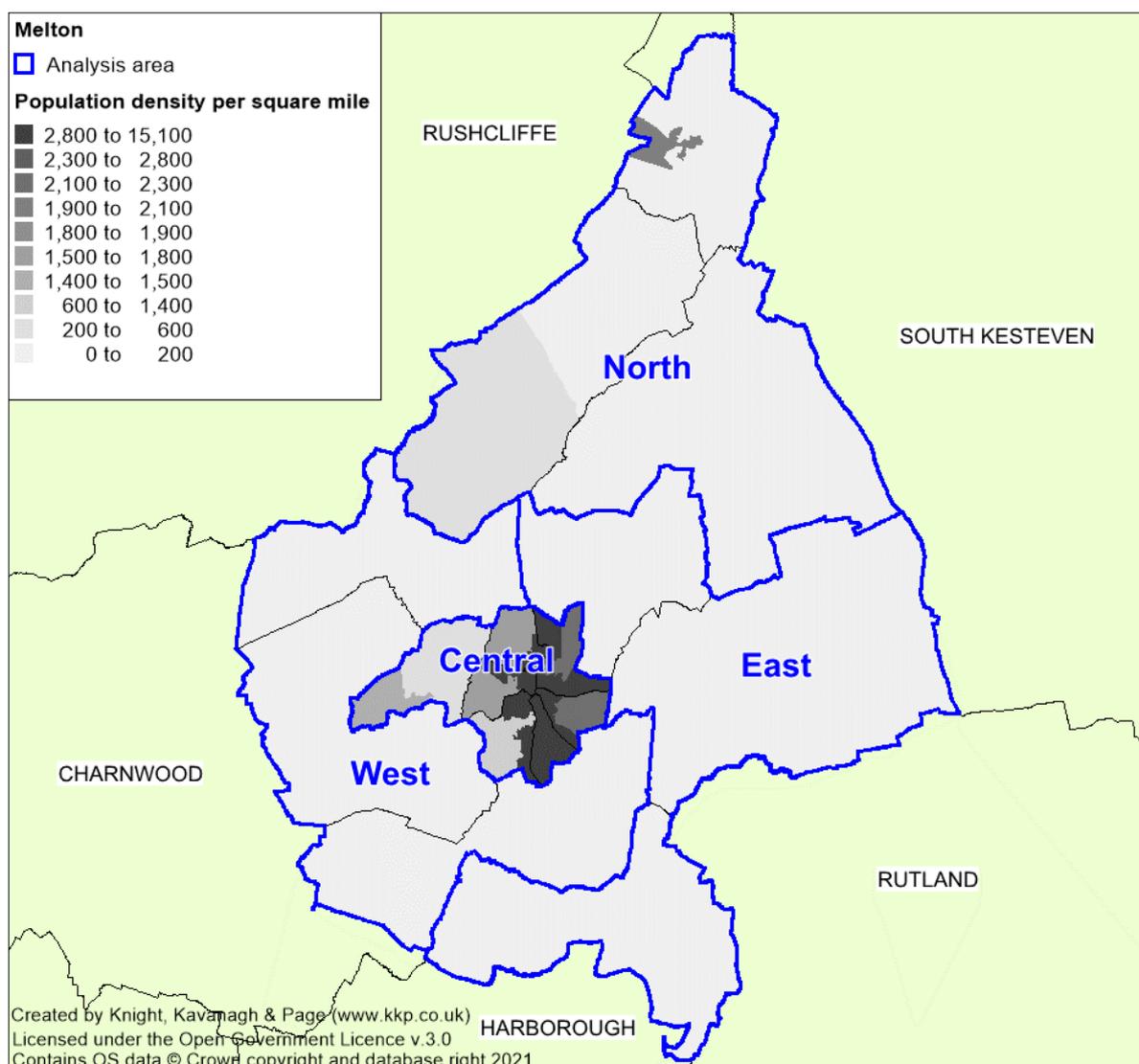
- ◀ Central Melton
- ◀ East Melton
- ◀ North Melton
- ◀ West Melton

Cross boundary issues will also be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries. Neighbouring authorities include Rushcliffe, Charnwood, Rutland and South Kesteven.

For a map showing the analysis areas, please see overleaf.

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Figure 1.1: Study area



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

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in the Borough is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This is achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Sport England’s guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2021 ‘Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order’.

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

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Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, this PPOSS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the playing pitches and relevant outdoor sport facilities within the Borough; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the study where provision is known to exist from other sources e.g. affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision has not been recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, 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 this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data.

For each site, the following details were recorded in the project database:

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Community availability
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of provision
- ◀ Usage levels

Accessibility

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of also influences their actual availability for community use.

Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** – facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams/members/individuals (depending on the sport).
- ◀ **Available but unused** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used externally; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire or particularly poor quality.
- ◀ **No community use** - facilities which are, as a matter of policy or practice, unavailable for external hire. This includes professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team of the host club.
- ◀ **Not available as disused** - Any sites where pitches were once, but are no longer, marked out and remain undeveloped

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the report but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site.

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Quality

The capacity of provision 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 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.

The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of a PPOSS, 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 then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, the site assessments for sports played in the winter are conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer have assessments carried out between July and September.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this (thus establishing an "agreed quality rating").

Gather demand information and views

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

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

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified). Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision; it is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition.

In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available. Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call due to preference following the pandemic) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues (as identified by the Council and NGBs) from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey has been utilised.

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Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including all schools as well as further and higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

Future demand

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

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication as to how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). This ratio is then applied to predicted population growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future. Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- ◀ Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women's and girls.

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for Melton cover the period up until 2036, in line with the Council's current Local Plan and to enable the provision of robust evidence base.

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

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

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions provision could accommodate.

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 NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and the rugby codes, per day for hockey and per season for cricket.

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Table 1.2: 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
Rugby league	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Junior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 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
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-sports lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a Borough-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e. the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity on provision or whether there is a shortfall.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity), or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Once current capacity has been determined, future capacity can also be calculated via incorporating the future demand that has been identified as well as unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing the above steps, it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Melton. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to developing the Strategy.

The following sections summarise the local administration of the included playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. Information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and the governing body of each sport is also provided as are any key issues.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Leicestershire and Rutland County FA is the primary organisation overseeing the development (and some elements of administration) of football in Melton. It is responsible for growing participation, promoting diversity and regulating the sport for everyone to enjoy.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation, which is a charity, linked to the Premier League, the FA and the Government, that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game.

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

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55
	U13s-U14s	82 x 50
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27

Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football. There is a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, in addition to training needs, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

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

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

Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game as well as including strategic priorities for investment across small-sided football (including recreational and indoor activity). The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to using football for behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

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The LFFP is a 'live' document that should be updated following the completion of a PPOSS as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment will be identified via LFFPs.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. An LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

The LFFP for Melton was produced in 2019 and identifies priority projects for investment. This should be refreshed following the PPOSS based on its findings and recommendations.

Consultation

A total of 12 football clubs play in Melton, with seven responding to consultation requests. This equates to a club response rate of 58% and a team response rate of 93%. Clubs that have not responded are all small clubs fielding just one or two teams.

Emphasis has been placed on larger clubs that are considered key by Leicestershire and Rutland FA. The responsive clubs therefore include:

- ◀ Asfordby FC
- ◀ Asfordby Amateurs LG&I FC
- ◀ Bottesford FC
- ◀ Melton Town Foxes Junior FC
- ◀ Melton Town FC
- ◀ Mowbray Rangers FC

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 53 football pitches across 19 sites in Melton. Of these, 46 pitches are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used) across 15 sites. All pitches that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites.

Table 2.1: Summary of pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Number of pitches					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Central	6	6	6	5	4	27
East	1	1	-	1	1	4
North	6	1	2	2	4	15
West	-	-	-	-	-	0
Melton	13	8	8	8	9	46

The Central Analysis Area provides the most community available pitches with 27, followed by the North Analysis Area with 15 pitches. The remaining four pitches are provided in the East Analysis Area. No pitches which are available for community use are provided in the West Analysis Area.

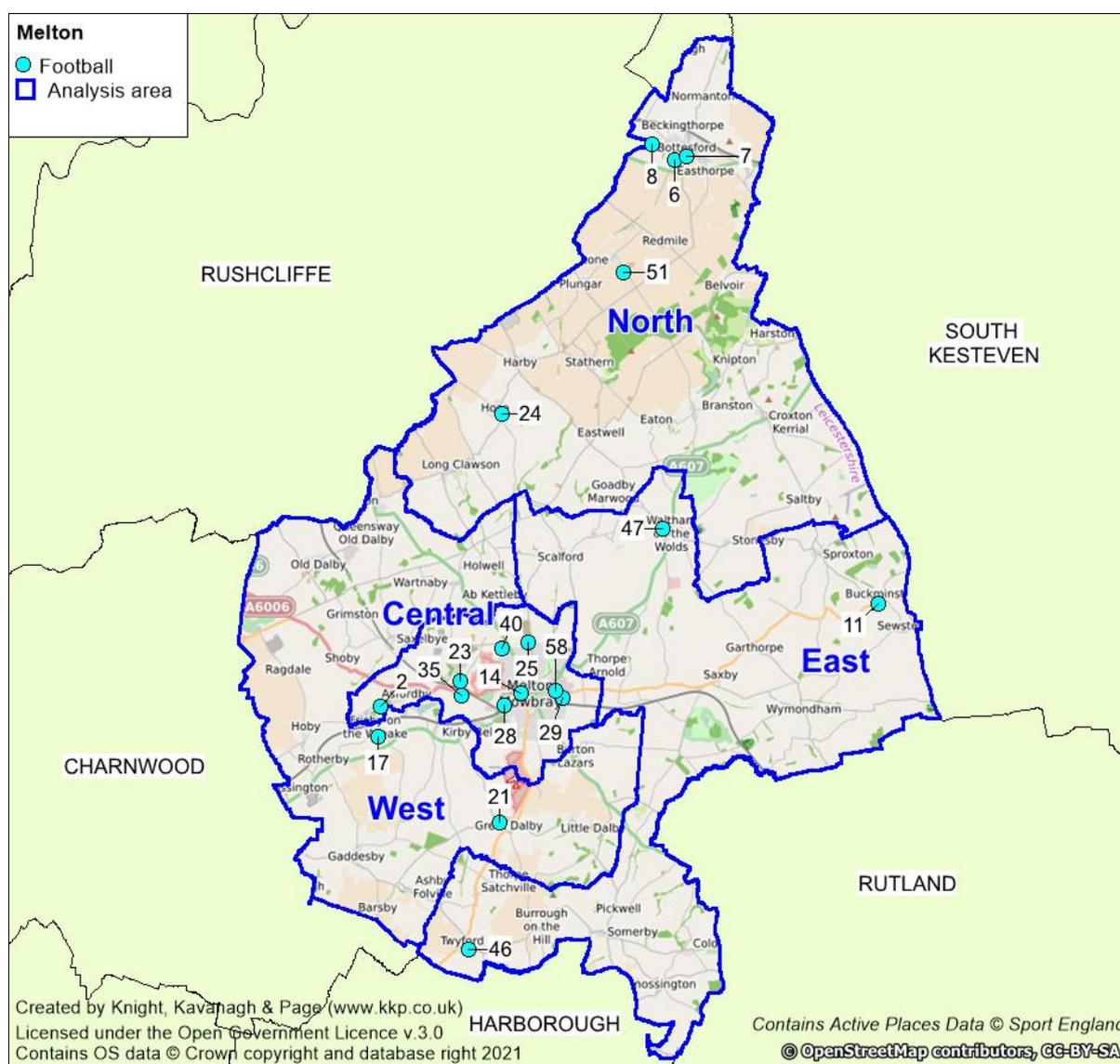
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There are more adult pitches (13) identified when compared to other pitch sizes, which suggest high demand for adult football. However, it should be noted that youth 11v11 demand is higher, despite there being less youth 11v11 pitches. This is common nationally, with many youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches, although this can be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than through preference.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, u17s and u18s can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s, 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s and 73 x 46 metres for u12s and u11s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches (u10s and u9s) is 55 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches (u8s and u7s) it is 37 x 27 metres.

Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Melton, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 2.9.

Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in Melton



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Management and security of tenure

Clubs are generally considered to have secure tenure where they have freehold, leasehold or formally secured use of their site/s (for example, through a community use agreement) for the next three or more years.

Tenure of sites in Melton is generally secure, i.e. through freehold, long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years through formal rent agreement.

Mowbray Rangers and Melton Town football clubs lease provision from Leicestershire County Council whilst Asfordby FC leases provision from Melton Mowbray Town Estate; therefore, these agreements are deemed secure whilst Melton Town Foxes Youth FC only has an annual agreement with the Mars conglomerate for usage of Mars Sports Ground. Whilst the company provides the Club with free access to the site and has done for its existence, Melton Town Foxes Youth FC would like to secure a long-term lease agreement for the site to be able to secure grant funding. Asfordby Amateurs LG&I FC only has an annual rental agreement for its home sites although believes it has good relationships with the facility providers and so is not concerned regarding its security of tenure.

All community available sites which are classified as having unsecure tenure are located at schools. This is due to schools, academies and universities being able to state their own policies and therefore more likely to restrict levels of community use, unless they have a Community Use Agreement (CUA) secured via planning condition as part of a sports development within their site. Lack of community use may be due to schools wanting to protect pitch quality for curricular or extracurricular activities or not having the resources available to open up their site for community access.

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Melton has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in Melton. As seen, most pitches are assessed as good, with 21 being rated as such. There are then 18 community available pitches assessed as standard quality and seven assessed as poor.

Table 2.2: Summary of pitch quality (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	5	6	2
Youth 11v11	3	3	2
Youth 9v9	4	3	1
Mini 7v7	4	3	1
Mini 5v5	5	3	1
Total	21	18	7

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The good quality pitches are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Asfordby Acres
- ◀ Bottesford Cricket and Social Club
- ◀ Bottesford FC
- ◀ Holwell Sports Club

Conversely, the poor quality pitches are located at:

- ◀ Buckminster Playing Fields
- ◀ Egerton Park Sports Ground
- ◀ Twyford Recreation Ground
- ◀ Waltham Playing Fields

Although some council pitches are assessed as poor quality, most are assessed as standard quality when considering the maintenance regime undertaken. As such, the main reasons for pitches being assessed as poor quality relates more so to drainage issues, with unofficial use also exacerbating problems due to the open access nature of the provision.

The pitches at Bottesford FC are said to be clay-based and therefore hold water. Despite the poor drainage, the pitches are said to be well maintained and of good quality. At Mars Sports Ground, pitches are also said to be well maintained and drain well, however, rabbits are prevalent on site and often damage the playing fields, leading to a standard quality assessment. Pitches at Long Field Academy are said to be in adequate condition despite holding water and not being cut regularly.

Despite being assessed as good quality, the pitches at Asfordby Acres are reported to drain poorly although quality has still improved following enhanced maintenance thanks to funding via the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund.

Mowbray Rangers FC is undertaking ongoing pitch improvements at its site of the same name, leading to pitch quality improving in recent years. Holwell Sports FC has also been undertaking pitch improvement works at Holwell Sports Club leading to an improvement in pitch quality.

Pitch improvement

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund (detailed later in this section).

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments, instead being able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: September - October, November – March or April – June.

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As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the Football Foundation and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

Table 2.3: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings.

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

In Melton, six sites have received a PitchPower assessment. The findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in the table below. As shown, the findings from PitchPower assessments are aligned with those from the PPOSS.

Table 2.4: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
2	Asfordby Acres	Adult	Advanced	Good
		Youth (11v11)	Good	Good
		Youth (11v11)	Basic	Standard
		Youth (11v11)	Advanced	Good
		Youth (9v9)	Advanced	Good
		Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
		Mini (7v7)	Advanced	Good
		Mini (7v7)	Advanced	Good
		Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
8	Bottesford FC	Adult	Good	Good
		Adult	Advanced	Good
		Adult	Good	Good
		Youth (11v11)	Good	Good
		Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
		Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
		Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
		Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
		Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
		Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
		Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
		Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
23	Holwell Sports Club	Adult	Advanced	Good
		Youth (11v11)	Poor	Poor
25	John Ferneley College	Youth (11v11)	Basic	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
47	Waltham Playing Fields	Youth (11v11)	Poor	Poor
		Mini (5v5)	Poor	Poor
51	Woodlane Football Ground	Adult	Basic	Standard

In addition to PitchPower, the FA has a general pitch improvement strategy, in partnership with the GMA. As part of this, it has a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice and practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. This is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise local authority-maintained sites.

The Football Foundation and the FA have also recently developed a new Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Whilst local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund, clubs, leagues and/or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

Funding is awarded over a ten-year period for up to 66% of the total cost required to bring the pitches up to an appropriate standard, following a site assessment. The level of funding then decreases year on year, with the expectation that the Club is able to take on the works independently by the end of the term.

It should also be noted that despite the pitch at John Ferneley College being assessed as Basic quality via PitchPower assessment, further pitch improvement works are taking place on site following the provision of the 3G pitch and therefore this may improve in the near future.

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.

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

Currently no pitches in Melton are known to be marked on or overlapping other sports pitches.

Ancillary facilities

As with pitch quality, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across Melton has been assessed on the basis of identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. To that end, ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing. The following sites are considered to have poor quality facilities:

- ◀ Buckminster Playing Fields
- ◀ Mars Sports Ground
- ◀ Holwell Sports Club
- ◀ Woodlane Football Ground

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In addition to site assessments, of the clubs that responded to consultation requests, 28% report they have access to good quality ancillary provision at their respective home venues, whilst standard quality facilities are accessed by 43% of clubs and 29% access poor quality facilities.

Melton Town Foxes Youth FC states the clubhouse facilities located at Mars Sports Ground are of poor quality and not fit for purpose. It reports the facilities provided only have one public toilet, one set of changing rooms and showers that don't work. The building itself is also said to have holes and be falling apart in places. However, as Mars owns the site, all work must be approved by the Company as well as using its contractors to undertake the maintenance. As stated previously, Melton Town Foxes Youth FC aspires to secure a long-term lease for the site to attract funding to replace the clubhouse.

Bottesford FC constructed a new clubhouse at its site of the same name in 2018 which is deemed to be in good condition.

Furthermore, Mowbray Rangers, Melton Town and Asfordby football clubs all indicate they have insufficient parking facilities at their respective home venues.

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 six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. These are then supported by regional feeder leagues, which were previously at Step 7 of the pyramid but are now not included.

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. 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 6 clubs.

Two clubs in Melton currently play within the football pyramid; Melton Town FC in the United Counties League Premier Division North (Step 5) and Holwell Sports FC competing in the United Counties League Division One (Step 6). However, for the latter to continue playing at this level it requires new sports lights on the pitch at Holwell Sports Club. It has secured grant funding and is attempting to fundraise the remaining costs in order to remain at Step 6.

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. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier requiring differing ground grading requirements.

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

In Melton, there are no clubs operating within the Women's National League System.

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2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 105 teams across 12 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Melton in the 2022/23 season. This consists of 17 senior men's, two senior women's, 41 youth boys', 10 youth girls' and 35 mini soccer teams (including any designated girls only mini teams).

Table 2.5: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Melton

Analysis area	No. of teams playing				
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Central	12	22	10	14	12
East	1	-	-	-	-
North	6	10	6	4	5
West	-	3	-	-	-
Melton	19	35	16	18	17

The Central Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 70, whilst the East Analysis Area has the fewest with only one adult team. The North Analysis Area accommodates 31 teams, with the remaining three teams provided in the West Analysis Area.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Melton due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

There is currently no imported demand in Melton.

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of Melton, despite being registered to the Authority.

There is currently no exported demand from Melton.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand which is perceived to exist but is not presently realised, whereas unmet demand is demand which is known to exist but similarly is not able to be realised, in this case due to lack of access to or poor quality of facilities.

Asfordby Amateurs LG&I states it currently can't accommodate more teams as it utilises its existing facilities to capacity. The Club is currently looking into accessing two additional sites to ensure it can grow further; All England Sports Ground and Brownlow Primary School where no pitches are currently marked.

Furthermore, Bottesford FC also states the Club is currently at capacity as it can't accommodate more teams at its current site.

Both Melton Town and Asfordby football clubs believe they could field more teams if they had access to additional pitch space. The latter also notes it would require additional training and changing facilities in order to increase demand further.

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Future demand

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

The Strategy & Action Plan will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development within Melton.

Participation growth

Of responding clubs, only two report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of eight teams, as seen below.

Table 2.6: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Gender	Number of teams	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ¹
Asfordby FC	Central	Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
		Mixed	2	Mini 5v5	1
Melton Town FC	Central	Women's	1	Adult	0.5
		Boys	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
		Girls	1	Youth 9v9	0.5
		Mixed	2	Mini 5v5	1
-	-	Total	8	-	4

The total future demand expressed by Asfordby and Melton Town football clubs amounts to four match equivalent sessions per week (as two teams equates to one match equivalent session playing on a home and away basis).

Broken down by pitch type, 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week are identified on adult pitches, 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches and two match equivalent sessions per week on mini 5v5 pitches.

Further to the above, Weetabix Wildcat centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, providing opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. Wildcats sessions are currently operated at John Ferneley College and Melton Sports Village by Empwr Futsal Club.

All organisations delivering Wildcats centres receive a £900 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation.

In light of FA aspirations to increase female participation in football through the establishment and foreseen future effect of the Weetabix Wildcats programme and Inspiring Positive Change Strategy, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through team generation rates. To what extent is not currently quantifiable, however, this increase in female demand is likely to be captured within the club aspirational future demand figures expressed in Table 2.6.

¹ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Population growth

Based on population projections to 2036 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference total current population in 2022 of 51,394 will increase to 53,022 by 2036. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.7: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent session ²
Adult Mens (18-45)	1:435	0.50	1	0.5
Adult Womens (18-45)	1:3873	0.06	0	-
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:44	0.83	1	0.5
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:176	0.21	0	-
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:48	0.38	0	-
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:215	0.09	0	-
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:64	0.53	1	0.5
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:67	0.50	1	0.5

As the four teams expected to be generated (equating to 2 MES per week) are authority wide and not accredited to any one analysis area, they will be added onto the overall supply and demand total for each pitch type within the 'Supply and Demand' section later. Figures surrounding the extra demand generated for football training provision (hours per week on a full size 3G pitch with sports lighting) from future population will be referenced within Part 3: Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches (3G Pitches).

Future demand summary

Future demand carried through to the supply and demand analysis is based population growth, as future demand reported by clubs is considered more aspirational, and it is unlikely that it will all be achieved. However, the preceding Strategy document will include a scenario to identify the impact it would have if the growth was realised.

Taking this into consideration, a total requirement for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week is identified on adult pitches, 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches, 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and 0.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.

² Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

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

Table 2.9 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

Match equivalent sessions per week

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

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the usage 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 onsite and whether there is access to an onsite 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.

Table 2.9 shows community usage of available pitches. Where not overplayed because of community use, school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extracurricular activity.

For school sites which are available for community use but that currently do not have any external hirers, one match equivalent session per week, per pitch has been accredited to indicate use for curricular and extracurricular activity as opposed to them being completely unused.

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As mentioned earlier, all education sites are classified as having unsecure tenure as no schools through consultation report having a community use agreement in place.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Melton, peak time is considered to be Sunday mornings for youth and mini pitches, whilst peak time for adult pitches is Saturday afternoon. Peak time is based on when the majority of teams are playing matches. However, in Melton football is relatively well spread across the weekend, with numerous adult teams also playing on Sunday mornings whilst youth and mini teams can also play on Saturday mornings.

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

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

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

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

The table below identifies the way capacity balance is represented in Table 2.9

Table 2.8: Capacity balance examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of capacity balance
1	Highlighted in green with a number denotes that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	With a dash, this indicates that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it were to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	Highlighted in orange with a zero, this indicates the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	Not highlighted by with a value, this indicates that the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, capacity has been discounted. This may be due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.
1	Highlighted in red with a number denotes that the pitches are overplayed and have no spare capacity across the week. This includes at peak time, despite any availability at peak time which may exist.

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Table 2.9: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
2	Asfordby Acres	Central	LE14 3TL	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Yes	Good	1	1	3	2	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	2	2.5	8	5.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Good	2	2	8	6	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Good	2	2.5	12	9.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Good	1	2	6	4	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
6	Belvoir High School	North	NG13 0AX	Unsecure	Education	Adult		No	Standard	2	2	4	2	2	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
						Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	North	NG13 0BG	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Yes	Good	1	-	3	3	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
8	Bottesford FC	North	NG13 0AP	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Yes	Good	3	2.5	9	6.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Good	1	5	4	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Good	2	3	8	5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Good	2	2	12	10	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Good	4	2.5	24	21.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
11	Buckminster Playing Field	East	NG33 5SF	Secure	Council	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	-	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	
14	Egerton Park Sports Ground	Central	LE13 0RW	Secure	Commercial	Adult		Yes	Poor	1	-	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
17	Frisby Church of England Primary School	West	LE14 2NH	Unsecure	Education	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
21	Great Dalby Primary School	West	LE14 2HA	Unsecure	Education	Mini	(5v5)	No	Standard	1	1	4	3	1	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
23	Holwell Sports Club	Central	LE14 3RD	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Yes	Good	1	2.5	3	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
24	Hose Village Hall	North	LE14 4JR	Secure	Parish/Town Council	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity for community use.
25	John Ferneley College	Central	LE13 1LH	Secure	Education	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity for community use.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity for community use.
28	Long Field Academy	Central	LE13 0BN	Unsecure	Education	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	2	4.5	4	0.5	-	Pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	2	2	0	-	Pitch is played to capacity.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	4	1.5	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
						Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	2	3	8	5	1	Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.
29	Mars Sports Ground	Central	LE13 1BP	Secure	Commercial	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	2	4	2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
35	Mowbray Rangers FC	Central	LE14 3QU	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	-	Pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	-	Pitch is played to capacity at peak time.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Type of tenure	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	4	2.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
						Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	4	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
40	St Mary's Church of England Primary School	Central	LE13 0NA	Unsecure	Education	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	2	2	8	6	2	Pitch is unavailable for community use.
46	Twyford Recreation Ground	East	LE14 2HT	Secure	Council	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
47	Waltham Playing Fields	East	LE14 4AG	Secure	Parish/Town Council	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
						Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	1	-	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
51	Woodlane Football Ground	North	NG13 0HT	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
58	Melton Mowbray Cricket Club	Central	LE13 1BP	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.

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Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Melton. It totals 10.5 match equivalent sessions and is identified across 11 pitches at seven sites.

Table 2.10: Actual (peak time) spare capacity site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	North	Adult	1	1
24	Hose Village Hall	North	Adult	1	1
25	John Ferneley College	Central	Youth 11v11	1	1
			Youth 9v9	1	1
29	Mars Sports Ground	Central	Adult	1	1
			Youth 11v11	1	1
			Mini 7v7	1	1
35	Mowbray Rangers FC	Central	Mini 7v7	1	1
			Mini 5v5	1	1
51	Woodlane Football Ground	North	Adult	1	0.5
58	Melton Mowbray Cricket Club	Central	Adult	1	1
Total					10.5

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, most actual spare capacity is located on adult pitches and in the Central Analysis Area. No actual spare capacity is identified in the East and West analysis areas.

Table 2.11: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Central	2	2	1	2	1
East	-	-	-	-	-
North	2.5	-	-	-	-
West	-	-	-	-	-
Melton	4.5	2	1	2	1

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Melton, three pitches across three sites are overplayed by a combined total of 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Pitches are overplayed due to a high level of demand at each site.

Table 2.12: Overplay site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
8	Bottesford FC	North	Youth 11v11	1	1
28	Long Field Academy	Central	Youth 11v11	1	0.5
35	Mowbray Rangers FC	Central	Adult	1	1
-	-	-	-	Total	2.5

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Overplay is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the following table with 1.5 match equivalent sessions identified in the Central Analysis Area and one match equivalent session is identified in the North Analysis Area. No overplay is identified on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 or mini 5v5 pitches.

Table 2.13: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Central	1	0.5	-	-	-
East	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	1	-	-	-
West	-	-	-	-	-
Melton	1	1.5	0	0	0

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions. As stated earlier, future demand is calculated based on what has been identified through club aspirations and population growth, based on whichever method expresses the highest level of demand for each analysis area and each format of play.

Adult pitch capacity

Table 2.14: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Overplay	Current total
Central	2	1	1
East	-	-	-
North	2.5	-	2.5
West	-	-	-
Melton	4.5	1	3.5

The table above shows that there is current spare capacity amounting to 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week on adult pitches in Melton with actual spare capacity in the Central and North analysis areas. All remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.15: Future supply and demand position for adult pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Melton	3.5	0.5	3

After considering future demand, the spare capacity reduces to three match equivalent sessions.

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Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

Table 2.16: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Overplay	Current total
Central	2	0.5	1.5
East	-	-	-
North	-	1	1
West	-	-	-
Melton	2	1.5	0.5

The table above shows that youth 11v11 pitches have actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session per season. All actual spare capacity is identified in the Central Analysis Area whilst the North Analysis Area has overplayed of one match equivalent session per week. All remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.17: Future supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Melton	0.5	0.5	-

After considering future demand, youth 11v11 pitches will become played to capacity.

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

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

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Overplay	Current total
Central	1	-	1
East	-	-	-
North	-	-	-
West	-	-	-
Melton	1	0	1

The table above shows that there is current spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session per week on youth 9v9 pitches in Melton with all actual spare capacity identified in the Central Analysis Area. All remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.19: Future supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Melton	1	-	1

No future demand is identified through population growth, therefore, current spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session per week on youth 9v9 pitches will remain.

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Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Overplay	Current total
Central	2	-	2
East	-	-	-
North	-	-	-
West	-	-	-
Melton	2	0	2

Across Melton, there is current spare capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches in Melton with all actual spare capacity identified in the Central Analysis Area. All remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.21: Future supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Melton	2	0.5	1.5

After considering future demand, the spare capacity reduces to 1.5 match equivalent sessions.

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)	
		Overplay	Current total
Central	1	-	1
East	-	-	-
North	-	-	-
West	-	-	-
Melton	1	0	1

Across Melton, there is current spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session per week on mini 5v5 pitches in Melton with all actual spare capacity identified in the Central Analysis Area. All remaining analysis areas are played to capacity.

Table 2.23: Future supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Melton	1	0.5	0.5

After considering future demand, the spare capacity reduces to 0.5 match equivalent sessions.

Overall supply and demand analysis

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table overleaf summarises the overall Melton supply and demand balance by pitch type.

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Table 2.24: Summary of supply and demand

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	4.5	1	3.5	0.5	3
Youth 11v11	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	-
Youth 9v9	1	-	1	-	1
Mini 7v7	2	-	2	0.5	1.5
Mini 5v5	1	-	1	0.5	0.5

There is currently spare capacity across all pitch types in Melton amounting to eight match equivalent sessions. When considering future demand spare capacity amounts to six match equivalent sessions although spare capacity of youth 11v11 pitches will be lost.

Football summary

- ▶ The audit identifies a total of 53 football pitches across 19 sites in Melton. Of these, 46 pitches are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used) across 15 sites.
- ▶ The Central Analysis Area provides the most community available pitches with 27, followed by the North Analysis Area with 15 pitches. The remaining four pitches are provided in the East Analysis Area. No pitches which are available for community use are provided in the West Analysis Area.
- ▶ Tenure of sites in Melton is generally secure, i.e. through freehold, long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years through formal rent agreement.
- ▶ Most pitches are assessed as good, with 21 being rated as such. There are then 18 community available pitches assessed as standard quality and seven assessed as poor.
- ▶ A total of four sites are identified as being serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.
- ▶ Holwell Sports FC requires new sports lights to continue competing at Step 6 of the football pyramid.
- ▶ A total of 105 teams across 12 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Melton. This consists of 17 senior men's, two senior women's, 41 youth boys', 10 youth girls' and 35 mini soccer teams.
- ▶ The Central Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 70, whilst the East Analysis Area has the fewest with only one adult team. The North Analysis Area accommodates 31 teams, with the remaining three teams provided in the West Analysis Area.
- ▶ No imported or exported demand has been identified in Melton.
- ▶ Asfordby Amateurs LG&I, Asfordby, Bottesford and Melton Town football clubs all express some level of latent demand.
- ▶ Only two clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a predicted growth of eight teams.
- ▶ Team generation rates predict an increase amounting to one adult, one youth 11v11 team, one mini 7v7 team and one mini 5v5 teams.
- ▶ In total, 11 pitches display some level of actual spare capacity across seven sites, equating to 10.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ▶ Three pitches are overplayed across three sites by a total of 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ▶ There is currently spare capacity across all pitch types in Melton amounting to eight match equivalent sessions.
- ▶ When considering future demand spare capacity amounts to six match equivalent sessions although spare capacity of youth 11v11 pitches will be lost.

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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 tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which 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 required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, meaning World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements, subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test.

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

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

3.2: Supply

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 (exclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand that they can accommodate. Nationally, many 3G pitches are slightly undersized due to previously being converted from sand-based provision (dimensions for hockey are generally smaller than for football).

Based on the above specification, there are three full size 3G pitches in Melton across three sites. All of the pitches are sports lit and available for community use.

Table 3.1: Full size 3G pitches in Melton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
9	Brooksby Melton College	LE14 2LJ	West	Yes	Yes	99 x 64
25	John Ferneley College	LE13 1LH	Central	Yes	Yes	97 x 61

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
59	Melton Town Football Club	LE13 1DN	Central	Yes	Yes	100 x 63

Two pitches are located in the Central Analysis Area and one in the West Analysis Area.

Table 3.2: Summary of the number of full size 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of full size pitches available for community use
Central	2
East	-
North	-
West	1
Melton	3

As well as the full size pitches, there are also two smaller size outdoor 3G pitches across two sites Melton. Of these, both are available to the community but only the pitch at Wilton Park is sports lit.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G provision (outdoor)

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
2	Asfordby Acres	LE14 3TL	Central	Yes	No	38 x 32
49	Wilton Park	LE13 0PP	Central	Yes	Yes	33 x 17

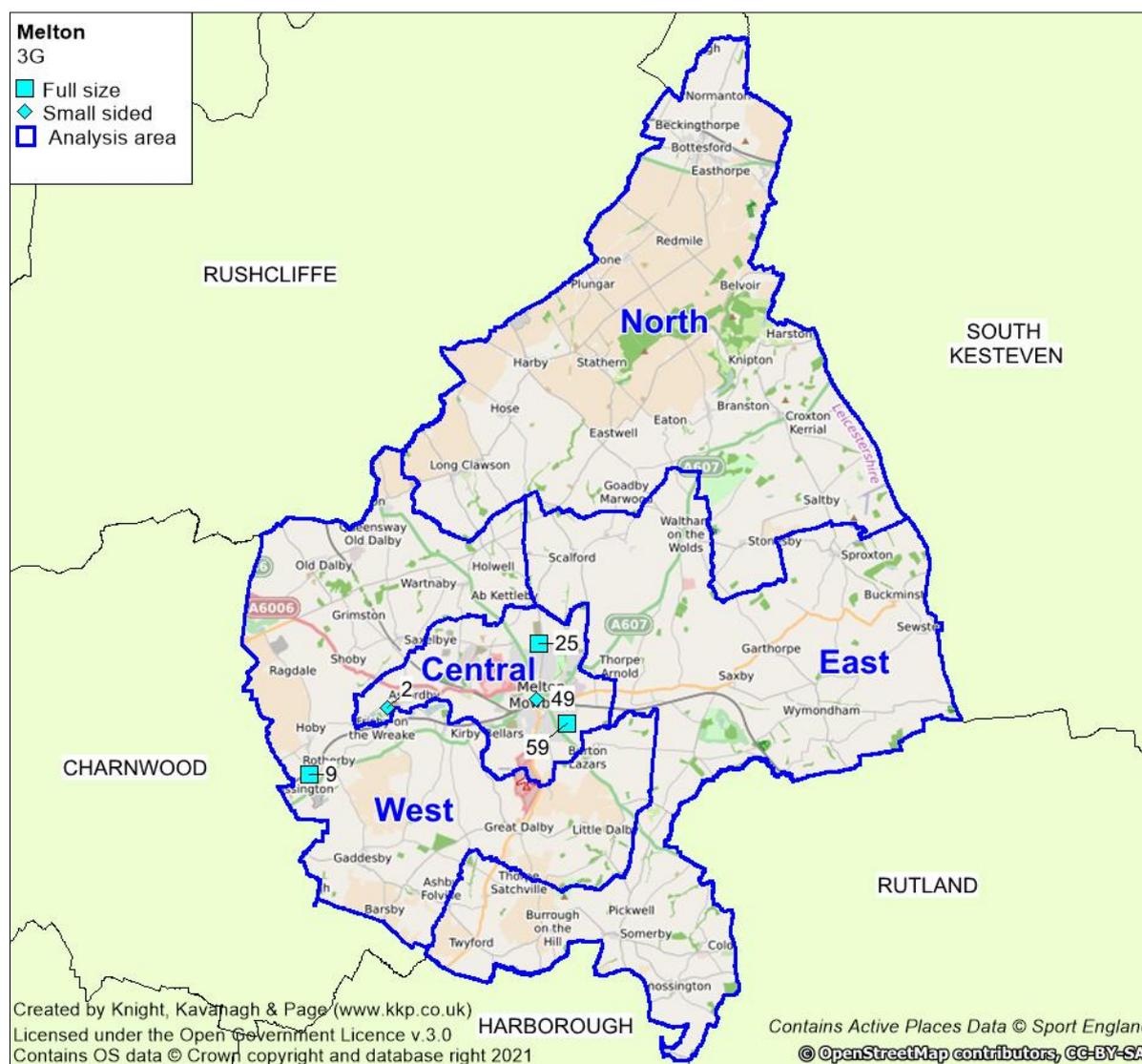
Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas. The FA's recommended pitch size for youth football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

The two smaller size pitches listed above in Melton are too small to accommodate any format of football play.

Figure 3.1 overleaf identifies the location of all 3G pitches in Melton, regardless of size.

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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Melton



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: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard. Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20 hours.

To remain accredited, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the football pyramid (steps 1-6).

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In Melton, the full size 3G pitch at Brooksby Melton College is FA approved and the pitch located at John Ferneley College is FIFA approved and can both therefore be used for FA affiliated football. Re-testing is required every three years to ensure that this remains the case. The pitch located at Melton Town Football Club is a FIFA Pro Quality pitch and requires testing every year to continue to host competitive matches.

The pitch at both Brooksby Melton College and John Ferneley College will require retesting before May 2026. Accreditation at Melton Town Football Club expired in May 2023 and whilst the pitch was retested in January 2023, it is said to have failed this test. Therefore, the pitch needs to be retested to be able to host FA affiliated football.

The smaller size pitches located at Asfordby Acres and Wilton Park not FA approved and therefore cannot be used for matches.

World Rugby (WR) compliant pitches

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

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.

In Melton, none of the 3G pitches are WR compliant.

Management

For the full size provision, the pitches at Brooksby Melton College and John Ferneley College are managed internally by the education providers. The 3G pitch located at Melton Town Football Club is managed by the Club itself.

The smaller size pitch located at Wilton Park is managed by the Council and the small sided 3G pitch located at Asfordby Acres is managed by the Sports Club.

Availability

The availability of full size 3G pitches in Melton is generally good, although it does vary from site-to-site. For example, the pitches at Brooksby Melton College and John Ferneley College are not available throughout each day due to curriculum use, whereas the pitch at Melton Sports Village is available every day from 09:00 until 21:00. The availability at each venue providing a full size pitch is summarised in the table below.

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Availability
9	Brooksby Melton College	16	Available to the community from 09:00 until 22:00 at weekends. However, the College is said to be withdrawing all community usage of the pitch following the conclusion of the 2022/23 season.

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Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Availability
25	John Ferneley College	21.5	Available to the community from 17:30 until 22:00 weekdays and from 09:00 until 18:00 on Saturdays
59	Melton Town Football Club	34	Available to the community from 09:00 until 21:00 on weekdays and from 09:00 until 21:00 at weekends. Although the pitch is available for 34 hours, the pitch can only be used for a maximum of 20 hours due to being a FIFA Pro Quality pitch.

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.

In Melton, the full size pitch located at John Ferneley College is assessed as good quality and is known to have no significant issues. However, the recently installed (2022) pitch located at Melton Town Football Club is assessed as poor quality due to it failing the FIFA test and must be relayed. The Club is currently working through legal procedures with its contractors to have the pitch relayed.

The 3G pitch located at Brooksby Melton College is assessed as standard quality due to some flooding issues. It was installed in 2014 and is therefore approaching the end of its recommended lifespan.

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

Site ID	Site	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
9	Brooksby Melton College	2014	Standard
25	John Ferneley College	2022	Good
59	Melton Town Football Club	2022	Poor

The smaller size pitches at Asfordby Acres and Wilton Park have exceeded their recommended lifespans although Asfordby FC has plans to resurface the pitch at Asfordby Acres.

Ancillary facilities

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

3.3: Demand

The full size 3G pitches currently available for community use in Melton are all reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting).

Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, with no rugby union usage identified through consultation. Most of the capacity is being taken up by football clubs for training and match play purposes.

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The table below summarises usage levels of the full size 3G provision in Melton based on booking sheets supplied by the operators. This is compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM). This applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week; split between 18 hours midweek and 16 hours at the weekend (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 3.6: Current usage of 3G pitches across Melton in peak time

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
25	John Ferneley College	13.5	12 ³	8	1
59	Melton Town Football Club	18	14	16	6
-	Total	31.5	27.5	24	7

As seen, all midweek availability is currently at capacity or close to capacity, with only limited spare capacity for midweek usage. Currently, the pitch at Melton Town Football Club is only used by Melton Town FC and Melton Town Foxes Youth FC with capacity being initially reserved for the two clubs. Additionally, through the nature of Step 5 football Melton Town often hosts midweek home fixtures, further reducing available capacity. The remaining spare capacity can be found at weekends. This data should be used to establish a baseline that can be reviewed annually to see if the position changes, taking into account any new pitches that are established and the impact these have.

In addition to the above and as stated previously, Brooksby Melton College is reported to be withdrawing all wider community use of the 3G pitch on site following the conclusion of the 2022/23 season. Despite this, no community usage of the pitch has been identified with all usage coming via the College or its affiliation with Leicester Tigers.

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

FA training scenario

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

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. As such, it has established a model to calculate the required number of pitches to meet demand, with one full size pitch being required to service every 38 teams within a local authority.

³ Whilst these hours represent the hours that the pitch is currently in use, the pitch can be booked in quarters or halves and therefore sections are still available to be hired during these times, mainly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

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

There is also a need to consider training demand on the existing smaller size 3G stock, some of which play an important role in meeting some club's requirements, although many should not be considered due to their size, lack of floodlighting and/or operational structure, which is the case in Melton. As a result, these pitches will not be factored into the training scenarios below.

Using the above, if all teams were to utilise 3G pitches to accommodate their training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for three full size 3G pitches in Melton, based on 105 teams being affiliated to the Borough.

Three pitches are currently provided, however, the pitch at Brooksby Melton and Melton Town are discounted from supply figures; this is on the basis neither pitch fully allows for a full programme of community use. The pitch at Brooksby Melton College is unavailable midweek and the pitch at Melton Town FC has a FIFA Pro Quality pitch which associated low levels of use (maximum 20 hours), it is also poor quality (albeit expected to be replaced in due course). On this basis, it is thought that this pitch exclusively accommodates for the 13 teams across Melton Town FC and Melton Town Foxes FC.

The 13 teams across both clubs have been discounted from total analysis figures below. Based on discounted provision and accounting for exclusively access to Melton Town, there is a shortfall of 1.5 full size pitch equivalents currently in Melton.

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

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Current shortfall
92	2.4 – 2.5	3	-2	1.5

When considering future demand for an additional five teams (based on population growth), the shortfall of 1.5 pitches increases to 1.6 but has been rounded up to two full size pitch equivalents to account for growth in recreational and women's and girls' activity.

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

Future number of teams ⁴	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Alteration required	Future shortfall
97	2.5 – 2.6	3	-2	2

Alternatively, the tables below consider the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in. This not only identifies where the needs exist across Melton, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

⁴ Future number of teams is higher than what is referenced within the Part 2: Football as it includes club aspirational future demand for mini teams. This is due to the fact that although mini teams are likely to play competitive fixtures at central venues (on 3G) and therefore have no impact on grass pitches they will still require provision to train.

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Table 3.9: Current demand for 3G pitches for affiliated football team training – by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of available full size 3G pitches	Alteration required	Current shortfall
Central	57	1.5 - 2	2	-1	0.5
East	1	0.02 - 0	-		-
North	31	0.8 - 1	-		1
West	3	0.07 - 0	1	-1	-

As mentioned above the 13 teams across both clubs have been discounted from total analysis figures. The table above suggests there is a shortfall of 1.5 full size 3G pitch in the North Analysis Area.

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, 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 appropriately accredited, floodlit and available for community use during the peak period.

In Melton, currently seven (three adult and four youth) affiliated teams are registered as using 3G pitches for regular match play which is deemed to be a low number based on three pitches being approved for competitive match demand.

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

Rugby union

As mentioned previously, there are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within Melton. With only minor shortfalls identified for rugby union provision, there is not deemed to be a need for World Rugby compliant 3G provision in Melton. More information can be found in Part 5: Rugby Union.

Other sports

No other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Melton (outside of some school activity). Furthermore, with limited demand identified in the Borough, and with limited presence of other relevant sports, no demand for access has been uncovered.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

In conclusion, there is insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future training demand in Melton, with a shortfall of one pitch identified.

In addition, to ensure that current supply and any future supply is maintained to a good enough standard to accommodate demand, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to

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ensure long-term sustainability. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that FA certification remains in place.

3G summary

- ◀ **In Melton, there is insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future training demand with a current shortfall of 1.5 pitches and a future shortfall of two pitches identified, due to the pitch at Brooksby Melton College being unavailable for midweek usage and the pitch at Melton Town FC has a FIFA Pro Quality pitch which associated low levels of use (maximum 20 hours).**
- ◀ **The pitch at Brooksby Melton College is approaching the end of its lifespan and will need resurfacing in the near future.**
- ◀ **The pitch at Melton Town FC is poor quality and requires resurfacing and re-testing to ensure its long term usability.**
- ◀ There are three full size 3G pitches in Melton, all of which are available to the community and sports lit.
- ◀ Of the pitches, two are located in the Central Analysis Area and one in the West Analysis Area.
- ◀ In addition, there are two smaller size 3G pitches across two sites.
- ◀ The two smaller size pitches listed above in Melton are too small to accommodate any format of play.
- ◀ In Melton, the full size 3G pitches at Brooksby Melton College and John Ferneley College are approved for FA affiliated football until May 2026. Melton Town Football Club has a FIFA Pro Quality pitch and requires testing every year. Accreditation expired in May 2023 and the pitch needs to be retested to host FA affiliated football.
- ◀ The smaller sized pitches located at Asfordby Acres and Wilton Park not FA approved and therefore can't be used for matches.
- ◀ In Melton, none of the 3G pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ In Melton, the full size pitches located at John Ferneley College and Melton Town Football Club all assessed as good quality. These have all been installed in recent years and have no significant issues.
- ◀ The 3G pitch located at Brooksby Melton College is assessed as standard quality due to some flooding issues. The pitch was installed in 2014 and is approaching the end of its recommended lifespan.
- ◀ The smaller size pitches at Ashfordby Acres and Wilton Park have exceeded their recommended lifespans although Asfordby FC has plans to resurface the pitch at Asfordby Acres.
- ◀ All midweek availability is currently at capacity or close to capacity, with only some spare capacity for midweek usage. The remainder spare capacity can be found existing at weekends.
- ◀ With 105 teams based in Melton, there is a calculated need for three full size 3G pitches. Whilst three pitches are provided, Brooksby Melton College cannot be accessed during the week, and the pitch at Melton Town FC has a FIFA Pro Quality pitch which associated low levels of use (maximum 20 hours) leading to a shortfall of 1.5 full size 3G pitch.
- ◀ When considering future demand for an additional five teams (based on future demand expressed by clubs), there is an increased shortfall of two pitches.
- ◀ If every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area that they play in there is a shortfall of one full size 3G pitch in the North Analysis Area.
- ◀ In Melton, currently two (three adult and four youth) affiliated teams are registered as using 3G pitches for regular match play which is deemed to be a low number based on three pitches being approved for competitive match demand.
- ◀ There is no demand identified for World Rugby complaint provision in Melton.
- ◀ No other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches in Melton (outside of some school activity).

PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the United Kingdom., it is responsible for the management and development of professional and recreational cricket for men, women and children. ECB is currently delivering and laying the foundations for its Strategy, “Inspiring Generations”, which has been imposed since 2020.

For senior cricket in Melton there are three main offerings (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket), whilst the youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are generally played mid-week. In addition, there is also a heavy presence of recreational and unaffiliated cricket taking place.

Country Facilities Strategy

Leicestershire County Cricket is currently undertaking a County Facilities Strategy, one of which, is to be produced by each individual county cricket board across the Country, unique to its geographical area as well as being diverse in its representation. These will be seen as a long-term plan and will involve engagement with key stakeholders, including clubs, leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England.

To inform the strategies, the ECB has set out guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered throughout the development of the strategies:

- ◀ Traditional facilities (pitches, outfield, pavilions, practice areas)
- ◀ Non-traditional facilities (multi-use games areas, tapeball/softball spaces, courts/cages)
- ◀ Indoor facilities (multi use halls, cricket specific halls, match play venues)

The strategies will be used to shape investment decisions and priorities, with the decision-making process clearly explained before a list of priority projects is produced. To inform this process, each strategy will utilise PPOSS findings, where in place, as a ‘high quality’ evidence base.

Consultation

In total, 12 affiliated cricket clubs are identified as playing within Melton. All 12 clubs were contacted initially by Leicestershire County Cricket before unresponsive clubs were chased, numerous times, by KKP. Nine cricket clubs have responded to consultation requests to date, resulting in a 75% response rate.

4.2: Supply

Grass wickets

In total, there are 13 grass wicket cricket squares in Melton, provided across 12 sites. All 13 cricket squares are available for community use.

The analysis area offering the largest grass wicket square provision is the West Analysis Area (five grass wicket squares). For the remainder of Melton, four grass wicket squares are provided in North Analysis Area, two grass wicket squares are provided in both the Central Analysis Areas and two are provided in the East Analysis Area.

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Table 4.1: Grass wicket squares in Melton by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of squares available for community use
Central	2
East	2
North	4
West	5
Melton	13

Non-turf pitches

There are non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying two grass wickets squares in Melton, located at Bottesford Cricket and Social Club and Egerton Park Sports Ground.

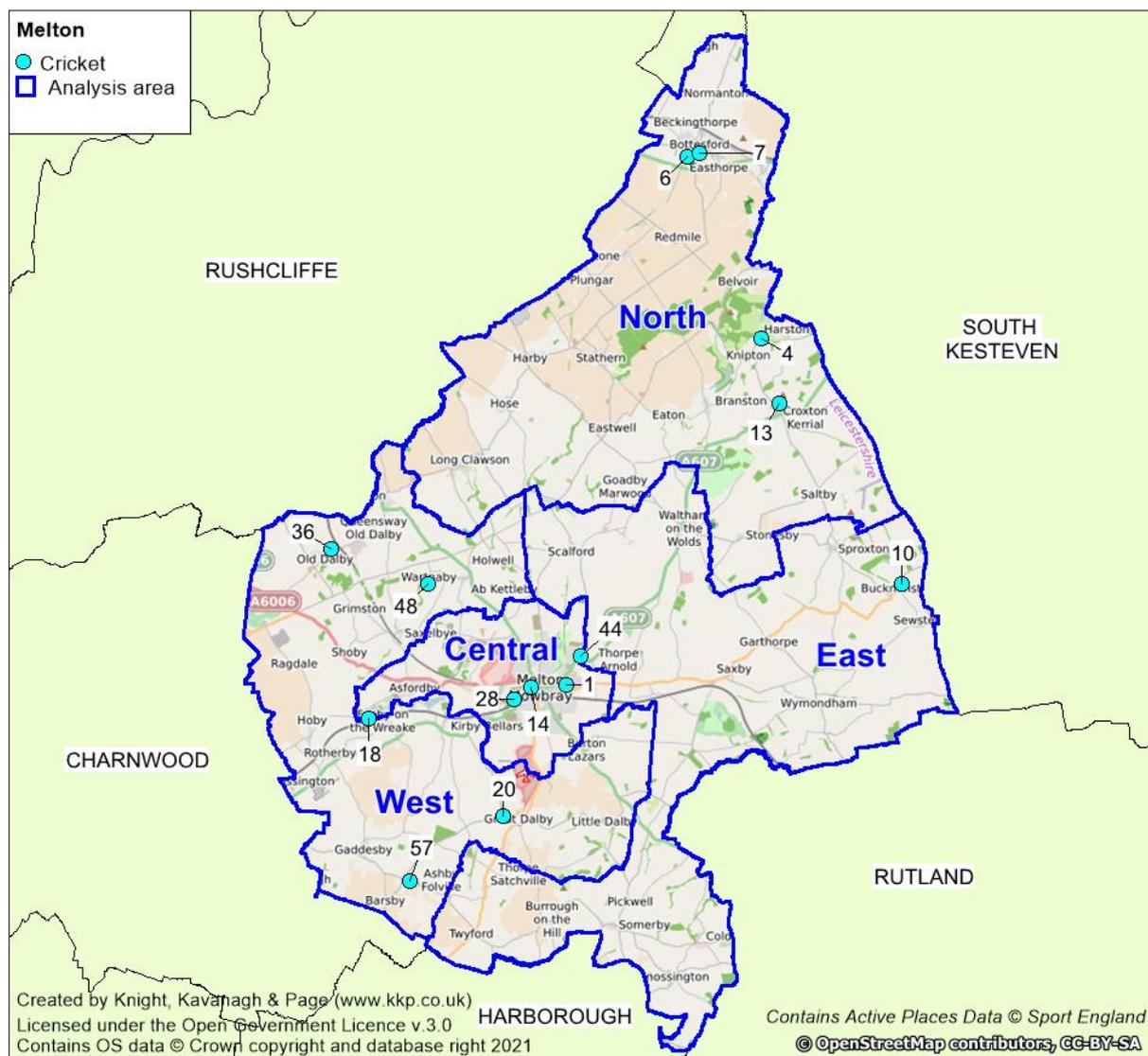
In addition, there are two standalone NTPs one located in the North Analysis Area provided at Belvoir High School, and one located in the Central Analysis Area provided at Long Field Academy.

NTPs, particularly at club sites, aid with training and practice and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs can be used for junior matches.

The map below shows the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Melton. For a key to the map, see Table 4.3.

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Figure 4.1: Location of cricket squares within Melton



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Table 4.2: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
						Grass	Non-turf
1	All England Sports Ground	LE13 1BP	Central	Yes	1	14	-
4	Belvoir CC	NG32 1RE	North	Yes	1	10	-
4	Belvoir CC	NG32 1RE	North	Yes	1	8	-
6	Belvoir High School	NG13 0AX	North	No	1	-	1
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	NG13 0BG	North	Yes	1	10	-
10	Buckminster & Barrowby CC	NG33 5RY	East	Yes	1	10	-
13	Croxton Sports and Social Club	NG32 1QP	North	Yes	1	6	-
14	Egerton Park Sports Ground	LE13 0RW	Central	Yes	1	12	1
18	Frisby, Hoby & Rotherby CC	LE14 2NP	West	Yes	1	8	-
20	Great Dalby CC	LE14 2HA	West	Yes	1	6	-
28	Long Field Academy	LE13 0BN	Central	No	1	-	1
36	Old Dalby Cricket Club	LE14 3LP	West	Yes	1	8	-
44	Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club	LE14 4SE	East	Yes	1	8	-
48	Wartnaby Cricket Field	LE14 3HY	West	Yes	1	11	-
57	Ashby Carington CC	LE14 2TE	West	Yes	1	7	-

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Ball strike issues

ECB identifies a growing issue nationally in relation to potential ball strike issues (which can result in damage to properties) where there is either new cricket provision developed close to houses, or more commonly, a new housing development being built near to a cricket pitch.

As such, the ECB recommends that the clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken at an early stage of planning; further information can be provided by the ECB.

Currently Bottesford CC is having issues regarding ball strike and a neighbouring housing development. No ball strike assessment is known to have been undertaken by the developer and the Club objected to the initial installation of the ball strike netting as it did not believe it was high enough to be safe. Since then, the development has been completed and balls have often cleared the fence but are yet to have caused any damage. However, the netting itself is also now damaged and no work has yet been undertaken to repair, maintain or replace the netting since being installed prior to the 2018 season.

Future provision

Old Dalby CC is reportedly due to vacate its site, Old Dalby Cricket Club, ahead of the 2023 season. The Club is reluctant to undertake its own maintenance and is therefore exploring groundshare agreements in and around Melton. The existing site neighbours Old Dalby C of E Primary School and has a pavilion that was constructed utilising grant funding just ten years ago. The Primary School is now exploring options to extend its grounds onto the square and utilise the pavilion on site. Leicestershire County Cricket Club believes finding another user for the site is unlikely, despite wanting to retain the square.

Management and security of tenure

Where known, six clubs have secure tenure at their home venues whilst Great Dalby CC has an unsecure tenure agreement.

For reference a site is considered to have unsecure tenure if the cricket provision on the site is not guaranteed to be retained over the next three years. The table below identifies tenure arrangements for all affiliated clubs.

Table 4.3: Summary of security of tenure for Melton cricket clubs where known.

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Club/league	Arrangement	Tenure
1	All England Sports Ground	LE13 1BP	Central	Melton Mowbray CC	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
4	Belvoir CC	NG32 1RE	North	Belvoir CC	Long-term lease from Belvoir Cricket and Countryside Trust.	Secure
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	NG13 0BG	North	Bottesford CC	Long-term lease from Parish Council	Secure
10	Buckminster & Barrowby CC	NG33 5RY	East	Buckminster & Barrowby CC	Rented from Buckminster Estate	Secure

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Club/league	Arrangement	Tenure
13	Croxton Sports and Social Club	NG32 1QP	North	Croxton Kerrial CC	Unknown	Unknown
14	Egerton Park Sports Ground	LE13 0RW	Central	Egerton Park CC	Lease agreement with the Town Estate.	Secure
18	Frisby, Hoby & Rotherby CC	LE14 2NP	West	Frisby, Hoby & Rotherby CC	Unknown	Unknown
20	Great Dalby CC	LE14 2HA	West	Great Dalby CC	Rented from undisclosed provider.	Unsecure
36	Old Dalby Cricket Club	LE14 3LP	West	Old Dalby CC	Unknown	Unknown
44	Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club	LE14 4SE	East	Thorpe Arnold CC	Rented from the Town Estate.	Secure
57	Ashby Carington CC	LE14 2TE	West	Ashby Carington CC	Long-term lease from Ashby Carington Estate	Secure

Pitch quality

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

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to players.

The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Melton found six to be good quality and seven of standard quality. None were deemed to be poor quality. The site-by-site breakdown of this is shown in the table below.

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

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
1	All England Sports Ground	LE13 1BP	Central	1	Good
4	Belvoir CC	NG32 1RE	North	1	Good
				1	Good
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	NG13 0BG	North	1	Standard
10	Buckminster & Barrowby CC	NG33 5RY	East	1	Standard

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
13	Croxton Sports and Social Club	NG32 1QP	North	1	Good
14	Egerton Park Sports Ground	LE13 0RW	Central	1	Good
18	Frisby, Hoby & Rotherby CC	LE14 2NP	West	1	Standard
20	Great Dalby CC	LE14 2HA	West	1	Standard
36	Old Dalby Cricket Club	LE14 3LP	West	1	Standard
44	Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club	LE14 4SE	East	1	Good
48	Wartnaby Cricket Field	LE14 3HY	West	1	Standard
57	Ashby Carington CC	LE14 2TE	West	1	Standard

The squares at All England Sports Ground, Belvoir CC, Croxton Sports and Social Club, Egerton Park Sports Ground and Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club are all assessed as good quality, whilst the remainder are assessed as standard. Despite being assessed as good quality, Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club is prone to flooding from the Western and Southern boundaries which can deem the square unplayable for extended periods of time.

Both Ashby Carington and Egerton Park cricket clubs indicate square quality is improving at their respective home grounds thanks to additional investment into the maintenance of the sites. Despite this, Egerton Park CC reports its outfield requires moss removal and to be cut shorter although this is not reported to be possible with the Club's existing maintenance equipment.

The square at Buckminster & Barrowby CC is also prone dog walkers and subsequently dog fouling. The square at Egerton Park Sports Ground is also said to suffer from unofficial use, vandalism, dog fouling and the prevalence of glass/litter.

The audit of standalone NTPs in Melton found both to be standard quality. The site-by-site breakdown of this is shown in the following table.

Table 4.5: Quality ratings for NTPs (site by site)

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
6	Belvoir High School	NG13 0AX	North	1	Standard
28	Long Field Academy	LE13 0BN	Central	1	Standard

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 required standards, which are benchmarked by the GMA.

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

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Table 4.6: Performance Quality Standard ratings

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

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Melton have access to changing room facilities at their home ground, although quality varies. Most of the provision is regarded as fit for purpose, however, Buckminster & Barrowby CC, Wartnaby Cricket Field and Ashby Carington CC are identified as being serviced by poor quality provision, as shown in the table below.

Table 4.7: Quality ratings for ancillary facilities servicing community available grass wicket squares

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
1	All England Sports Ground	Central	Good
4	Belvoir CC	North	Standard
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	North	Good
10	Buckminster & Barrowby CC	East	Poor
13	Croxtton Sports and Social Club	North	Standard
14	Egerton Park Sports Ground	Central	Good
18	Frisby, Hoby & Rotherby CC	West	Standard
20	Great Dalby CC	West	Standard
36	Old Dalby Cricket Club	West	Standard
44	Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club	East	Good
48	Wartnaby Cricket Field	West	Poor
57	Ashby Carington CC	West	Poor

Belvoir CC has planning permission for a new pavilion to be provided on site, which will also be headquarters of Belvoir Cricket & Countryside Trust. The plans include three indoor nets, four changing rooms, a bar and a kitchen. However, significant investment is still required to fully fund the improvements. The Club states this development will be key to increasing participation for women, girls', and junior cricket. It is also identified as a key project for Leicestershire County Cricket Club.

Despite having a good quality pavilion at Bottesford Cricket and Social Club, Bottesford CC notes that it requires additional changing facilities to better accommodate girls' cricket when playing in mixed teams and for juniors playing in adult sides.

Egerton Park CC indicates that it requires umpires changing facilities and a boundary rope to meet league requirements although does not currently have these facilities at Egerton Park Sports Ground.

Vandalism is also noted to have occurred at Buckminster & Barrowby CC in the last year, with paint being thrown over a club car whilst on site. Egerton Park Sports Ground also suffered from vandalism with benches being broken, windows smashed and the scoreboard being broken into.

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Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Where known, all clubs, except Great Dalby CC, have access to training nets at their respective home venues. However, Belvoir CC aspires to improve training nets at its home ground as the playing surface is said to be in need of resurfacing.

Bottesford CC currently use mobile nets on the NTP and a grass wicket for training at Bottesford Cricket and Social Club, as the fixed training nets are in need of replacement which the Club are currently looking for funding to replace them.

Buckminster and Barrowby CC has a static net in poor condition whilst Ashby Carington CC is in the process of building outdoor practice nets.

Egerton Park CC has a two lane net facility and a mobile net. It states it has demand for additional training facilities but did not elaborate further on this.

4.3: Demand

There are 12 affiliated cricket clubs in Melton which collectively provide 36 cricket teams, equating to 30 senior men's and six junior boys. No women's or dedicated girls' teams are identified. Demand information was collated via club consultation and information from LCCC. For unresponsive clubs, information has been retrieved from PlayCricket.

Many of the clubs in Melton are relatively small, with over half providing only one or two senior teams.

Egerton Park CC and Thorpe Arnold CC offer the greatest number of teams, with both accommodating six and five teams respectively.

Table 4.8: Summary of teams by club

Club	Analysis area	No. of teams	
		Senior male	Junior
Melton Mowbray CC	Central	3	1
Old Dalby CC	West	2	-
Ashby Carington CC	West	4	-
Great Dalby CC	West	3	-
Frisby, Hoby & Rotherby CC	West	2	1
Egerton Park CC	Central	3	3
Thorpe Arnold CC	East	4	1
Wreake Nomads CC	East	2	-
Buckminster & Barrowby CC	East	1	-
Croxton Kerrial CC	North	1	-
Belvoir CC	North	3	-
Bottesford CC	North	2	-

As seen in the table below, most teams are based in the West Analysis Area (12). The Central Analysis Area has a further ten teams, the East Analysis Area contains eight teams, and the remaining six teams are located in the North Analysis Area.

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Table 4.9: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams	
	Senior men	Junior
Central	6	4
East	7	1
North	6	-
West	11	1
Melton	30	6

In addition to affiliated competitive demand, some clubs operate ECB initiatives such as All Stars, Dynamos and softball cricket.

All Stars

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

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

Dynamos

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of ‘Inspiring Generations’ will be the Dynamos programme for 8-11 year olds which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars Cricket programme for 5-8 year olds established in 2018 and will develop the pathway to retain juniors progressing from All Stars into Dynamos.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified soft ball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme is strongly linked to The Hundred.

Bottesford CC is identified as running All Stars and Dynamos sessions. The table below summarises the participation figures for 2022.

Table 4.10: Summary of Melton All Stars and Dynamos participation

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Club/organisation	All Stars	2022 sign ups	Dynamos	2022 sign ups
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	North	Bottesford CC	✓	30	✓	36
-	-	-	Total	All Stars	30	Dynamos	36

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Softball

Softball is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are played on the outfield and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

It should be noted that All Stars, Dynamos and softball generally takes place on the cricket outfields rather than the actual squares. Although this does not impact the carrying capacity of the square it does influence the accessibility of the squares as whilst the outfield is in use the main square cannot be used to accommodate fixtures. Therefore, this may limit the potential spare capacity whilst these activities are taking place, generally on midweek evenings or Sunday mornings.

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to Melton 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.

There is no known exported demand from Melton. However, as stated previously, Old Dalby CC is exploring groundshare agreements in and around Melton for the 2023 season which may lead to demand being exported out of the Borough.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Melton study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. There is no known imported demand from Melton.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand is demand which is perceived to exist but is not presently realised, whereas 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 latent/unmet demand for cricket in Melton.

Future demand

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

Population forecasts

Based on population projections to 2036, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) estimates the likely additional demand for grass cricket pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

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For reference total current population in 2022 of 51,394 will increase to 53,022 by 2036. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.11: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Peak time for population	Average games for age group	Match equivalent session per season ⁵
Men (18-55yrs)	349	0.89	1	Saturday	12	12
Women (18-55yrs)	0	0.00	0	Sunday	8	0
Boys (7-18yrs)	607	0.18	0	Midweek	6	0
Girls (7-18yrs)	0	0.00	0	Midweek	6	0

As seen in the table above, one additional men's team are expected to be generated by population growth. Although no women, girls' or boys' teams are predicted to be created via population growth alone.

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, TGRs do not take into consideration the aforementioned ECB initiatives such as All Stars, Dynamos or softball. These are all likely to contribute to growth above levels shown through team generation rates.

The ECB has also recently announced new five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024. The new deals include a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. 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. Such context may result in increased future demand.

Participation increases

Of the responding clubs, only two quantified their aspirations to increase levels of participation through the creation of new teams. This equates to a total aspirational growth of only one senior men's, one senior women's and two junior teams as shown below.

Table 4.12: Future demand aspirations expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Buckminster & Barrowby CC	East	-	-	1
Egerton Park CC	Central	1	1	1

In addition, Thorpe Arnold CC notes it is hoping to restart its junior section which is said to have previously been strong. Belvoir CC also expects its junior section to continue growing but did not quantify this.

⁵ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Melton is Saturday. For junior cricket, peak time is midweek albeit some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

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 square 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 therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive match equivalent sessions per season per square that is available and that currently takes place.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, or where the level of play was not made clear, an 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

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea of this is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice was followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.

In addition to grass wickets, NTPs are considered to have capacity for 60 match equivalent sessions per season. However, please note that NTPs have been discounted from the analysis by means of not distorting the findings. This is because no NTPs are recorded as accommodating more than their recommended capacity, which is 60 match equivalent sessions per season, meaning all NTPs are considered to have spare capacity. Whilst this translates to actual spare capacity for junior play, where the provision is more commonly used and where matches can be played on a variety of days, it is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

Any squares not currently available for community use have also been discounted from the analysis as they are not presently providing any capacity.

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Table 4.13: Capacity analysis of community available grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Users	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Saturday)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Sunday)	Potential spare capacity for junior cricket? (Midweek)
1	All England Sports Ground	Central	Melton Mowbray CC / Wreake Nomads CC	1	Good	14	70	31	39	No	No	Yes
4	Belvoir CC	North	Belvoir CC	1	Good	10	50	20	30	No	Yes	Yes
				1	Good	8	40	7	33	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	North	Bottesford CC	1	Standard	10	40	17	23	No	Yes	Yes
10	Buckminster & Barrowby CC	East	Buckminster & Barrowby CC	1	Standard	10	40	7	33	Yes	Yes	Yes
13	Croxton Sports and Social Club	North	Croxton Kerrial CC	1	Good	6	30	5	25	Yes	Yes	Yes
14	Egerton Park Sports Ground	Central	Egerton Park CC	1	Good	12	60	36	24	No	Yes	Yes
18	Frisby, Hoby & Rotherby CC	West	Frisby, Hoby & Rotherby CC	1	Standard	8	32	18	14	No	Yes	Yes
20	Great Dalby CC	West	Great Dalby CC	1	Standard	6	24	18	6	No	No	Yes
36	Old Dalby Cricket Club	West	Old Dalby CC	1	Standard	8	32	10	22	No	Yes	Yes
44	Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club	East	Thorpe Arnold CC	1	Good	8	40	38	2	No	No	No
48	Wartnaby Cricket Field	West	-	1	Standard	11	44	-	44	Yes	Yes	Yes
57	Ashby Carington CC	West	Ashby Carington CC	1	Standard	7	24	26	2	No	No	No

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Actual spare capacity

Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format. It should, however, be noted that the actual spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and during midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising it across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per season theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

Saturday cricket

Although a large amount of spare capacity is identified, it is not as simple as to aggregate this into a general oversupply of cricket squares. Despite 12 squares displaying some form of spare capacity, only four are available for further senior cricket activity on a Saturday. All remaining squares are used to capacity at this time, either because two teams are already assigned to them as a home venue or because the level of spare capacity is insufficient to accommodate an additional team without overplay being created.

In total, actual spare capacity equates to 72 match equivalent sessions per season.

Table 4.14: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by site

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
4	Belvoir CC	24	Used by one Sunday team; spare capacity for two additional Saturday teams.
10	Buckminster & Barrowby CC	12	Used by one Saturday Team; spare capacity for one additional Saturday team.
13	Croxton Sports and Social Club	12	Used by one Saturday Team; spare capacity for one additional Saturday team.
48	Wartnaby Cricket Field	24	No teams currently use this site; spare capacity for two additional Saturday teams.

The North Analysis Area hosts the highest amount of actual spare capacity whilst no actual spare capacity for Saturday cricket is identifiable in the Central Analysis Area.

Table 4.15: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Central	-
East	12
North	36
West	24
Melton	72

Sunday cricket

All squares with actual spare capacity on a Saturday also have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand on Sundays. Additionally, all remaining squares (except the square at All England Ground Sports Ground, Great Dalby CC, Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club and Ashby Carington CC) have spare capacity for additional demand on Sundays.

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Table 4.16: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
4	Belvoir CC	20	Used by two Saturday teams; spare capacity for two additional Sunday teams.
		10	Used by one Sunday team; spare capacity for one additional Sunday team.
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	10	Used by two Saturday teams; spare capacity for one additional Sunday team.
10	Buckminster & Barrowby CC	20	Used by one Saturday team; spare capacity for two additional Sunday teams.
13	Croxton Sports and Social Club	20	Used by one Saturday team; spare capacity for two additional Sunday teams.
14	Egerton Park Sports Ground	10	Used by two Saturday teams, one Sunday team and two midweek teams; spare capacity for one additional Sunday team.
18	Frisby, Hoby & Rotherby CC	10	Used by two Saturday teams and one midweek team; spare capacity for one additional Sunday team.
36	Old Dalby Cricket Club	10	Used by two Saturday teams; spare capacity for one additional Sunday team.
48	Wartnaby Cricket Field	20	No teams currently use this site; spare capacity for two additional Sunday teams.

Total actual spare capacity on a Sunday equates to 130 match equivalent sessions. The most spare capacity is identified in the North Analysis Area with 60 match sessions of spare capacity whilst the Central Analysis Area only has additional capacity for 10 match sessions.

Table 4.17: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Central	10
East	20
North	60
West	40
Melton	130

Sunday capacity provides capacity for additional senior men's demand to be accommodated outside of the peak period whilst still being able to play within a competitive format. Moreover, it provides peak time availability for senior women's cricket (both hardball and softball) and for some junior demand.

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Junior cricket (midweek)

For junior midweek cricket, 11 squares have actual spare capacity, and the total amount of actual spare capacity equates to 293 match equivalent sessions. The reason for midweek capacity being higher than the capacity for senior cricket, especially on Saturdays, is because fixtures can be split across numerous days, meaning more than two home teams can be assigned to a square. In addition, junior teams can utilise NTPs where they are provided.

Generally, it is considered that squares can accommodate up to six junior teams during midweek (although some do accommodate more). This then also leaves capacity for other activities, such as All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

Table 4.18: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by site

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
1	All England Sports Ground	36	Used by two Saturday, three Sunday and one midweek teams; spare capacity for six additional midweek teams.
4	Belvoir CC	30	Used by two Saturday teams; spare capacity for five additional midweek teams.
		30	Used by one Sunday team; spare capacity for five additional midweek team.
7	Bottesford Cricket and Social Club	18	Used by two Saturday teams; spare capacity for three additional midweek team.
10	Buckminster & Barrowby CC	30	Used by one Saturday team; spare capacity for five additional midweek teams.
13	Croxton Sports and Social Club	24	Used by one Saturday team; spare capacity for four additional midweek teams.
14	Egerton Park Sports Ground	18	Used by two Saturday teams; spare capacity for three additional midweek teams.
18	Frisby, Hoby & Rotherby CC	12	Used by two Saturday teams and one midweek team; spare capacity for two additional midweek teams.
20	Great Dalby CC	6	Used by two Saturday teams and one Sunday team; spare capacity for one additional midweek team.
36	Old Dalby Cricket Club	18	Used by two Saturday teams; spare capacity for three additional midweek team.
48	Wartnaby Cricket Field	36	No teams currently use this site; spare capacity for six additional midweek teams.

The actual spare capacity is predominately in the North Analysis Area, which contributes 102 match equivalent sessions per season. The East Analysis Area has the least actual spare capacity with 30 match sessions.

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Table 4.19: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
Central	54
East	30
North	102
West	72
Melton	258

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square. Ashby Carington CC is the only site identified in Melton as being overplayed and resides in the West Analysis Area. The site is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. With overplay identified only being minimal it should be noted that this can be managed through dedicated maintenance. Furthermore, as the square is currently of standard quality, improving the square to good quality would alleviate current overplay.

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. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and identified future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for senior teams and between four and eight matches for junior teams, depending on age).

Saturday supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday). For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

Table 4.20: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central	-	-	0	-	0
East	12	-	12	-	12
North	36	-	36	12	24
West	24	2	22	-	22
Melton	72	2	70	12	58

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As seen in the table above, there is current actual spare capacity of grass wicket squares in Melton on Saturdays amounting to 70 match equivalent sessions. After considering future demand derived from team generation rates, spare capacity of grass wicket squares amounts to 58 match equivalent sessions.

Sunday cricket supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams.

Table 4.21: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Sunday cricket

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central	10	-	10	-	10
East	20	-	20	-	20
North	60	-	60	-	60
West	40	2	38	-	38
Melton	130	2	128	0	128

In contrast to Saturday cricket, there is overall current and future spare capacity for Sunday cricket in Melton amounting to 128 match equivalent sessions per season. Spare capacity is identified in each analysis area and no additional Sunday teams are expected to be created by team generation rates.

Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by six (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because junior demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamos.

Table 4.22: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for midweek cricket

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central	54	-	54	-	54
East	30	-	30	-	30
North	102	-	102	-	102
West	72	2	70	-	70
Melton	258	2	256	0	256

There is current and future overall spare capacity for midweek cricket amounting to 256 match equivalent sessions per season. The East Analysis Area hosts the least amount of spare capacity with 30 match equivalent sessions per season.

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Cricket – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There are 12 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets; however, only four of these have actual spare capacity for senior demand on Saturday's, whilst nine have actual spare capacity on Sunday's and 11 have actual spare capacity midweek.
- ◀ Ashby Carington CC is the only site identified in Melton as being overplayed. The site is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists currently for Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket; when considering future demand spare capacity still exists.

Cricket – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are 13 grass wicket cricket squares in Melton, provided across 12 sites. All 13 cricket squares are available for community use.
- ◀ There are non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying two grass wickets squares in Melton. These are found at Bottesford Cricket and Social Club and Egerton Park Sports Ground.
- ◀ Where known, six clubs have secure tenure at their home venues whilst Great Dalby CC has an unsecure tenure agreement.
- ◀ The squares at All England Sports Ground, Belvoir CC, Croxton Sports and Social Club, Egerton Park Sports Ground and Thorpe Arnold Cricket Club are all assessed as good quality, whilst the remainder are assessed as standard.
- ◀ The audit of standalone NTPs in Melton found both to be standard quality.
- ◀ All clubs in Melton have access to changing room facilities at their home ground, with only Buckminster & Barrowby CC, Wartnaby Cricket Field and Ashby Carington CC identified as being serviced by poor quality provision.

Cricket – demand summary

- ◀ There are 12 affiliated cricket clubs in Melton which collectively provide 36 cricket teams, equating to 30 senior men's and six junior boys. No women's or dedicated girls' teams are identified.
- ◀ Egerton Park CC and Thorpe Arnold CC offer the greatest number of teams, with both accommodating six and five teams respectively.
- ◀ Where known, only Bottesford CC runs All Stars and Dynamos sessions.
- ◀ One additional men's team is expected to be generated by population growth. Although no women, girls' or boys' teams are predicted to be created via population growth alone.
- ◀ Of the responding clubs, only two (Buckminster & Barrowby CC and Egerton Park CC) quantifies aspirations to increase levels of participation through the creation of a new teams. This equates to a total aspirational growth of one senior men's, one senior women's and two junior teams.

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. As part of this, Club Developers and a team of community rugby coaches deliver core programmes for clubs across Melton.

The RFU governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

Consultation

One rugby club is identified as playing within Melton; Melton Mowbray RFC. The Club was consulted with via video call resulting in a 100% response rate.

5.2: Supply

There are nine grass rugby union pitches identified in Melton across three sites. Of these, eight pitches are available for community use across two sites, with only the pitch at Belvoir High School unavailable to the community.

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

Analysis area	No. senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. mini pitches
Central	4	-	1
East	-	-	-
North		1	-
West	3	-	-
Melton	6	1	1

As shown in the table above, most of the community available pitches are identified within the Central Analysis Area (five pitches), followed by the West Analysis Area (three pitches). The North Analysis Area has the fewest number of pitches (one).

Traditionally, mini and junior rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches. In Melton, a dedicated mini pitch is provided at Melton Sports Village accommodating Melton Mowbray RFC's mini demand. However, additional mini pitches are marked around the line marked pitches with cones when required and girls demand is typically hosted on the senior pitches on site. Junior rugby on site takes place on over marked senior pitches.

Table 5.2: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ⁶
U7	Mini	20 x 12
U8	Mini	45 x 22
U9	Mini	60 x 30
U10	Mini	60 x 35

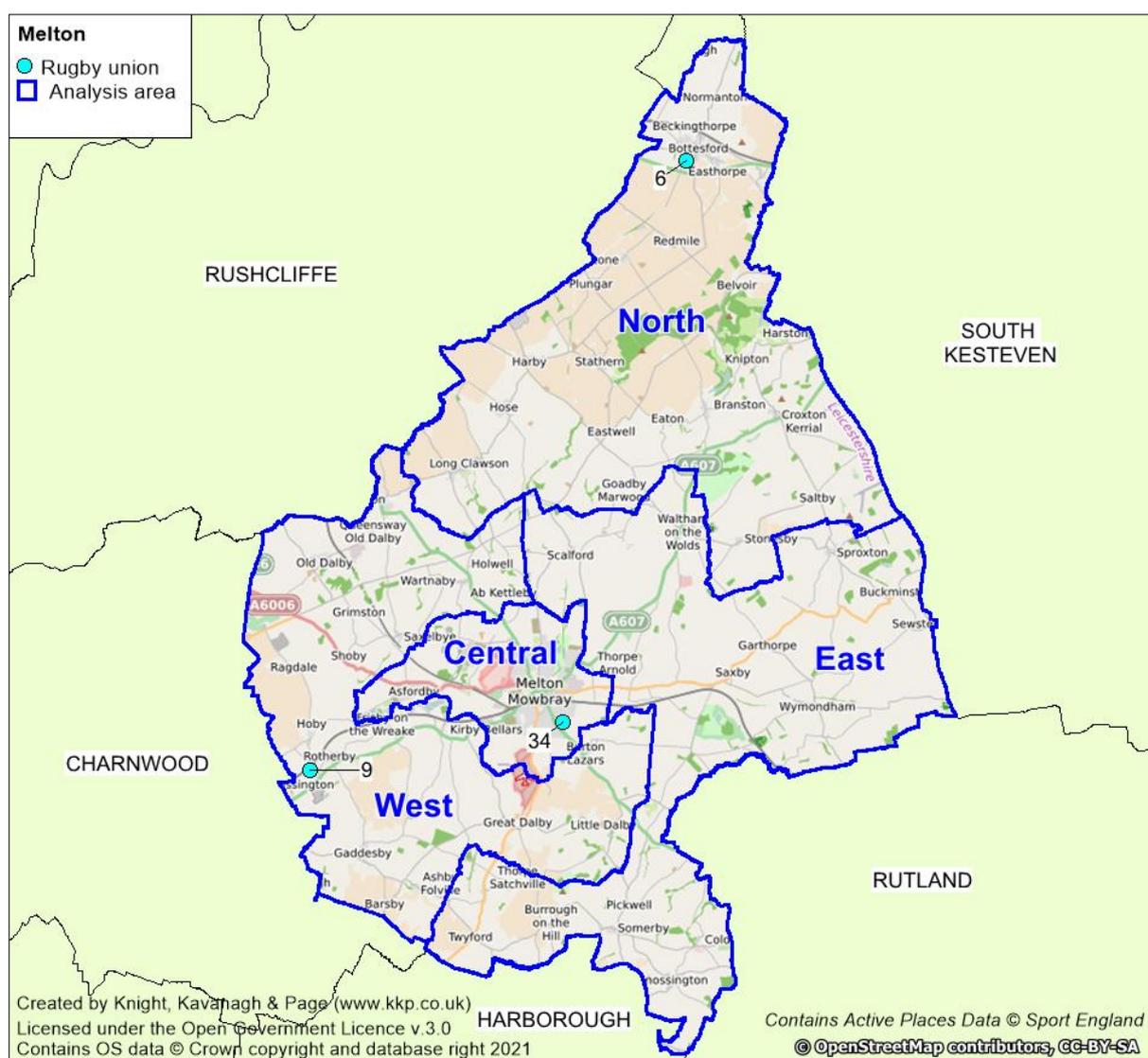
⁶ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

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Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ⁶
U11	Mini	60 x 43
U12	Mini	60 x 43
U13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 ⁷

The figure below identifies all grass rugby union pitches currently servicing Melton. For a key to the map, see Table 5.6.

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Melton



⁷ Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.

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Future provision

Melton Mowbray RFC aspires to have its own facilities and notes Leicestershire County Council has sectioned off some land for the Club which it would like to relocate to. This proposed new site is said to be large enough to accommodate two senior pitches and a clubhouse facility. Whilst this would become the Club's primary site, it would still require access to the pitches at Melton Sports Village to adequately accommodate its demand.

Ownership/management

Melton Mowbray RFC has a lease agreement with the Council for the use of Melton Sports Village until the 2047/48 season whilst Leicester Tigers owns and manages two pitches at Brooksby Melton College. The remaining pitches at Belvoir High School and Brooksby Melton College are managed by their respective education providers.

Pitch quality

The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken, with the definitions of these shown in the table below.

Table 5.3: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Minimal or no maintenance is undertaken
M1	Regular maintenance is undertaken that extends beyond a basic regime
M2	A sophisticated, regular and dedicated maintenance regime is undertaken

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

Table 5.4: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Drainage is natural but inadequate
D1	Drainage is natural and adequate
D2	A pipe drainage system is installed (at 5-metre centres and within the last eight years)
D3	A pipe and slit drainage system is installed (at 1-metre centres in the last five years)

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated on a scale of good, standard and poor as shown below.

Table 5.5: 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

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For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the rugby union pitches in Melton, there are five good quality, two standard quality and two poor quality pitches. All poor quality pitches are located at education sites whilst Melton Sports Village accommodates the good quality pitches.

A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in the table overleaf.

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Table 5.6: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	Management	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lit?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
6	Belvoir High School	NG13 0AX	North	Unsecure	Education	No	1	Junior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
9	Brooksby Melton College	LE14 2LJ	West	Unsecure	Sports Club	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
					Education	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor
34	Melton Sports Village	LE13 1DN	Central	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	4	Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good
							1	Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good

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The pitches at Melton Sports Village are maintained to a high level by Melton Mowbray RFC with regular verti-draining, fertilising, aeration, weed killing and seeding taking place on site. However, despite being assessed as good quality, one senior pitch has issues with the mole drains installed and so it does not currently drain sufficiently.

Of the pitches at Brooksby Melton College, two were constructed and now managed by Leicester Tigers. These pitches are maintained adequately by the Club and drain adequately. Conversely, the College pitch is only maintained to a basic level and resides on a floodplain and thus, drains poorly.

No quality issues were raised through consultation with the pitch at Belvoir High School although it is only maintained to a basic level.

Ancillary facilities

At Melton Sports Village, Melton Mowbray RFC has access to its own dedicated kitchen, bar and male and female toilets. Whilst these facilities are reported to be in good condition, the Club also accesses the communal changing provision as well as the dance studio which it uses as a social space.

The communal changing facilities are said to be in poor condition, with the facilities often becoming unfit for purpose before maintenance and refurbishment is undertaken. Furthermore, Melton Sports Village is said to have insufficient parking on site due to extensive multi-sport use, particularly at peak times. Due to this, the Club often allows cars to park on the grass area near the pitches although this becomes dangerous with cars left in very close vicinity to the playing area.

5.3: Demand

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

Competitive demand

One rugby club is considered to be based in Melton; Melton Mowbray RFC, providing a total of 16 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of two senior men's, five junior boys', three junior girls' and six mini teams.

Table 5.7: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams				
		Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mini
Melton Mowbray RFC	Central	2	-	5	3	6

In addition to the above, Leicester Tigers hosts its Academy College Education (ACE) programme at Brooksby Melton College which consists of BTEC and A Level options with eight hours a week of rugby training as well as playing in the Academies & Colleges Education League. Leicester Tigers accepts 60 players to its ACE programme per year.

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Table 5.8: Summary of demand by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of teams playing				
	Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mini
Central	2	-	5	3	6
East	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	-	-	-	-
West	-	-	-	-	-
Melton	2	-	5	3	6

Training demand

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

None of the grass pitches at Melton Sports Village are serviced by sports lighting so the Club uses a separate sports lit grass training area on site that accommodates all of its training demand.

Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby (WR) produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A 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.

Nationally, clubs with access to 3G pitches for training utilise them as a method of protecting grass pitches for matches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play generally continues to take place on grass pitches, although there is occasional use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of grass pitch quality or capacity issues (especially during bad weather spells).

No WR compliant 3G pitches are identified in Melton.

Exported/imported demand

There is no known exported or imported rugby union demand in Melton although, as mentioned previously, Leicester Tigers ACE programme is based in Melton.

Latent/unmet demand

No latent or unmet demand has been identified in Melton, with Melton Mowbray RFC reporting current demand is being met.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing developments within Melton.

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Population increases

Based on population projections to 2036 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby pitches that will arise from any growth.

Using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, team generation rates (TGRs) have been established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

For reference total current population in 2022 of 51,394 will increase to 53,022 by 2036. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 5.9: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	No. of match equivalent session ⁸
Men (19-45yrs)	1:3260	0.06	0	-
Women (19-45yrs)	0	0.00	0	-
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:360	0.15	0	-
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:597	0.09	0	-
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:607	0.18	0	-

As seen in the table above, no additional teams are expected to be generated via population growth alone.

Future training demand

Similar to competitive demand referenced above, future levels of training demand can also be calculated via using Sport England's PPC. This demand is based upon access to a sports lit grass pitch equated into match equivalent sessions.

Table 5.10: Future training demand

Age group	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions)	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions) - rounded figure ⁹	Hour/s equivalent
Men (19-45yrs)	0.03	0	0
Women (19-45yrs)	0.00	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	0.07	0	0
Girls (13-18yrs)	0.04	0	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	0.02	0	0

As no additional teams are expected to be generated, no additional training demand is likely to materialise through population growth.

⁸ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

⁹ Rounded to the nearest 0.5 match equivalent session.

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Participation increases

Melton Mowbray RFC indicates it will continue to bring through a U7 team every year. However, whilst the Club is targeting a junior membership of 300 members, current membership is 280 and once it hits 300 members the Club believes it will have no further capacity for additional members.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, only future demand identified through participation increases are included due to the large increases expressed by clubs. This is because these aspirations are likely to absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than both being considered separately.

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 teams play at this time. Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

5.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

- ◀ All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where dedicated junior and/or mini pitches are provided and are known to be used as standard practice).
- ◀ From U13s upwards, teams play 15 v 15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U6s-U12s) play on half of a senior pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time; this means that play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ◀ 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 home and away basis.
- ◀ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.
- ◀ Internal use of school pitches is added to current play, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.

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

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

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

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

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Table 5.12: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Melton

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
6	Belvoir High School	North	No	1	Junior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	1	1.5	-	Unavailable for community use.
9	Brooksby Melton College	West	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	7	4	3	Pitches are overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week due to demand from Leicester Tigers ACE programme.
			Yes	1	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor	0.5	0.5		Played to capacity through curricular demand.
34	Melton Sports Village	Central	Yes	4	Senior	No	M2 / D1	Good	5	12	7	Pitches are used for senior match demand by Melton Mowbray RFC.
				1	Mini	No	M2 / D1	Good	3	3		Played to capacity through mini match demand from Melton Mowbray RFC.

Actual spare capacity

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

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

Table 5.13: Actual spare capacity table (senior pitches)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches with spare capacity	Pitch type	Potential spare capacity	Actual spare capacity (peak period)	Comments
34	Melton Sports Village	Central	4	Senior	7	2.5	Actual spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Of the four pitches identified as having potential spare capacity at Melton Sports Village, three are considered to have actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in senior rugby. This totals 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week, all of which, is identified in the Central Analysis Area.

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Table 5.14: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior rugby (Saturday PM)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)
Central	2.5
East	-
North	-
West	-
Melton	2.5

For mini and junior rugby, ascertaining actual spare capacity can be unclear with regards to the programming of matches as it can vary from week to week. This is because junior and mini sections tend to enter cup competitions or play organised friendly fixtures, with clubs arranging for several of their age groups to play those from another club all at once, either at home or away. Then when fixtures are not scheduled, clubs will generally hold training sessions, which means that clubs may require use of home pitches for consecutive weeks, or not at all for the same time period.

Given the above, it is generally assumed that no pitches used by mini or junior teams have significant actual spare capacity for an increase in demand (over and above what actual spare capacity has been identified for senior play). However, it is acknowledged that some capacity does exist during the weekend when the pitches are not in use.

Overplay

There are two senior pitches at Brooksby Melton College that are overplayed by a total of three match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 5.15: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of overplayed pitches	Pitch type	Overplay
9	Brooksby Melton College	West	2	Senior	3

Overplay on site is due to demand from Leicester Tigers ACE programme and therefore does not impact on wider community rugby across Melton. However, with the overplayed pitches being of standard quality, further pitch improvements would reduce or even alleviate current overplay. This will be further examined in the upcoming Strategy and Action Plan document.

Table 5.16: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
Central	-
East	-
North	-
West	3
Melton	3

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5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay of rugby union pitches in Melton based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on club development plans, which are considered likely to absorb future demand identified through population increases.

Table 5.17: Summary of supply and demand analysis

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁰	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current demand	Future demand	Total
Central	2.5	-	2.5	0.25	2.25
East	-	-		-	
North	-	-		-	
West	-	3	3	-	3
Melton	2.5	3	0.5	0.25	0.75

There is a current shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand in Melton. However, all overplay is located at Brooksby Melton College and derived from Leicester Tigers ACE programme using the pitches.

When factoring in future demand, the shortfall increases to 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

¹⁰ In match equivalent sessions

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Rugby union supply and demand summary

- ◀ **There is a current overall shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with future demand exacerbating this to 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week.**

Rugby union supply summary

- ◀ There are nine rugby union pitches identified across three sites, of which eight pitches are available for community use across two sites.
- ◀ Melton Mowbray RFC aspires to have its own facilities and notes Leicestershire County Council has sectioned off some land for the Club which it would like to relocate to.
- ◀ Melton Mowbray RFC has a lease agreement with the Council for the use of Melton Sports Village whilst Leicester Tigers owns and manages two pitches at Brooksby Melton College. The remaining pitches are managed by their respective education providers.
- ◀ Of the rugby union pitches in Melton, there are five good quality, two standard quality and two poor quality pitches. All poor quality pitches are identified at education sites whilst Melton Sports Village accommodates the good quality pitches.
- ◀ At Melton Sports Village, the communal changing facilities are said to be in poor condition, with the facilities often becoming unfit for purpose before maintenance and refurbishment is undertaken. Parking is also insufficient on site due to extensive multi-sport use.

Rugby union demand summary

- ◀ One rugby club is considered to be based in Melton; Melton Mowbray RFC, providing a total of 16 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of two senior men's, five junior boys', three junior girls' and six mini teams.
- ◀ The Club's training demand is accommodated on a sports lit grass training area at Melton Sports Village.
- ◀ Melton Mowbray RFC indicates it will continue to bring through a U7 team every year although notes it is approaching capacity for junior membership.
- ◀ Of the four pitches identified as having potential spare capacity, three are considered to have actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in senior rugby totalling 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There are two senior pitches at Brooksby Melton College that are overplayed by a total of three match equivalent sessions per week.

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PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH).

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

Table 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.

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

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

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

Consultation

One hockey club is identified as playing within Melton; Melton HC. The Club responded to consultation requests, resulting in a 100% response rate.

6.2: Supply

There is one full size, sand filled hockey suitable pitch in Melton, located at Melton Sports Village. The pitch has sports lighting and is available for community use.

Table 6.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs

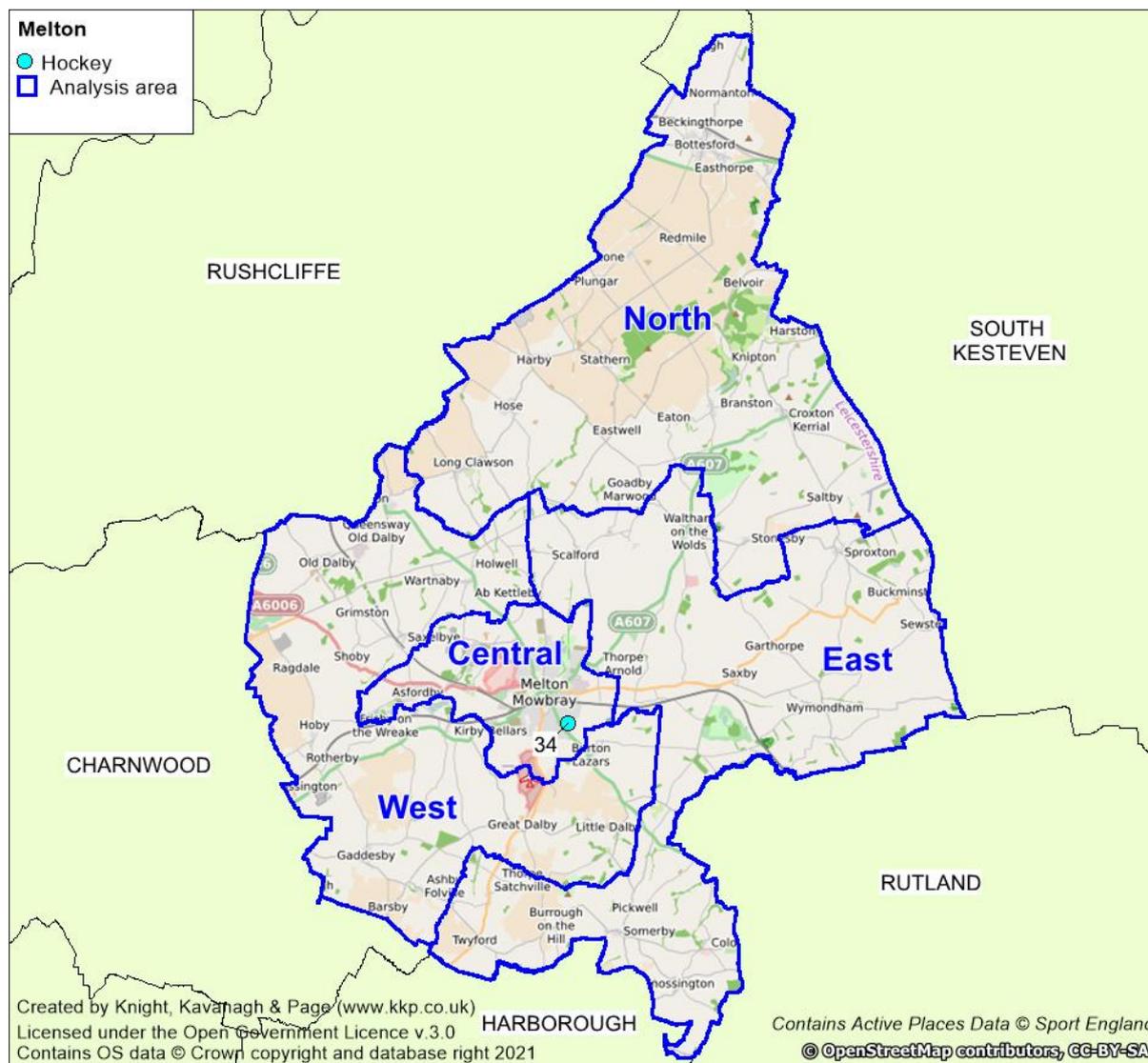
Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Surface type	Size (metres)
34	Melton Sports Village	Central	1	Sand Filled	97 x 61

No smaller size AGPs have been identified in Melton.

For the location of the full size AGPs, please see Figure 6.1 below.

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Figure 6.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in Melton



Security of tenure

Melton HC currently has a rental agreement in place with Everyone Active, the Council’s sports and leisure operator. However, Everyone Active only has one year left on its contract with the Council as it explores options to consolidate the leisure facility offer in Melton. Therefore, a new agreement should be secured with the new operator when known to secure the Club’s usage.

Availability

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

On the above basis, the AGP at Melton Sports Village is considered to be readily available to the community, with the pitch only unavailable from 09:00 – 10:00 on Sunday mornings within the peak period.

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Table 6.3: Availability of the full size hockey suitable AGP

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments
34	Melton Sports Village	33	Available from 07:00 – 22:00 during the week, from 09:00 – 18:00 on Saturdays and from 10:00 – 18:00 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, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that some providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed, leading to many pitches now being poor quality.

For the PPOSS, each AGP has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments. This rating is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and the maintenance that is undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Table 6.4: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
34	Melton Sports Village	1	2007	Poor

Based on the guidance of a ten-year carpet life, the pitch at Melton Sports Village needs refurbishment as it has not been resurfaced since 2007. Whilst agreeing with the poor quality, Melton HC notes the playing surface is currently in a playable condition following a deep clean that was undertaken after the pandemic. Before this, the pitch had become dangerous to use. It should be noted that a deep clean will only temporarily improve quality, meaning imminent resurfacing is still required as soon as feasibly possible.

Additionally, following the construction of the 3G pitch at neighbouring Melton Town Football Club, an earth bank has reportedly been left next to the AGP which is unstable and hindering the effectiveness of the pitch drainage. If this subsides onto the pitch, it is expected to render it unusable.

Ancillary provision

Melton HC has access to the communal ancillary provision at Melton Sports Village. The changing rooms are in poor condition and often becoming unfit for purpose. There is also said to be an insufficient number of changing rooms to service peak time multi-sport demand.

6.3: Demand

There is currently one community hockey club: Melton HC, playing in Melton. It currently fields two senior men's and one senior women's team.

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Table 6.5: Summary of demand

Name of club	No. of competitive teams			No. of members	
	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	Senior	Junior
Melton HC	2	1	-	50	30

In addition to the above, the Club previously fielded a third men's team although this was lost during the pandemic. It aspires to reinstate this team through additional coaching and junior development.

All matches and training take place at Melton Sports Village, with matches played from 10:30 – 13:30 on Saturdays and training from 18:00 – 20:30 on Wednesdays. Post-match refreshments are also held on site, utilising the dance studio as a social space.

Exported/imported demand

There is no known exported or imported hockey demand in Melton.

Latent/unmet demand

No latent or unmet demand has been identified in Melton, with Melton HC reporting current demand is being met.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years, meaning it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.

As stated above, Melton HC aspires to reinstate its third senior men's team.

Hockey Heroes

Hockey Heroes is a six-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance, and respect.

There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in Melton.

Back to Hockey

Back to Hockey sessions are fun, social, and informal and are aimed at people who either have not played for a number of years or that are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver the programme.

Benefits of clubs being involved in Back to Hockey include:

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

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There are currently no Back to Hockey sessions operating in Melton.

Walking hockey

Increasing in popularity, walking hockey is perfect for players looking for a less physically demanding version of the game but still enjoy showing their skills and being involved in the team and social aspect.

There are currently no walking hockey sessions operating in Melton.

Peak time demand

Generally, all senior hockey is played on a Saturday whereas all junior hockey is played on a Sunday.

6.4: Usage

There is minimal usage of the AGP at Melton Sports Village despite accommodating all hockey demand within the Borough.

The pitch was previously heavily used for football training demand although this has all subsequently relocated to the neighbouring 3G pitch at Melton Town Football Club. The AGP now only accommodates Melton HC's match and training demand.

Table 6.6: Usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Availability in the peak period	Usage comments	Capacity for hockey
34	Melton Sports Village	33	Used by Melton HC, no other usage is reported with all football demand said to have relocated to the new 3G pitch at Melton Town Football Club.	Spare capacity for match and training demand.

6.5: Supply and demand analysis

Match play analysis

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

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there is one full size AGP available which can accommodate hockey matches in Melton, this provides an opportunity to accommodate up to eight hockey teams across the Borough. With just three teams currently playing in Melton and future demand of four teams, there is ample spare capacity to accommodate demand.

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is generally less than it is for senior hockey. This is because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time). Despite this, there are currently no junior hockey teams within Melton.

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Training analysis

In terms of capacity for training, with hockey training the only midweek usage taking place on the AGP at Melton Sports Village, there is significant (15.5 hours) of midweek spare capacity during peak time for additional demand.

It is also worth noting that the shortfall of 3G pitches (see Part 3) results in football demand accessing the hockey suitable pitches. In many local authorities, such pitches require football activity to be financially stable. This is especially the case in Melton, with Everyone Active noting that since the development of the 3G pitch at Melton Town Football Club, all football bookings have relocated to the 3G pitch and the AGP at Melton Sports Village is no longer deemed to be feasible through existing hockey lettings alone. In response to this, the FA has stated it is keen to support England Hockey to retain a multi-sport offer on site through the continued provision of an AGP.

Conclusion

Although there is currently a sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches in Melton, the quality of the only AGP in Melton is poor.

The AGP at Melton Sports Village is in poor condition with the pitch previously dangerous to use before deep cleaning was undertaken following the pandemic to temporarily improve pitch quality. Therefore, imminent resurfacing is still required as soon as feasibly possible in order to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand within the Borough.

Greater usage of the AGP at Melton Sports Village will be required to ensure it is sustainable. Since the construction of the 3G pitch at Melton Town Football Club, all football training has transferred to this preferred football surface, meaning it is only hired for 5.5 hours per week.

For the pitch to remain financially viable, further usage must be secured whether this be for hockey, football or other sports within the Borough. Opportunities for this will be further explored in the forthcoming Strategy document. Further to this, to attract further usage, the quality of the pitch will need to be improved.

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Hockey supply and demand summary

- ◀ Although there is currently a sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches in Melton, the quality of the only AGP in Melton is poor.
- ◀ Imminent resurfacing is required as soon as feasibly possible at Melton Sports Village in order to continue to safely accommodate hockey demand within the Borough.
- ◀ Priority must also be placed on attracting additional usage to the AGP at Melton Sports Village to ensure it remains financially viable.

Hockey supply summary

- ◀ There is one full size, sports lit hockey suitable pitches in Melton, located at Melton Sports Village. The pitch is sand filled and available for community use.
- ◀ Melton HC currently has a rental agreement in place with Everyone Active, the Council's sports and leisure operator although with Everyone Active's contract with the Council coming to an end, a new agreement should be secured with the new operator when known to secure the Club's usage.
- ◀ The AGP at Melton Sports Village is considered to be readily available to the community, with the pitch only unavailable from 09:00 – 10:00 on Sunday mornings within the peak period.
- ◀ Based on the guidance of a ten-year carpet life, the pitch at Melton Sports Village is in need of refurbishment as it has not been resurfaced since 2007.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities at Melton Sports Village are in poor condition, with an insufficient number of changing rooms said to be available at peak times.

Hockey demand summary

- ◀ There is currently one community hockey club; Melton HC, playing in Melton. It currently fields two senior men's and one senior women's team.
- ◀ Melton HC aspires to reinstate a third senior men's team.
- ◀ There is no known exported or imported hockey demand in Melton.
- ◀ No latent or unmet demand has been identified in Melton, with Melton HC reporting current demand is being met.
- ◀ There is minimal usage of the AGP at Melton Sports Village despite accommodating all hockey demand within the Borough. The pitch was previously heavily used for football training demand although this has all subsequently relocated to the neighbouring 3G pitch at Melton Town Football Club.

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PART 7: BOWLS

7.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Melton are flat greens. Bowls England (BE) is the governing body responsible for ensuring effective governance of outdoor flat green bowls across the Country. More locally, the sport is run and administered by Leicestershire Bowls.

BE has recently released a new strategy known as Fit for the Future (2021-26). More information surrounding this can be found in Appendix 1: Sporting Context.

Consultation

There are five clubs identified as currently using outdoor bowling greens in Melton. Of these, four responded to consultation requests, equating to a response rate of 80%. Two of the five clubs are Federation clubs and therefore do not affiliate to Bowls England; Bottlesford BC and Knipton BC.

Table 7.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Format	Responded?
Belvoir Vale BC	Flat	Yes
Bottlesford BC	Flat	Yes
Holwell Sports BC	Flat	Yes
Knipton BC	Flat	No
Melton Mowbray Town BC	Flat	Yes

7.2: Supply

There are six bowling greens in Melton provided across five sites, all of which, are available for community use.

As seen in the table below, both the Central Analysis Area and the North Analysis Area provide three bowling greens. No bowling greens are provided in the East Analysis Area or the West Analysis Area.

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

Analysis area	Number of flat greens
Central	3
East	-
North	3
West	-
Melton	6

Figure 7.1 below shows the location of all bowling greens currently servicing Melton. For a key to the map, see Table 7.3.

MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Figure 7.1: Location of bowling greens in Melton

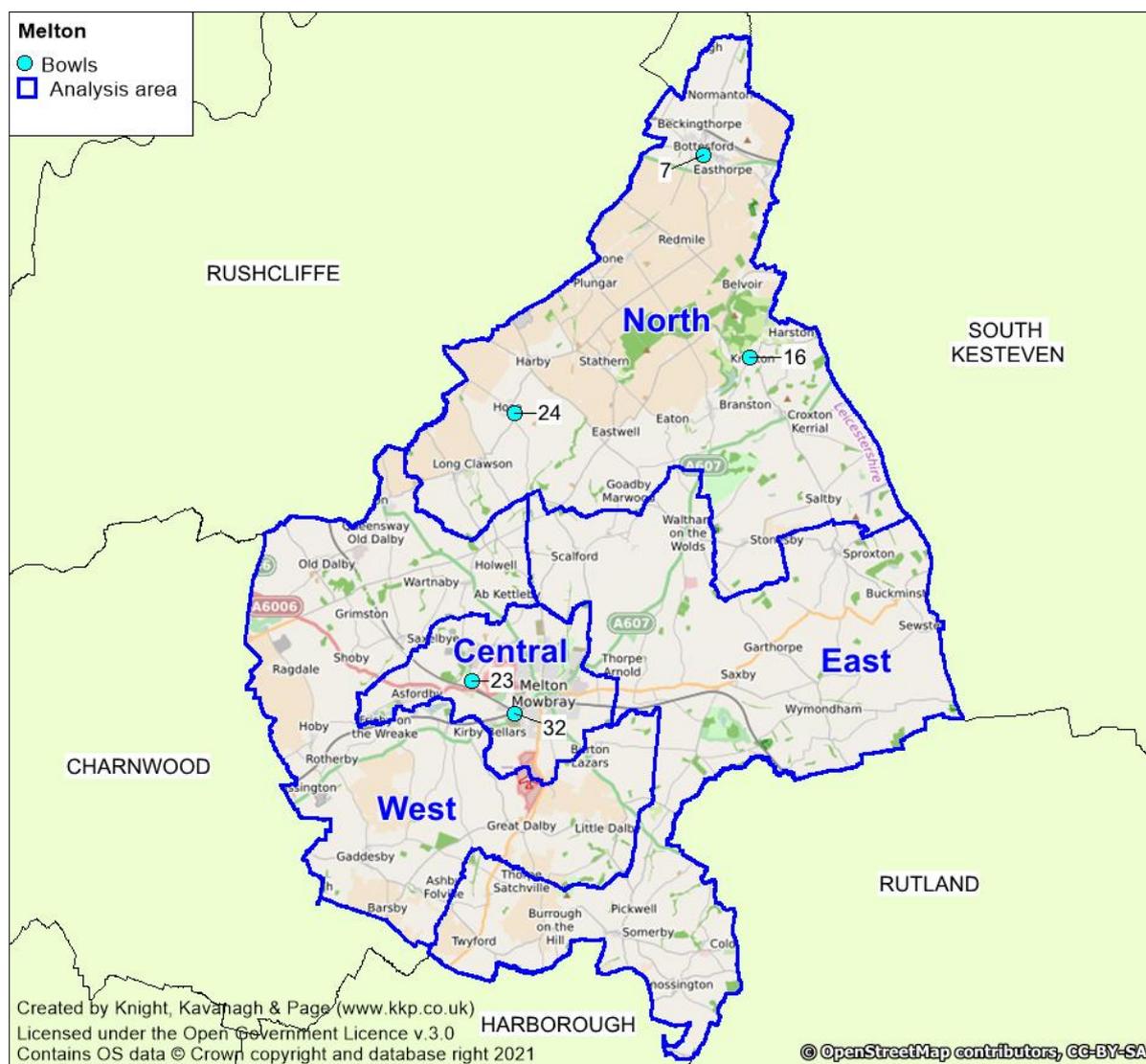


Table 7.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Type of green	Club user
7	Bottlesford Cricket and Social Club	NG13 0BG	North	1	Flat	Bottlesford BC
16	Finns Lane Bowling Green	NG32 1RL	North	1	Flat	Knipton BC
23	Holwell Sports Club	LE14 3RD	Central	1	Flat	Holwell Sports BC
24	Hose Village Hall	LE14 4JR	North	1	Flat	Belvoir Vale BC
32	Melton Mowbray Bowls Club	LE13 0LR	Central	2 ¹¹	Flat	Melton Mowbray Town BC

¹¹ Whilst there are two greens on site, only one is used for the Club's demand (the green to the West) with the second green only kept to look tidy. Therefore, whilst the second green is considered to contribute to the current supply, it will be discounted from the supply and demand analysis.

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Ownership and management

As summarised below, where known, one club (Bottlesford BC) rents its green whilst the remaining three responsive clubs own their respective playing facilities.

Table 7.4: Ownership/management arrangements of bowling clubs in Melton (where known)

Name of club	Ownership/management details
Bottlesford BC	Rents the green at Bottlesford Cricket and Social Club from the Parish Council.
Belvoir Vale BC	The Club owns the green at Hose Village Hall.
Holwell Sports BC	The Club owns the green at Holwell Sports Club.
Melton Mowbray Town BC	The Club owns the green at Melton Mowbray Bowls Club.

Quality

The quality of bowling greens across Melton have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers several attributes of the site including the surrounding hard surfaces to the green, disability access, evenness, grass coverage and signs of unofficial use. For further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2.

In Melton, three greens are assessed as good quality whilst the remaining three are assessed as standard quality. An overview of this can be seen in the table below.

Table 7.5: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Type of green	Number of greens	Quality
7	Bottlesford Cricket and Social Club	North	Flat	1	Good
16	Finns Lane Bowling Green	North	Flat	1	Good
23	Holwell Sports Club	Central	Flat	1	Good
24	Hose Village Hall	North	Flat	1	Standard
32	Melton Mowbray Bowls Club	Central	Flat	2	Standard

All the good quality greens share similar qualities, having an even surface, good quality boardings and surrounding areas, and minimal signs of wear and tear.

Holwell Sports BC also notes that the green is continuing to improve at Holwell Sports Club thanks to dedicated maintenance undertaken by volunteers. Melton Mowbray Town BC reports green quality is improving at Melton Mowbray Town Bowls Club due to improved maintenance whilst the green at Hose Village Hall has improved after recovering from drought conditions.

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Ancillary provision

All greens and clubs in Melton are serviced by some form of ancillary provision. Three sites are serviced by good quality provision and two sites are serviced by standard quality provision. A summary of this can be seen in the table below.

Table 7.6: Summary of ancillary facility quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Quality
7	Bottlesford Cricket and Social Club	North	Good
16	Finns Lane Bowling Green	North	Standard
23	Holwell Sports Club	Central	Standard
24	Hose Village Hall	North	Good
32	Melton Mowbray Bowls Club	Central	Good

Bowls England states Melton Mowbray Town BC previously used facilities located at Melton & District Indoor Bowls Centre next door. However, the Club has since established dedicated facilities and recently built an outdoor toilet block for its own use so it no longer accesses the Indoor Bowls Centre. Facility quality is said to have improved in recent years.

Holwell Sports BC reports the ladies changing rooms are in need of reflooring. The Club aspires for better kitchen facilities.

Bottesford BC notes that parking facilities are insufficient at peak times at Bottlesford Cricket and Social Club due to bowls and cricket being played on site at the same time.

Belvoir Vale BC reports ancillary facility quality has declined in recent years and car parking can be restricted if there is a tennis tournament on site at the same time. The site has also been vandalised with youths camping on site and substances being spread onto the green.

Sports lighting

In Melton, no greens are serviced by sports lighting. This can mean that opportunities for access for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months is infrequent. This is common to norm for bowling greens across the country. However, in Melton no clubs reference aspirations to gain access to sports lighting.

7.3: Demand

There are five clubs using bowling greens in Melton. Of the four clubs that have responded to consultation requests, there are a total of 164 members, equating to 110 senior men and 54 senior women. Neither club accommodates junior members.

Table 7.7: Summary of club membership

Club name	Format	Number of members			
		Men	Women	Juniors	Total
Belvoir Vale BC	Flat	15	7	-	22
Bottlesford BC	Flat	44	19	-	63
Holwell Sports BC	Flat	35	22	-	57
Knipton BC	Flat	Unknown			
Melton Mowbray Town BC	Flat	16	6	-	22

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The largest club is Bottlesford BC with 63 playing members, followed by Holwell Sports BC with 57 playing members. Melton Mowbray and Belvoir Vale bowls clubs both have 22 playing members.

Future demand

Bowls England is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation. As such, it is taking active steps at a County and National level to encourage younger players such as implementing two new initiatives Bowls Bash¹² (a shortened format) and Play Bowls¹³ (to assist clubs to attract more casual, pay and play, participants).

From consultation, the four responsive clubs express and quantify some level of future demand. Across the clubs, this equates to future demand for 60 senior members and 20 junior members, with Bottlesford BC expressing the largest amount (20 seniors and 10 juniors).

Table 7.8: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Club name	Format	Number of members	
		Senior	Junior
Bottlesford BC	Flat	20	10
Belvoir Vale BC	Flat	10	-
Holwell Sports BC	Flat	20	-
Melton Mowbray Town BC	Flat	10	10
Total		60	20

All clubs report that they hope to fulfil their future demand aspirations through either increased advertising, especially via social media, or through hosting open days.

It should also be noted that Melton Mowbray Town and Holwell Sports bowls clubs recently participated in the Big Bowls Weekend and are reported to have had good engagement from the community.

Latent demand

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool¹⁴ 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 96 people who would like to participate in the sport within Melton, which represents approximately 0.02% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 0.16%.

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

¹² <https://www.bowlsengland.com/bowlsbash/>

¹³ <https://play-bowls.com/>

¹⁴ <https://segments.sportengland.org/>

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members which bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Bowling clubs are generally considered viable if they have the appropriate level of membership to sustain their bowling green and accompanying ancillary facilities.

Conversely those clubs which have a substantial level of demand also need to be monitored to ensure they have the appropriate quantity /quality of provision. Both responding clubs are operating close to, or over, at least 60 members and should be consulted with regularly to ensure their provision is suitable for their level of demand:

- ◀ Bottlesford BC
- ◀ Holwell Sports BC

Clubs operating with or below 20 members are generally deemed to be at risk of becoming unsustainable. With this in mind, further investigation is required into the unresponsive clubs to ensure they are not at risk. Whilst neither Belvoir Vale or Melton Mowbray Town bowls clubs have below 20 members, both clubs are very close to this level and so membership should be monitored to ensure each club remains feasible.

Each of the clubs currently access good quality greens meaning they can withstand operating marginally over capacity if quality is sustained.

Responding clubs are willing to accept new members. As such, it is generally considered that anyone within Melton that would like to start participating could so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

Although there is unlikely to be enough demand for new bowling green provision, there is a need to protect existing provision and support existing clubs to improve their facilities.

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Bowls summary

- ◀ There are six bowling greens in Melton provided across five sites, all of which, are available for community use.
- ◀ In Melton, three greens are assessed as good quality whilst the remaining three are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ All greens and clubs in Melton are serviced by some form of ancillary provision. Three sites are serviced by good quality provision and two sites are serviced by standard quality provision.
- ◀ In Melton, no greens are serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ There are five clubs using bowling greens in Melton. Of the four clubs that have responded to consultation requests, there are a total of 164 members, equating to 110 senior men, 54 senior women. Neither club accommodated junior members.
- ◀ The largest club is Bottlesford BC with 63 members, followed by Holwell Sports BC with 57 members. Melton Mowbray and Belvoir Vale bowls clubs both have 22 playing members.
- ◀ From consultation, the two responsive clubs express and quantify some level of future demand equating to future demand for 60 senior members and 20 junior members, with Bottlesford BC expressing the largest amount (20 seniors and 10 juniors).
- ◀ Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 96 people who would like to participate in the sport within Melton, which represents approximately 0.02% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 0.16%.
- ◀ Both Bottlesford BC and Holwell Sports BC are operating close to, or over, 60 members and therefore should be consulted with regularly to ensure their provision is suitable for their level of demand.
- ◀ As Belvoir Vale and Melton Mowbray Town bowls clubs are operating close to the minimum recommended level (20 members) membership should be monitored to ensure each club remains feasible.
- ◀ All clubs are willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within Melton that would like to start participating could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence. This means there is enough supply of greens within the Authority.
- ◀ As there is no evidence to suggest a need for new bowling greens in Melton the priority should be based on supporting existing clubs improve their facilities.

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PART 8: TENNIS

8.1: Introduction

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

Consultation

There are four tennis clubs in Melton: Belvoir Vale TC, Hamilton LTC, Melton Mowbray TC and Holwell Sports TC. Only Hamilton LTC responded to consultation requests despite all clubs being contacted on several occasions. Background information on all clubs and sites has been provided by the LTA.

Table 8.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Belvoir Vale TC	No
Hamilton LTC	Yes
Holwell Sports TC	No
Melton Mowbray TC	No

8.2: Supply

There are 35 tennis courts identified in Melton across 11 sites. Of these, 27 courts across nine sites are available for community use.

The largest offering of tennis courts is identified in the Central Analysis Area, with this containing 23 courts and 18 that are available for community use. In contrast, the West Analysis Area offers the least amount of tennis courts with only two courts which are available for community use.

Table 8.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
Central	18	5
East	4	-
North	3	3
West	2	-
Melton	27	8

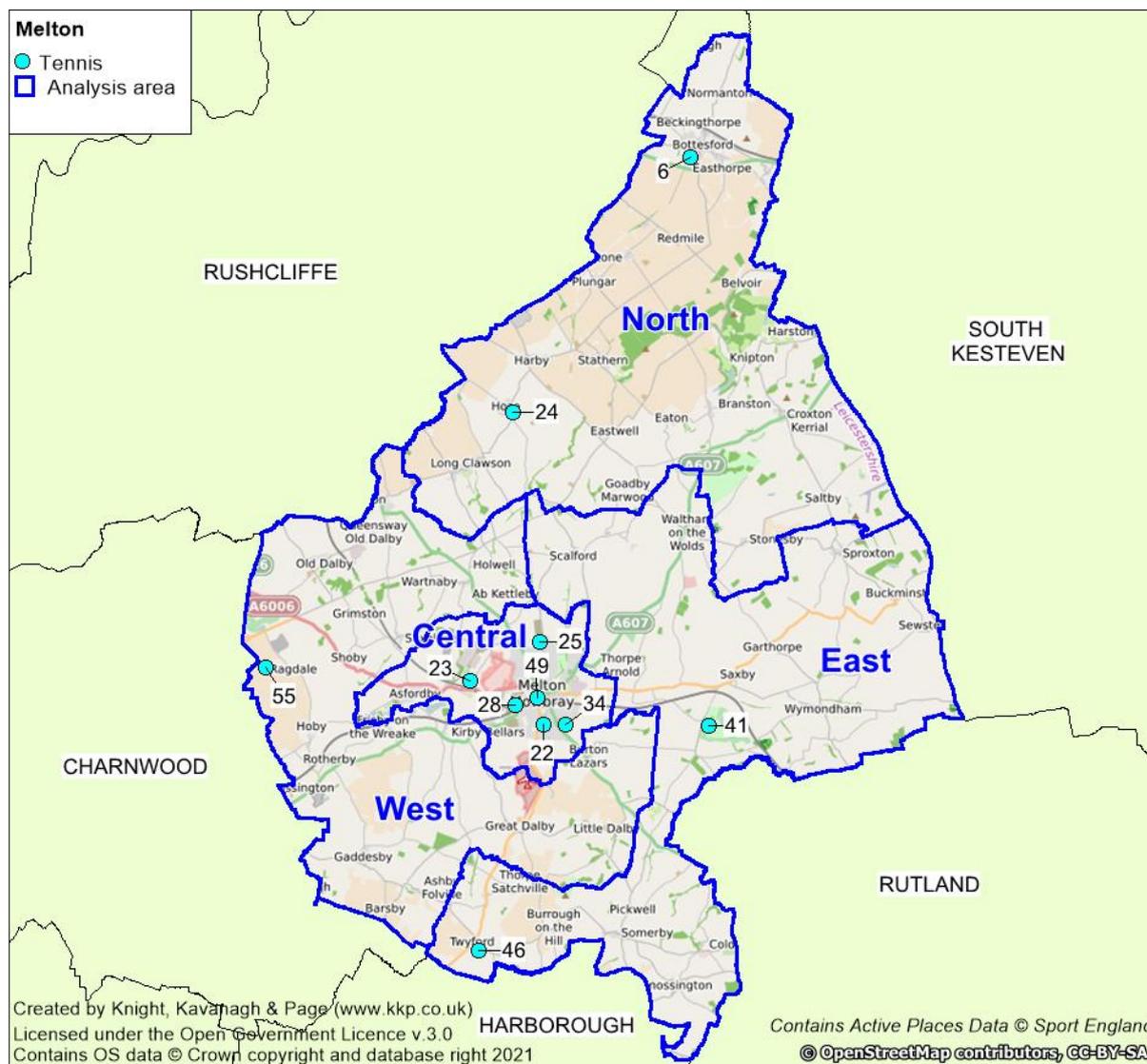
Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both).

All tennis courts identified as being unavailable for community use are located at school sites.

Figure 8.1 shows the location of the courts servicing Melton, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 8.2.

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Figure 8.1: Location of tennis courts in Melton



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Table 8.2: Tennis courts in Melton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
6	Belvoir High School	NG13 0AX	North	Education	No	3	No	Macadam	Good
22	Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club	LE13 0RB	Central	Sports Club	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
						3	Yes	Artificial Turf	Good
23	Holwell Sports Club	LE14 3RD	Central	Sports Club	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Standard
						1		Macadam	Poor
24	Hose Village Hall (Belvoir Vale Tennis Club)	LE14 4JR	North	Parish Council	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
25	John Ferneley College	LE13 1LH	Central	Education	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Standard
28	Long Field Academy	LE13 0BN	Central	Education	No	5	No	Macadam	Standard
34	Melton Sports Village (Melton Mowbray Tennis Club)	LE13 1DN	Central	Council	Yes	4	Yes	Clay	Good
41	Stapleford Lifestyle Club	LE14 2EF	East	Commercial	Yes	3	No	Macadam	Standard
46	Twyford Recreation Ground	LE14 2HT	East	Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Poor
49	Wilton Park	LE13 0PP	Central	Other ¹⁵	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Standard
55	Ragdale Hall Health Hydro and Thermal Spa	LE14 3PB	West	Commercial	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Good

¹⁵ Site is owned by Melton Mowbray Town Estate

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Management and security of tenure

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Melton. Most tennis courts are operated by sports clubs. Eleven courts are managed by education sites; however, eight are unavailable for community use.

Table 8.3: Tennis courts by management type

Community use?	Number of courts					
	Sports club	Council	Education	Commercial	Parish Council	Other
Available	9	5	3	5	3	2
Unavailable	-	-	8	-	-	-
Total	9	5	11	5	3	2

A total of nine courts are managed by sports clubs, with these provided across Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club and Holwell Sports Club.

There are five courts operated by the Council, located at Melton Sports Village and Twyford Recreation Ground.

Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts in Melton have a macadam surface, with 28 being of this type and 20 of these being available for community use. 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.

There are three courts with an artificial surface, provided at Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club. The estimated lifespan of such provision is similar to that of a macadam surface, although it generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is usually more expensive and more regular maintenance is required, in part due to them often catering for multi-sports activity (e.g., football and hockey usage)

The remaining four courts are of a clay surface provided at Melton Sports Village.

Sports lighting

Courts with sports lighting enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that floodlights allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In Melton, 15 of the tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just 43% of the provision. They are all available for community use.

A lack of sports lighting at many of the school sites presents a key reason as to why many of the courts are unavailable for community use. Many of the providers state that making them available for lettings would not be financially viable as usage would be limited, although the LTA does offer solutions to help overcome this including initiatives such as Clubspark and Gate Access (detailed further on). Only 16% of non-sports lit courts are accessible to the community compared to 78% of sports lit courts.

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Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for more usage of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. To that end, it must be noted that all clubs in Melton have access to sports lit courts apart from Holwell Sports TC.

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme

The LTA's facility loan scheme provides interest free loans from £25,000 up to £250,000. The funding stream will prioritise investment into low-cost indoor structures and sports lights to enable communities to grow participation by accessing all year-round facilities. The objectives of the fund are:

- ◀ To provide indoor or sports lit and year-round playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year
- ◀ To enhance facilities to create better playing environments to encourage play all year (link to 'what we will fund')
- ◀ To retain and increase the number of participants at the venue
- ◀ To offer and increase both non-member pay and play usage and coaching opportunities
- ◀ To grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme
- ◀ To provide online booking through ClubSpark with courts available through LTA Rally.

Over markings

Tennis courts, particularly within school, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher level of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In Melton, ten courts are overmarked by netball provision, with eight of these located at school sites (Long Field Academy and John Ferneley College) where curriculum activity makes this necessary.

Quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness, and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g., vandalism and/or littering).

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of the courts in Melton, 18 are assessed as good quality, 15 as standard quality and two as poor quality. A total of 15 good quality courts are available for community use, whilst only ten standard and two poor quality courts are.

Table 8.4: Quality of tennis courts in Melton

Community use?	Number of courts		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	15	10	2
Unavailable	3	5	-
Total	18	15	2

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

- ◀ Holwell Sports Club
- ◀ Twyford Recreation Ground

Issues recorded at these sites during assessments include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel, with maintenance also considered to be basic and infrequent as most of these sites. This leads to further deterioration in quality. The poor quality court at Holwell Sports Club is said to now be out of use due to its poor condition.

Only one of the sites containing poor quality courts is operated by the Council (Twyford Recreation Ground). Improving such courts is currently a national priority for the LTA, with a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so. This is especially the case if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and sports lighting, whereby a suitable tennis programme could be supported.

In addition to the above, whilst all courts at Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club are assessed as good quality, Hamilton LTC reports court quality is declining due to wear although they remain in good condition.

*Renovation fund*¹⁶

The LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary facilities servicing Belvoir Vale TC, Hamilton LTC, Melton Mowbray TC and Holwell Sports TC are assessed as good quality, with no issues identified, particularly the ancillary facilities located at Melton Sports Village following grant funding and support from local businesses to provide an air-conditioned clubhouse on site with changing and kitchen facilities.

For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic, most of the sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service football/cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users. In some instances, quality is also poor.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

¹⁶<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

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In Melton, there is a good quality tea room also located at Wilton Park whilst Stapleford Lifestyle Club and Ragdale Hall Health Hydro and Thermal Spa are serviced by good quality ancillary provision as part of each spa and hotel's overall facility offer on site.

8.3: Demand

It is reported that demand for tennis provision during the Covid-19 pandemic has increased substantially compared to prior levels when court restrictions have not been in place (potentially linked to tennis being one of the first sports to be allowed to resume). This should therefore be monitored moving forward to ensure that any growth can be accommodated for if the increases are sustained.

Competitive tennis

Only one club responded to consultation requests in Melton, Hamilton LTC, which has a total of 115 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 100 senior and 15 junior members.

Table 8.5: Current tennis demand by club

Club	No. of senior members	No of junior members	Total members
Hamilton LTC	100	15	115

Informal and parks tennis

Away from club courts, usage can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored, especially at sites that are free to access as is the case at Twyford Recreation Ground and Wilton Park. Demand for such provision is generally at its highest during summer months, especially following events such as Wimbledon, but significant capacity is likely to exist outside of this.

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities and other providers to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Play and Gate Access, which are further detailed below.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.

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- ✦ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ✦ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

Three clubs in Melton; Belvoir Vale TC, Hamilton LTC and Melton Mowbray TC, use ClubSpark whilst the LTA has had previous discussions with the Melton Mowbray Town Estate regarding the installation of Clubspark and an online booking system at Wilton Park.

Rally

Rally is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Rally provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Smart Access

The LTA has developed two Smart Access gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which results in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

Parks tennis

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

In Melton, currently there are no park tennis leagues in place.

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LTA Youth Red

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

There are currently no LTA Youth Red sessions operating in Melton.

Tennis for Free

Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that works in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low-income areas.

Tennis for Free offers a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', available to clubs that wish to open their doors to non-members.

Through its offer, Tennis for Free 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

No Tennis for Free sessions currently operate in Melton.

LTA Big Tennis Weekend

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

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

No sites in Melton currently host or are scheduled to host a Big Tennis Weekend.

LTA Youth Programmes

The LTA provides children with the perfect opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. Designed for children aged between 4-10, mini tennis utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques.

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The game is split out into five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ◀ Blue Stage: Age 4-6 – learn the basics.
- ◀ Red Stage: Age 6-8 – serve, rally and score.
- ◀ Orange Stage: Age 8-9 – develop a rounded game.
- ◀ Green Stage: Age 9-10 – test your skills.
- ◀ Yellow Stage: Age 10+ - take your skills further.

No mini tennis courts have been identified in Melton.

Padel

One of the LTAs key strategies is to find new ways to grow participation and padel is an innovative format of tennis that is fun, flexible, easy to play and extremely sociable. Padel is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities, as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although you serve under-arm and the walls are used as part of the game with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

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

There are currently no padel tennis courts in Melton.

Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low quality facilities were addressed.

Furthermore, the LTA conducted some research to understand how the public feels about tennis and the main barriers to accessing the sport. The research was split into club, community and education sectors, the headline findings of which are below:

- ◀ Around five million people play once per year with the majority of this in parks.
- ◀ 46% of tennis played by those 14 years is on park courts.
- ◀ 80% of those that do not play tennis but would like to see parks as their first option.
- ◀ Barriers preventing use of courts located in parks include the quality of the courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play.
- ◀ Demand for tennis amongst those who stopped playing in the last five years is from 14 upwards.
- ◀ Although there is demand for tennis amongst working class individuals, the highest latent demand is from upper middle, middle and lower middle classes.

Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase demand.

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In addition, Sport England’s Segmentation Tool enables analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but that ‘are not currently doing so’. The tool identifies latent demand of 980 people within Melton, which represents approximately 1.9% of the Borough’s population compared to a national average of 1.7%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand may be marginally higher than what would otherwise be expected.

Future demand

Hamilton LTC is the only club in Melton that responded to consultation requests, however, the Club doesn’t state if it has plans to increase membership.

Away from club-based demand, it is considered that all remaining future demand will be picked up via the latent/unmet demand noted above and attracted to non-club and particularly local authority courts.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

For club-based tennis, the LTA suggests that non-sports lit courts can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas courts with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Using this, the table below identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs, taking into account current demand.

As Hamilton LTC is the only club which responded to consultation requests, only capacity data for this club is seen in the table below.

Table 8.6: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Current demand (members)	Capacity (members)	Capacity balance (members)
22	Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club	Hamilton LTC	115	360	245

For club-based tennis, where known, there is considered to be sufficient provision to meet demand. Further investigation is required into the remaining clubs to determine whether they have capacity issues.

For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the large amount of unmet and latent demand evidenced both nationally and in Melton. There is instead a need to improve the supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users.

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Tennis summary

- ◀ There are 35 tennis courts identified in Melton across 11 sites. Of these, 27 courts across nine sites are available for community use.
- ◀ The largest offering of tennis courts is identified in the Central Analysis Area, with this containing 23 courts and 18 that are available.
- ◀ The majority of tennis courts are operated by sports clubs. Eleven courts are managed by education sites however, eight courts are unavailable for community use.
- ◀ Most outdoor tennis courts in Melton have a macadam surface, with 28 being of this type and 20 of these being available for community use.
- ◀ In Melton, 15 of the tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing just 43% of the provision. Of these, all 15 courts are considered to be available for community use.
- ◀ Of the courts in Melton, 18 are assessed as good quality, 15 as standard quality and two as poor quality. A total of 15 of the good quality courts are available for community use, whilst only ten standard and two poor quality courts are.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities servicing Belvoir Vale TC, Hamilton LTC, Melton Mowbray TC and Holwell Sports TC are assessed as good quality, with no issues identified, particularly the ancillary facilities located at Melton Sports Village as the clubhouse facilities are new.
- ◀ There are four tennis clubs in Melton.
- ◀ Only one club responded to consultation requests in Melton, Hamilton LTC, which has a total of 115 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 100 senior and 15 junior members.
- ◀ Three clubs in Melton; Belvoir Vale TC, Hamilton LTC and Melton Mowbray TC, use ClubSpark whilst the LTA has had previous discussions with the Melton Mowbray Town Estate regarding the installation of Clubspark and an online booking system at Wilton Park.
- ◀ Currently in Melton, there are no park tennis leagues, no LTA Red sessions and no Tennis for Free sessions.
- ◀ There are currently no padel tennis courts in Melton.
- ◀ For club-based tennis, there is considered to be sufficient provision to meet demand where known.
- ◀ Away from clubs, although no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the large amount of unmet and latent demand evidenced both nationally and in Melton.

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PART 9: GOLF

9.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 730,000 members belonging to one of 1,800 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated Heritage Coast sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or listed Historic Parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of 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 initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

This section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within Melton.

9.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

Table 9.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

Within Melton, there are three golf venues, as identified in Table 9.1 and Table 9.2 below. One is located in the East Analysis Area, one in the Central Analysis Area and one in the East Analysis Area. The North Analysis Area does not provided any formal golf facilities.

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Figure 9.1: Location of golf courses in Melton

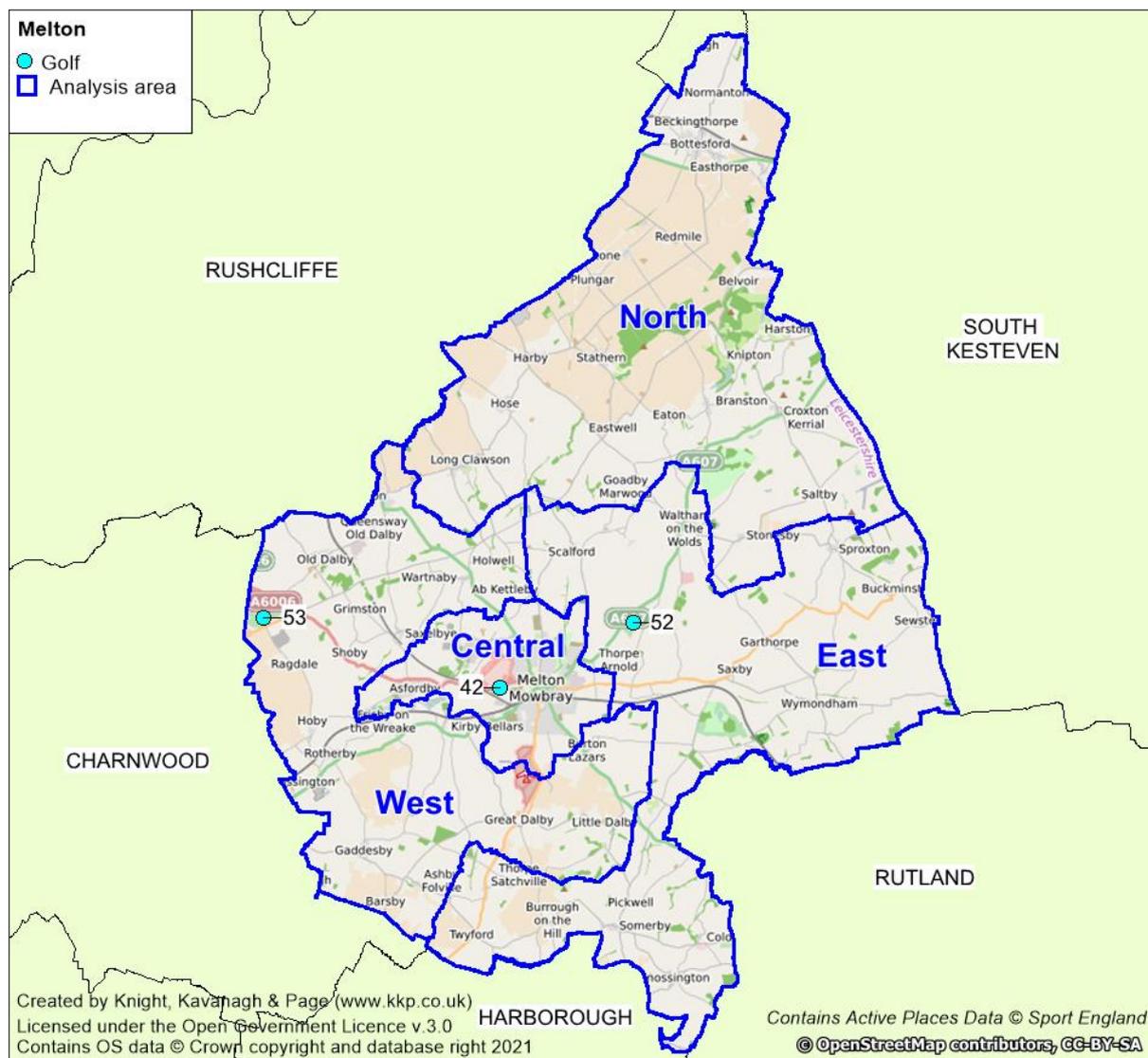


Table 9.2: Golf facilities within Melton

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area
42	Sysonby Acres	LE13 0HW	Central
52	Melton Mowbray Golf Club	LE14 4SD	East
53	Six Hills Golf Club	LE14 3PR	West

Disused provision

It should be noted that the golf facility located at Stapleford Park Golf Club recently closed (October 2020), due declining membership and visitor numbers. It previously provided an 18-hole golf course and its future is currently unknown.

Standard hole golf courses

Two golf sites within Melton provide one standard hole course (Melton Mowbray Golf Club and Six Hills Golf Club), with both accommodating 18-hole courses. These are summarised in the table below.

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Table 9.3: Summary of standard hole provision in Melton

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage ¹⁷			Slope rating
52	Melton Mowbray Golf Club	18	70	6279	6112	5586	70 - 134
53	Six Hills Golf Club	18	71	5933	5824	5000	68 - 117

Of the two 18-holes courses, Melton Mowbray Golf Club provides the longest offering, with Six Hills Golf Club providing the shortest. Shorter courses tend to offer some variety that may appeal more so to a defined market that would not feel comfortable playing lengthier provision e.g., beginner and/or casual golfers.

Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the world. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that the courses in Melton are generally considered to be of standard difficulty, with them collectively ranging from 68-134 (the slope rating varies depending on which tee is used).

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game. In Melton, Sysonby Acres Golf Course provides an 18-hole course with a yardage of 1,800 yards.

Driving range bays

Two golf courses within Melton are supported by a driving range, located at Melton Mowbray Golf Club and Six Hills Golf Club. Melton Mowbray Golf Club provides a 7-bay driving range and Six Hills Golf Club provides a 12-bay driving range. Both facilities are accommodated with sports lighting and are available for anyone to use on a pay and play basis all-year round.

Table 9.4: Summary of driving range bays in Melton

Site ID	Site name	No. of bays	Sports-lit?	Pay and play?
52	Melton Mowbray Golf Club	7	Yes	Yes
53	Six Hills Golf Club	12	Yes	Yes

Whilst not in place at Melton Mowbray Golf Centre or Six Hills Golf Club, many driving range providers across the country are updating their facilities with modern technology in a bid to increase demand, such as through the installation of automatic tees or via entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. Such provision allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback.

With only 19 driving bays provided in Melton, it must be noted that this represents a low amount for the size and population base of the borough.

¹⁷ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

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Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England; members clubs, proprietary clubs and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

Table 9.5: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the market alongside more local facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a more relaxed attitude to dresscode and traditions. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment.

In Melton, Melton Mowbray Golf Club is a member's club, whereas Six Hills Golf Club is a proprietary facility.

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Table 9.6: Summary of ownership/management in Melton

Site ID	Site name	Management type
52	Melton Mowbray Golf Club	Members
53	Six Hills Golf Club	Proprietary

Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past decade, many facilities have altered their pricing structure to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf positively encouraged this and continues to do so as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, five and/or six day memberships are now common (whereby members can access a course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst discounts are regularly in place that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over).

In the past, it was very common for many clubs to have waiting lists in place for membership, but this has become rarer in the present day. That being said, a rise in demand following the Covid-19 pandemic has tested this and resulted in capacity pressures, with a third of clubs now thought to have waiting times before new members can join.

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901. In Melton, Membership at Melton Mowbray Golf Club (£987) is considered slightly above this figure.

Six Hills Golf Club offer the cheapest green fees.

Table 9.7: Pricing structures at golf facilities within Melton

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Green fee (per round)	
				Weekday	Weekend
52	Melton Mowbray Golf Club	POA ¹⁸	£987	£32	£35
53	Six Hills Golf Club	POA	POA	£21	£25

Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

Quality of the golf facilities in Melton is relatively good across both sites, no significant issues identified.

¹⁸ Price on arrival

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The ancillary facilities are also good across Melton, particularly at Melton Mowbray Golf Club where they clubhouse caters for a wide variety events and includes a restaurant. Golf clubs often need such revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This comes from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christening and funerals.

From a golfing perspective, given the current importance on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g. by providing gender specific changing facilities.

9.3: Demand

Golf participation considerably increased across the Country following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both initially in 2020 and again following the later lockdown period in 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people were able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g., by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses have reported a near doubling of demand, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to increase participation in the long-term. However, to what level remains unclear as retention may be challenging as more users return to normal working/living conditions and with ongoing economic issues.

The following section examines current demand for golf in Melton as well as recent trends and potential future demand.

Membership

England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, which is based on a central national handicap platform.

In Melton, the table below provides the most recent average membership numbers at the golf facilities within the Borough, based on latest England Golf affiliation data.

Table 9.8: Summary of golf membership within Melton

Site ID	Site name	2015 Average	2016 Average	2017 Average	2018 Average	2022 Average (10/08/22)
52	Melton Mowbray Golf Club	181	185	197	148	452 (205% increase)
53	Six Hills Golf Club					

Whilst Six Hills Golf Club is currently officially affiliated, in 2022 they have not declared any registered members which by default stops them from retaining their affiliation. Therefore, the 2022 average membership figure only represents the membership numbers from Melton Mowbray Golf Club and highlights a significant increase in demand.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As such, unmet demand in Melton is minimal, with all of the sites offering a membership scheme actively looking for new members.

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Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision. To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 660 people within Melton, equating to 0.13% of the Borough's population.

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e., through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

In addition, England Golf has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility, with the population broken down into nine golfing segments. These segments are defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

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

Across Melton, Six Hills Golf Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 49,414 People falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time. Melton Mowbray Golf Club has the smallest potential demand, equating to 11,386 people.

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments. The highest demand is from "Relaxed Members" (2,444 people), whilst the lowest is from "older traditionalists" (2,127 people).

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth.

Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

In Melton, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future levels of demand and how much future demand they can accommodate. However, it can be assumed that capacity will be somewhat limited at Six Hill Golf Club based on limited information on current membership from the Club.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

With two traditional 18-hole courses and one Par 3 18-hole course in Melton, as well as two equipped driving ranges, there is seemingly a good range of provision servicing the Borough. This is especially the case given the different operational structures in place, with some facilities prioritising membership and others prioritising pay and play usage and with some offering a high price point and others offering a low price point. This suggests that all types of golfers are being catered for.

Furthermore, the loss of the 18-hole course at Stapleford Park Golf Club will place further pressure on the supply, not only because this removes a more accessible and affordable option, but with users of this site likely to transfer to their demand to other courses within or just outside of the Borough. It is therefore considered imperative that the remaining sites are protected as any further loss would create clear gaps in the golfing market.

With only two driving ranges provided in the Borough, accommodating 19 driving bays collectively, it can also be said that there is an under-supply for this type of provision based on the high levels of demand that are evident.

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Golf summary

- ◀ There are currently three golf facilities in Melton.
- ◀ Two golf sites within Melton provide one standard hole course (Melton Mowbray Golf Club and Six Hills Golf Club), with both accommodating 18-hole courses.
- ◀ It should be noted that the golf facility located at Stapleford Park Golf Club recently closed (October 2020), due declining membership and visitor numbers.
- ◀ An 18-hole Par 3 course is provided at Sysonby Acres Golf Course.
- ◀ Two golf courses within Melton are supported by a driving range, located at Melton Mowbray Golf Club and Six Hills Golf Club. Melton Mowbray Golf Club provides a 7-bay driving range and Six Hills Golf Club provides a 12-bay driving range. Both facilities are accommodated with sports lighting and are available for anyone to use on a pay and play basis all-year round.
- ◀ In Melton, Melton Mowbray Golf Club is a member's club, whereas Six Hills Golf Club is a proprietary facility.
- ◀ England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901. In Melton, Membership at Melton Mowbray Golf Club (£987) is considered slightly above this figure.
- ◀ In terms of the quality of the golf facilities, it is relatively good across Melton with no significant issues identified.
- ◀ The ancillary facilities are also good across Melton, particularly at Melton Mowbray Golf Club where they clubhouse caters for a wide variety.
- ◀ Membership since 2015 has increased significantly.
- ◀ Unmet demand in Melton is minimal, with all of the sites offering a membership scheme actively looking for new members.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 660 people within Melton, equating to 0.13% of the Borough's population.
- ◀ With two traditional 18-hole courses and one Par 3 18-hole course in Melton, as well as two equipped driving ranges, there is seemingly a good range of provision servicing the Borough.
- ◀ It is clear that each facility is meeting a need, with further pressure following the loss of provision at Stapleford Park Golf Club, meaning that all remaining sites require protection.
- ◀ There is also a shortfall of driving range bays.

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APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

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

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

Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity make people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

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Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2021)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ◀ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free of discrimination
- ◀ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and BFAWSL

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture

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- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

Grow and nurture the core

- ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
- ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
- ◀ Invest in club facilities
- ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
- ◀ Further invest in County Competitions

Inspire through elite teams

- ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
- ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
- ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
- ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans

Make cricket accessible

- ◀ Broaden 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

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

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The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

Game Objectives:

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

Driving Objectives:

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ◀ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

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.

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3. **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

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

Rugby Football League Strategic Plan 2015 – 2021

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

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

This vision is underpinned by 13 core principles, including:

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

Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme

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

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

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

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Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its 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;
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

- ◀ Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ◀ Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ◀ Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
- ◀ Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ◀ Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

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

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

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

England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

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- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf's influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

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APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football							
Please complete one form per pitch							
Site reference:	<input type="text"/>		Site Name:	<input type="text"/>			
6 figure grid reference	<input type="text"/>		Pitch ID(s):	<input type="text"/>			
Number of football pitches on site:	<input type="text"/>		Pitch size:	<input type="text"/> (Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)			
Availability	<input type="text"/>		Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?	<input type="text"/>			
Weather at time of visit & date of visit	<input type="text"/>		<i>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues</i>				
Pitch Issues:	<input type="text"/>						
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)							
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments		
Playing surface							
Grass Cover	Good >80%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate 60-80%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <60%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within FA recommended guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	See size chart below for recommended dimensions
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Severe	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Length of grass	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Too long	<input type="checkbox"/>	Too short	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less
Evenness of pitch	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some evidence of poor drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, poor drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)							Section total
Grass cutting	Yes, as required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, but not frequent enough	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Seeded	Yes, as required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not known	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times	<input type="checkbox"/>	Once/ twice	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
							Section total
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.							
PITCH SCORE			0.0%	RATING		Poor	

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Cricket pitch non-technical assessment

Element	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
About the cricket outfield					
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	GBCC falls below the ECB basic standard	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Ideally 92mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even		Uneven	Ball should run without deviation or ramp	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	May also wish to refer to user agency. If yes, refer to wicketkeeper/site manager	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unshod use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to user agency. If yes, refer to wicketkeeper/site manager	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg from external activities - e.g. skitt, gulls and ferals etc may also wish to refer to user agency	
Artificial wickets					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes		No	There should be no trip points	
Evenness of wicket	Even		Uneven	There should be no contours in surface levels	
Stump holes	Yes		No	Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes		No	There should be none	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes		No	If "yes" contact site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes		No	If "yes" contact site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes		No		
Grass wickets					
Presence of line markings	Yes		No		
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes		No		
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes		No	See wicket wicket/15mm level of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes		No		
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes		No	GBCC falls below the ECB basic standard	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes		No		
Changing/ Pavilion					
Umpires provision	Yes		No		
Toilets	Yes		No		
Hot/cold water	Yes		No		
Heating	Yes		No		
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention		
NTP					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes		No		
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even		Uneven		
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes		No		
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes		No		
No rips or surface lifting	Yes		No		
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes		No		
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes		No		
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes		No		
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes		No		
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes		No		
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes		No		
Is appropriate safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes		No		

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Rugby pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference				Site Name					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s)					
Date of assessment				Pitch size	(Senior, Mini/Midi)				
Number of pitches on site				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
Availability				<i>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues</i>					
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Weather at time of visit									
General comments/observations									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments	
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor		
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.		
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm		
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots				
GOALPOSTS									
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No						
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No						
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No						
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No						
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No						
ANCILLARY									
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No						
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No						
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below									
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never		
								Pitch Maintenance Score	
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0
Natural (adequate) = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season Natural (inadequate) = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.									

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Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference				Site Name					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID					
Number of AGPs on site				Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)		
Availability				Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused					
Type of pitch	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad) Sand Dressed			Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm) Sand Filled			Short Pile 3G (40mm) Water based		
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments	
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes				No				
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes				No				
Are there dug outs?	Yes				No				
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes				No				
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes				No				
Maximum score	93		Scoring:	Poor	<=50		Total Score	0	
				Standard	51-79				
				Good	80+		Potential Rating	Poor	

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Bowling green non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green

KKPref	<input type="text"/>
Site name:	<input type="text"/>
Number of greens	<input type="text"/>
Flat/crown	Community Use? <input type="checkbox"/>

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating			Comments			
About the greens							
Grass cover	Over 70%	<input type="checkbox"/>	40-69%	<input type="checkbox"/>	less than 40%	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evenness of surface	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Signs of wear and tear	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Condition of ditches/boarding	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes		<input type="checkbox"/>	No		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ancillary facilities							
Changing Accomodation	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Toilets	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Car parking	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>			

General comments about the site: